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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Tomorrow is the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address.

Lord, Lincoln spoke of the ''mystic chords of memory.'' He believed the revered dead make distinct demands on us, the living.

In honoring those who gave their lives to preserve the sacred union of this Nation and to uphold the emancipated freedom of all peoples, Lincoln said, ''We take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.''

So at Gettysburg then, so again, now, we the living are obliged to be ''highly resolved that the dead shall not have died in vain.''

By Your grace, Lord, and only by fulfilling present obligations to strengthen national unity and assure equal justice, will we the living pay fitting tribute to ''the honored dead.'' Each generation of Americans must see to it ''that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom.''

This must be our resolve, Lord, with Your help now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches per side.

DEMOCRATS REFUSE TO SEE PROGRESS IN IRAQ

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that Democrats lately seem incapable of speaking about, and that is the progress that is being made in Iraq.

As of late last month, 210,400 Iraqi security forces have been trained and equipped. Thirty-six Army battalions and three combat support battalions are leading the fight in their areas, a 71 percent increase since March. More than 50,800 Iraqi police have completed the basic training course.

And, adding to that, the progress of the Iraqi people towards democracy has been tremendous. They are now holding free elections instead of the fake ones that Saddam Hussein forced on them for many years.

Yet, I do not hear many Democrats speak of this progress. All they talk about is how we are in a ''quagmire'' and that the war has been a ''grotesque mistake.''

Our men and women are not only fighting terrorists over in Iraq, but they are also setting up roads and schools. But Democrats would rather have us cut and run and, in the process, undo all the good work that has been done.

COURAGE OUTWEIGHS POLITICS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the most significant day in the war in Iraq since we first began our attack. As President Bush is learning that our few allies are withdrawing their troops, Congressman JACK MURTHA has publicly concluded it is time to bring our troops home.

Despite attacks by some who never had a hint of his military service, whose own mismanagement, not just of the information that got us into this effort, but whose inept mismanagement of the war itself left us with few good options, JACK MURTHA remains the single most knowledgeable and respected Member of this House dealing with military affairs.

I have not seen eye-to-eye with JACK from the beginning, when I opposed attacking Iraq, to a statement I just posted, after weeks of thought, for a more gradual withdrawal. But I and every Member who is thinking honestly about this sad episode will reconsider my conclusion because of JACK MURTHA's courageous and heartfelt statement. He is the only Member of Congress who has earned the right to be listened to . . .

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AMERICANS ARE DYING BECAUSE OF FLAWED IMMIGRATION POLICY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Officer Brian Jackson loved his job. He had been a member of the Dallas Police Department since 2001. He moved to Dallas from his hometown in Rhode Island because he wanted to ''be a big city cop.''

But in the early morning hours of last Sunday, the last 15 minutes of his shift, Officer Brian Jackson, 28, responded to one last call. His shift was basically over, but he agreed to answer one more emergency.

It was not only his last call of the night, but it was his last call ever. Officer Jackson was responding to a domestic disturbance call when he was murdered, allegedly by an illegal alien from Mexico named Juan Lizcano.

But this crime could have been avoided. This illegal alien had been arrested twice in the last year, but because of safe haven sanctuary laws in Dallas, he was never deported. Because of these preposterous laws, a dedicated police officer, husband, and friend lost his life.

Officer Jackson and his newlywed wife had just returned from a delayed honeymoon in Hawaii.

Americans are dying because the government does not protect our borders. This is yet another example of our Nation's flawed immigration policy. This ought not to be.

REPUBLICANS CUT CRITICAL PROGRAMS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the Republicans are preparing for Thanksgiving, like many Americans. But early this morning they slaughtered the turkey. They chopped student loans, school lunch, foster care, long-term care, and Medicaid for struggling families. Now they are preparing to serve a huge portion, with gravy, to Americans with generous new tax breaks and extended tax cuts to those who earn more than $300,000 a year and who clip coupons for a living, hard-working Americans them.

They are a little worried about kind of the mixed metaphor here, whether or not they will be called Scrooge, and some people will confuse Thanksgiving and Christmas. So they might put the bird back in the freezer and wait until closer to Christmas and hope that the struggling students and families forget what was taken from them to help those who earn over $300,000 a year.

So that is the big decision on the Republican side of the aisle today. When does the turkey, composed of benefits that should have gone to struggling families, as a gift to the wealthy, get delivered, Thanksgiving or Christmas? Tough choice. Stay tuned.

WE MUST FINISH OUR MISSION IN IRAQ

(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, last month, Ayman Zawahiri, al Qaeda's number two leader, said that the terrorist mission was to ''expel the Americans from Iraq.'' Yesterday, this statement was echoed when Democratic Congressman JOHN MURTHA called for U.S. troops to be withdrawn from Iraq.

Instead of proposing winning solutions for the Global War on Terrorism, some Democrats are throwing up their hands and waving the white flag of surrender. As our brave men and women in uniform continue to protect our country, NANCY PELOSI, JOHN MURTHA, and other Democrats should have learned from last week's mass murders in Jordan that we face a global enemy, following the bus bombings in London and New Delhi.

As a 31-year veteran and the father of a son who served in Iraq, I know our troops and brave Iraqi patriots are making tremendous progress protecting American families. Americans recognize we will face the terrorists on the streets of Iraq or we will face them again in America.

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

DEMONSTRATING THE COURAGE OF OUR CONVICTIONS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the American people want this Congress to debate the war in Iraq. We should have had a debate before we entered into this war. Instead, we rushed into it.

Yesterday, Congressman JACK MURTHA, a man of conscience, a decorated Vietnam veteran, one of the leading advocates for the military here in the United States Congress, stood up and told it like it is, that the situation in Iraq is getting worse, not getting better, and we, our huge U.S. presence, is a major part of the problem. We have become the focus. We have become the people who are being attacked.

Congressman MURTHA deserves credit. Rather than engaging in a debate, what we hear from the other side and from the White House is more and more smear tactics, those who claim they are somehow being unpatriotic. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Dissent in the face of policies that you disagree with is patriotism. To remain silent as you see this country going down the wrong path is not patriotism, it is moral cowardice.

I praise Congressman JACK MURTHA for having the courage of his convictions and standing up and leading the way to get us out of this war in Iraq.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 564 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 564

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2528) making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 564 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and it provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 564 and the underlying conference report for H.R. 2528, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006.

Today, this House has the opportunity to pass a conference report that will provide $45.4 billion to fund the very important needs of our servicemen and women, our veterans, and our military infrastructure.

This conference report provides an all-inclusive look at the programs that are related to the quality of life of those who currently serve America in the armed forces, their families, and those men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedom in the past.

Mr. Speaker, by providing $45.4 billion, this conference report actually marks an increase of $3.1 billion from fiscal year 2005, and it is an increase of $300,000 from the President's request.

The bill funds the Department of Veterans Affairs at $22.5 billion, $1.7 billion above the fiscal year 2005 enacted level, and $575 million above the 2006 budget request by the President. Particularly important is the funding for veterans' medical services that includes for the very first time $2.2 billion strictly allocated for specialty mental health care on top of a doubling for funding of mental health research.

□ 0915

Mr. Speaker, I should note that over the past 2 years, funding for veterans medical care has increased by 18 percent. Let me repeat: Funding for veterans medical care has increased over the past 2 years by 18 percent. The conference provides a particular victory for veterans back home in northwest Georgia, my district, and across the Nation. This bill does not, and I repeat, does not, contain any new fees for veterans medical services or prescription drugs. This conference report provides $6.2 billion for military construction, $5.1 billion for Active Duty construction, and $1.1 billion for Reserve components.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my statement by acknowledging Subcommittee Chairman WALSH and Chairman LEWIS for their overall vision and dedication to completing this bill, both here in the House and in the conference, for the sake of our servicemen and women, past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to this debate. I encourage my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first conference report that the House will consider as a military quality of life-VA appropriations bill. As we all know, as a result of the subcommittee realignment adopted earlier this year by the Appropriations Committee, military construction, Defense Department health programs and all veterans programs are now contained in this one appropriations bill. I want to express my respect and voice my praise for the work of Chairman WALSH and Ranking Member EDWARDS for their work on this bipartisan-supported conference report.

This final conference report is a significant improvement over the earlier House-passed bill, especially in the areas of medical care and benefits for our veterans. Veterans medical services are funded at $22.5 billion, which has long been the position on this side of the aisle as the minimum amount of funding required to meet our veterans health needs. This total is $575 million above the President's budget request and $1.7 billion more than last year.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 years, the funding amount needed to meet veterans medical care has increased by 18 percent, so while I welcome this increase in veterans medical services, I remain concerned about the total amount of funds that will actually be required over the coming year. I predict that we will still need to find additional funds next year to meet the fiscal year 2006 medical needs of our veterans.

Other important actions taken by the conferees are the specific targeting of $2.2 billion for specialty mental health care for our veterans and fully funding the requested amounts for posttraumatic stress disorders. In addition, this bill creates three Centers of Excellence for mental health and PTSD medical care.

Mr. Speaker, last week I was at a forum in western Massachusetts, and I met a Massachusetts father whose son had served in Iraq. He told me about the difficulty his son had attempting to reintegrate himself back into civilian life following his tour of duty. One night during a conversation, his son broke down in tears and laid his head in his father's lap and cried. The father told me at that forum that the next time he held his son's head in his lap was a couple of weeks later when he cut the rope that his son had used to hang himself in their basement.

Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize the vast need, the urgent and increasing need, for counseling services for the men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The New England Journal of Medicine reported earlier this year that one in five of the soldiers leaving the Iraq war are suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems. We have to make their ability to receive counseling and support simple and seamless. We have to make sure that they do not run into bureaucratic walls or receive the runaround just when they need help the most.

I know that this is something that the chairman and ranking member think about a great deal, and I simply want to express my support for their efforts to confront this growing crisis.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report also increases the amount of funding for military construction and housing over the President's request and over the amount in the House-passed bill. Even so, at this level of funding, if will take nearly eight decades to meet the needs currently identified by the Pentagon for military housing and modern basing and training facilities.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Congress talks about how we support our troops and how we honor their service and sacrifice, but year after year we fail to meet the needs of our veterans, the old and the new, and we fail to provide the funds to provide our uniformed men and women the housing and training facilities that they need in order to prepare for the deadly duties we demand of them.

This is a matter of priorities. This is a statement of values and principles about whether and how we really do believe our troops and our veterans merit the very best this Nation can provide. We just cannot stand here year after year and praise the conferees for doing the best they could within the budget allocation they were given. It is the Congress that determines the amount of that budget allocation for our veterans, for our military housing and construction, for our military's quality of life. As my good friend and colleague from Illinois JESSE JACKSON, JR., said yesterday on the floor of this House, it's like a farmer saying the summer harvest is bad when he failed to plant seeds in the spring.

Mr. Speaker, like all of my House colleagues, I will be supporting this conference report, but we simply have to do better in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close this morning by saluting those men and women who so proudly and bravely serve our country. Their sacrifices and their families' sacrifices are beyond the average American's comprehension. We must acknowledge that without these individuals, the rest of us could not enjoy the freedoms we so often discuss in this Chamber.

The appropriation conference report that will be passed today should stand as a ''thank you'' to those who have worn the uniform of our Nation. Some will say the bill does not provide enough for those who are veterans of military service. Well, in a way, Mr. Speaker, I would agree with that. I honestly do not believe we can ever do enough to support our military men and women. They deserve so much more than we will ever be able to afford to give. It is truly an unbalanced relationship. They sacrifice everything for our liberties. We can only repay a small portion of that debt.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will finish my remarks simply by saying thank you to our troops, thank you to our veterans, and may God bless you and keep you safe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WAVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 565 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 565

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All

points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 565 is a standard, traditional rule for consideration of the conference report for the fiscal year 2006 Departments of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies appropriations conference report. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration.

The underlying legislation before us, Mr. Speaker, makes appropriations for the departments that I have mentioned. The bill is fiscally sound. It represents our commitment to provide the necessary resources for programs and projects throughout the Nation ranging from transportation to housing and the judiciary and the Executive Office of the President and the District of Columbia.

It is well-known that our transportation infrastructure is the backbone of the economy. Obviously, its continued strength is essential to economic growth, and the bill ensures that we continue to have a reliable and stable transportation infrastructure that will help the economy continue to grow.

The bill includes almost $37 billion in funds for our highway system, an increase of $1.6 billion. These funds will serve the American people by contributing to a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient highway system that meets the vital national interests and enhances the quality of life.

The underlying legislation includes $13.8 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration. Included in this amount is $25 million to hire and train 595 new air traffic controllers. This is a vitally important aspect of this legislation and is critical as air traffic controllers begin to retire, and, nevertheless, air traffic continues to increase.

Certainly in my district, home to Miami International Airport, the third largest international airport in the country, we are very well aware of how important the air traffic controllers are. Without an increase in the number of air traffic controllers, MIA would not be able to continue its projected growth to serve as really the hub of the Americas.

Housing and Urban Development is funded at $34 billion. That is an increase of $2.1 billion over last year. The funds will permit the Department to administer programs that assist the public with housing needs, economic and community development, fair housing opportunities, and will also empower low- and moderate-income residents toward self-sufficiency. Under HUD, the bill includes funding for such important programs as Tenant Based Rental Assistance, also known as section 8, and other important programs.

H.R. 3058, Mr. Speaker, provides $5.8 billion for the Judiciary. It is an increase of 6 percent. This will fully fund the Judiciary's request for security improvements at Federal facilities and will enable the courts, obviously, to continue to effectively carry out their duties to guarantee the rule of law.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker. I think it is essential to our continued commitment to our transportation needs and the needs obviously encompassed, dealt with, by the other departments that we are funding today.

I want to thank Chairman LEWIS, Chairman KNOLLENBERG and everybody who has worked so hard on this legislation. I know it has been a tough, tough bill, and it has required a lot of work. I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, we are considering a rule for H.R. 3058, which will appropriate funding for a broad section of the Federal Government, including the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Federal judiciary and the District of Columbia. I commend all the conferees and particularly Chairman KNOLLENBERG and Ranking Member OLVER for their dedication to completing the conference report on this sprawling piece of legislation. It is a tremendous challenge to achieve consensus on such a broad range of priorities, and I believe this bill reflects outstanding leadership, considering the allotted resources for the job.

I was particularly pleased with the final funding for Amtrak, especially when you consider where we started. While the original House bill provided funds at a level that would have decimated the Nation's passenger rail system, the conference report funding level will allow Amtrak to continue running its current operations. In my hometown of Sacramento, Amtrak is heavily relied upon, and I know my constituents will be relieved that the conferees have provided this funding.

From the housing portion of the bill, I would like to highlight the importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. CDBG is a highly effective program that provides the resources to improve, energize and revitalize communities across the Nation. Like hundreds of cities across the country, in Sacramento CDBG has enabled transformative improvements to downtown and the rest of the city. I thank the appropriators for recognizing the vital nature of CDBG in providing this funding.

□ 0930

Another vital community resource funded in this bill is the housing choice voucher program known as section 8. This program allows low-income families, senior citizens and citizens with disabilities to obtain affordable housing.

On several occasions, my constituents have told me that were it not for these vouchers, they would have faced the fear and uncertainty associated with not knowing if tomorrow you have someplace to call home. It is clear that this program makes a difference in people's lives. I hope that when we come back next year and start to put together the FY 2007 budget, we will remember the positive impact that these programs have on the lives of our constituents and all Americans.

Even though we will again face limited resources, I hope that when the time comes to construct the budget, we will begin by determining who truly needs the government's help the most and which programs are most effective at delivering positive results. If we make that our top priority, I am sure this Congress and the Nation will be satisfied with the results.

Again, I thank the appropriators for their hard work and leadership this year on this conference report and throughout the year. I hope my colleagues will support the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 307) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 307

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, November 18, 2005, or Saturday, November 19, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader

or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, November 18, 2005, through Wednesday, November 23, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 12, 2005, or Tuesday, December 13, 2005, or until such other time on either of those days, as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2528.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 564, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2528) making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 564, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 17, 2005, Book II.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I do intend to be brief, but this is an important bill for our military and I would like to expand a little bit on some of the points within it.

But before I do that, I would like to describe the conference that we had with the Senate as successful. I would like to thank my ranking member, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, who has been at my shoulder all the way through this process. We worked very, very closely together. We have had the same priorities and we have tried to work out any disagreements that we had along the way.

I would also like to thank Chairman LEWIS for his leadership and his forethought in realigning the jurisdiction of this subcommittee.

The House bill included the accounts for basic allowance for housing, facilities sustainment, restoration and modernization, environmental restoration and the Defense Health Program. This was designed as a first step toward examining military quality of life as a whole, from active duty through retirement.

We have received nothing but positive feedback from the senior non-commissioned officers all the way up to the four-star service chiefs. I would hope that our colleagues in the other body would take a look at what the House has done and follow suit, but for this year, while the subcommittee retains jurisdiction over these four accounts, the conference report before the House today does not contain that funding. The funding will be included in the Defense appropriations bill and will return to the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs bill next year.

The conference report provides $6.2 billion for military construction, including quality of life facilities such as child care centers, medical facilities and training facilities. It also provides $4 billion for family housing construction and maintenance. This funding will continue moving toward the goal to eliminate inadequate family housing for our military, through both the privatization program and traditional construction. In addition, the bill includes $1.7 billion to maintain readiness and transform the military through the base realignment and closure process, the Army's modularity initiative, and the global repositioning of our forces.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs, the agreement provides a total of $22.547 billion for medical services. This amount includes the original budget request, plus $1.1 billion to reverse policy proposals included in the budget request, but not endorsed by the conference. These are $496 million for long-term care; $202 million for pharmacy copays; and $454 million for enrollment fees.

In addition, the agreement provides for workload increases and corrections of errors as identified in the budget amendment submitted on July 14, 2005. A portion of these additional funds are only available upon submission of a revised budget amendment by the President which declares the funding an emergency. This is necessary for us to effectively provide these funds and still remain within our 302(a) allocation from the Budget Committee.

The conference agreement also includes a number of reporting requirements so that the committees will be fully informed about potential problems that the Department may encounter throughout the year of execution before it is too late.

Other significant changes to the budget request include:

The creation of an Information Technology Systems account to allow us to keep track of information technology programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

$2.2 billion of medical services funding is fenced to be used only for specialty mental health care, a priority of many members of the committee and the House. We received testimony after testimony encouraging us to make sure that a minimum amount was provided for mental health care, and that is what we have done.

$15 million for research into Gulf War Illness.

$19 million over the President's request for medical and prosthetic research.

$85 million for grants for State Extended Care facilities. This is $85 million above the President's request.

We have fully funded the cost-of-living allowance of 4.1 percent for veterans compensation.

We also provide an increase of $273 million for medical services for veterans returning from Iraq.

$200 million is included to cover workload growth in priority 1–6 veterans.

$600 million is provided to correct errors in the calculation of funding needed for long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying I think we have a good bill to put before the Congress. I am very grateful to our Appropriations Committee staff for their professional work and their patience as we worked through this process and for the late hours that they spent preparing the bill. I believe it is a bill everyone can support.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL - FY 2006 (H.R. 2528)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE						
Military construction, Army	1,981,084	1,479,841	1,652,552	1,640,641	1,775,260	-205,824
Rescissions	-18,976	---	---	---	-19,746	-770
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-13)	847,191	---	---	---	---	-847,191
Total	2,809,299	1,479,841	1,652,552	1,640,641	1,755,514	-1,053,785
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	1,069,947	1,029,249	1,109,177	1,045,882	1,157,141	+87,194
Rescissions	-24,000	---	---	-92,354	-50,037	-26,037
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	138,800	---	---	---	---	-138,800
Additional appropriations (Div. J) (P.L. 108-447)	-4,350	---	---	---	---	+4,350
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-13)	139,880	---	---	---	---	-139,880
Total	1,320,277	1,029,249	1,109,177	953,528	1,107,104	-213,173
Military construction, Air Force	866,331	1,069,640	1,171,338	1,209,128	1,288,530	+422,199
Rescission	-21,800	---	---	---	-29,100	-7,300
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-13)	140,983	---	---	---	---	-140,983
Total	985,514	1,069,640	1,171,338	1,209,128	1,259,430	+273,916
Military construction, Defense-wide	686,055	1,042,730	976,664	1,072,165	1,008,855	+322,800
Rescission	-22,737	---	---	---	-20,000	+2,737
Total	663,318	1,042,730	976,664	1,072,165	988,855	+325,537
Total, Active components	5,778,408	4,621,460	4,909,731	4,875,462	5,110,903	-667,505
Military construction, Army National Guard	446,748	327,012	410,624	467,146	523,151	+76,403
Military construction, Air National Guard	243,043	165,256	225,727	279,156	316,117	+73,074
Rescission	-5,000	---	---	---	-13,700	-8,700
Total	238,043	165,256	225,727	279,156	302,417	+64,374
Military construction, Army Reserve	92,377	106,077	138,425	136,077	152,569	+60,192
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	8,700	---	---	---	---	-8,700
Total	101,077	106,077	138,425	136,077	152,569	+51,492
Military construction, Naval Reserve	44,246	45,226	45,226	46,676	46,864	+2,618
Rescission	---	---	---	---	-16,560	-16,560
Additional appropriations (Div. J) (P.L. 108-447)	4,350	---	---	---	---	-4,350
Total	48,596	45,226	45,226	46,676	30,304	-18,292
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	123,977	79,260	110,847	89,260	105,883	-18,094
Rescission	---	---	---	---	-13,815	-13,815
Total, Reserve components	958,441	722,831	930,849	1,018,315	1,100,509	+142,068
Total, Military construction	6,736,849	5,344,291	5,840,580	5,893,777	6,211,412	-525,437
Appropriations	(5,553,808)	(5,344,291)	(5,840,580)	(5,986,131)	(6,374,370)	(+820,562)
Emergency appropriations	(1,275,554)	---	---	---	---	(-1,275,554)
Rescissions	(-92,513)	---	---	(-92,354)	(-162,958)	(-70,445)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program	165,800	206,858	206,858	206,858	206,858	+41,058
Rescission	-5,000	---	---	---	-30,000	-25,000
Total	160,800	206,858	206,858	206,858	176,858	+16,058
Family housing construction, Army	636,099	549,636	549,636	549,636	549,636	-86,463
Rescission	-21,000	---	---	---	-16,000	+5,000
Total	615,099	549,636	549,636	549,636	533,636	-81,463

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL - FY 2006 (H.R. 2528)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	926,507	812,993	803,993	812,993	803,993	-122,514
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	1,200	---	---	---	---	-1,200
Total	927,707	812,993	803,993	812,993	803,993	-123,714
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	139,107	218,942	218,942	218,942	218,942	+79,835
Rescission	-12,301	---	---	---	---	+12,301
Total	126,806	218,942	218,942	218,942	218,942	+92,136
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	696,304	593,660	588,660	593,660	588,660	-107,644
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	9,100	---	---	---	---	-9,100
Total	705,404	593,660	588,660	593,660	588,660	-116,744
Family housing construction, Air Force	846,959	1,251,108	1,236,220	1,142,622	1,101,887	+254,928
Rescission	-45,171	---	---	---	-43,900	+1,271
Total	801,788	1,251,108	1,236,220	1,142,622	1,057,987	+256,199
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	853,384	766,939	755,319	766,939	766,939	-86,445
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	11,400	---	---	---	---	-11,400
Total	864,784	766,939	755,319	766,939	766,939	-97,845
Family housing construction, Defense-wide	49	---	---	---	---	-49
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-wide	49,575	46,391	46,391	46,391	46,391	-3,184
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	---
Rescission	-19,109	---	---	---	---	+19,109
Total	-16,609	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	+19,109
Total, Family housing	4,074,603	4,242,169	4,201,661	4,133,683	4,019,048	-55,555
Appropriations	(4,150,484)	(4,242,169)	(4,201,661)	(4,133,683)	(4,078,948)	(-71,536)
Emergency appropriations	(21,700)	---	---	---	---	(-21,700)
Rescissions	(-97,581)	---	---	---	(-59,900)	(+37,681)
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-wide	81,886	---	---	---	---	-81,886
Base realignment and closure:						
Base realignment and closure account, 1990	246,116	377,827	377,827	402,827	254,827	+8,711
Base realignment and closure account, 2005	---	1,880,466	1,570,466	1,479,466	1,504,466	+1,504,466
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	50	---	---	---	---	-50
Total, Base realignment and closure	246,166	2,258,293	1,948,293	1,882,293	1,759,293	+1,513,127
General provision (sec. 128)	---	65,000	65,000	---	---	---
Total, title I:						
New budget (obligational) authority	11,300,304	12,116,611	12,262,392	12,116,611	12,166,611	+866,307
Appropriations	(10,198,094)	(12,116,611)	(12,262,392)	(12,208,965)	(12,419,469)	(+2,221,375)
Emergency appropriations	(1,297,304)	---	---	---	---	(-1,297,304)
Rescissions	(-195,094)	---	---	(-92,354)	(-252,858)	(-57,764)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS						
Veterans Benefits Administration						
Compensation and pensions	32,607,688	33,412,879	33,412,879	33,412,879	33,897,787	+1,290,099
Readjustment benefits	2,556,232	3,214,246	3,214,246	3,214,246	3,309,234	+753,002
Veterans insurance and indemnities	44,380	45,907	45,907	45,907	45,907	+1,527
Veterans housing benefit program fund program account (indefinite)	43,784	64,586	64,586	64,586	64,586	+20,802
(Limitation on direct loans)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---
Credit subsidy	-144,000	-112,000	-112,000	-112,000	-112,000	+32,000
Administrative expenses	152,842	153,575	153,575	153,575	153,575	+733
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	47	53	53	53	53	+6
(Limitation on direct loans)	(4,108)	(4,242)	(4,242)	(4,242)	(4,242)	(+134)
Administrative expenses	309	305	305	305	305	

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL - FY 2006 (H.R. 2528)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Native American veteran housing loan program account..	566	580	580	580	580	+14
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(50,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(-20,000)
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....	35,261,848	36,780,131	36,780,131	36,780,131	37,360,027	+2,098,179
Veterans Health Administration						
Medical services.....	19,316,995	19,995,141	20,995,141	21,331,011	21,322,141	+2,005,146
Emergency appropriations.....	---	---	---	1,977,000	1,225,000	+1,225,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	38,283	---	---	---	---	-38,283
FY 2006 amendment (H. Doc. 109-46, July 18, 2005).	---	1,977,000	---	---	---	---
Supplemental appropriations (P.L. 109-54).....	1,500,000	---	---	---	---	-1,500,000
Subtotal, Medical Services.....	20,855,278	21,972,141	20,995,141	23,308,011	22,547,141	+1,691,863
Medical administration.....	4,667,360	4,517,874	4,134,874	2,858,442	2,858,442	-1,808,918
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	1,940	---	---	---	---	-1,940
Information technology.....	---	---	---	1,456,821	---	---
Medical facilities.....	3,715,040	3,297,669	3,297,669	3,297,669	3,297,669	-417,371
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	46,909	---	---	---	---	-46,909
Medical and prosthetic research.....	402,348	393,000	393,000	412,000	412,000	+9,652
Medical care cost recovery collections:						
Offsetting collections.....	-1,985,984	-2,170,000	-2,170,000	-2,170,000	-2,170,000	-184,016
Appropriations (indefinite).....	1,985,984	2,170,000	2,170,000	2,170,000	2,170,000	+184,016
Total, Veterans Health Administration.....	29,688,875	30,180,684	28,820,684	31,332,943	29,115,252	-573,623
Departmental Administration						
General operating expenses.....	1,314,155	1,418,827	1,411,827	1,418,827	1,410,520	+96,365
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	545	---	---	---	---	-545
Information technology systems.....	---	---	---	---	1,213,820	+1,213,820
National Cemetery Administration.....	147,734	156,447	156,447	156,447	156,447	+8,713
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	50	---	---	---	---	-50
Office of Inspector General.....	69,153	70,174	70,174	70,174	70,174	+1,021
Construction, major projects.....	455,130	607,100	607,100	607,100	607,100	+151,970
Construction, minor projects.....	228,933	208,937	208,937	208,937	198,937	-29,996
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324).....	36,343	---	---	---	---	-36,343
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	104,322	---	25,000	104,322	85,000	-19,322
Grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries.....	31,744	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	+256
Total, Departmental Administration.....	2,388,109	2,493,485	2,511,485	2,597,807	3,773,998	+1,385,889
Total, title II:						
New budget (obligational) authority.....	67,338,832	69,454,300	68,112,300	70,710,881	70,249,277	+2,910,445
Appropriations.....	(67,214,762)	(69,454,300)	(68,112,300)	(68,733,881)	(69,024,277)	(+1,809,515)
Emergency appropriations.....	(124,070)	---	---	(1,977,000)	(1,225,000)	(+1,100,930)
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(54,608)	(34,742)	(34,742)	(34,742)	(34,742)	(-19,866)
Discretionary.....	32,230,748	32,828,682	31,486,682	34,085,263	33,043,763	+813,015
Mandatory.....	35,108,084	36,625,618	36,625,618	36,625,618	37,205,514	+2,097,430
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES						
American Battle Monuments Commission						
Salaries and expenses.....	40,771	35,250	35,750	36,250	36,250	-4,521
Foreign currency fluctuations account.....	11,904	15,250	15,250	15,250	15,250	+3,346
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	52,675	50,500	51,000	51,500	51,500	-1,175
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims						
Salaries and expenses.....	17,112	18,295	18,295	18,795	18,795	+1,683

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL - FY 2006 (H.R. 2528)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Department of Defense - Civil						
Cemeterial Expenses, Army						
Salaries and expenses	29,363	28,050	29,550	28,550	29,050	-313
Armed Forces Retirement Home						
Operation and maintenance	57,163	57,033	57,033	57,033	57,033	-130
Capital program	3,968	1,248	1,248	1,248	1,248	-2,720
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	61,131	58,281	58,281	58,281	58,281	-2,850
Total, title III:						
New budget (obligational) authority	160,281	155,126	157,126	157,126	157,626	-2,655
Grand total, all titles:						
New budget (obligational) authority	78,799,417	81,726,037	80,531,818	82,984,618	82,573,514	+3,774,097
Appropriations	(77,573,137)	(81,726,037)	(80,531,818)	(81,099,972)	(81,601,372)	(+4,028,235)
Emergency appropriations	(1,421,374)	---	---	(1,977,000)	(1,225,000)	(-196,374)
Rescissions	(-195,094)	---	---	(-92,354)	(-252,858)	(-57,764)

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL - FY 2006 (H.R. 2528)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP						
Scorekeeping adjustments:						
Emergency appropriations defense	-1,297,304	---	---	---	---	+1,297,304
Emergency appropriations non-defense	-124,070	---	---	-1,977,000	-1,225,000	-1,100,930
Senate Defense items	---	---	---	-41,430,750	---	---
Total, adjustments	-1,421,374	---	---	-43,407,750	-1,225,000	+196,374
Total (including adjustments)	77,378,043	81,726,037	80,531,818	39,576,868	81,348,514	+3,970,471
Amounts in this bill	(78,799,417)	(81,726,037)	(80,531,818)	(82,984,618)	(82,573,514)	(+3,774,097)
Scorekeeping adjustments	(-1,421,374)	---	---	(-43,407,750)	(-1,225,000)	(+196,374)
Prior year outlays	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total mandatory and discretionary	77,378,043	81,726,037	80,531,818	39,576,868	81,348,514	+3,970,471
Mandatory	(35,108,084)	(36,625,618)	(36,625,618)	(36,625,618)	(37,205,514)	(+2,097,430)
Mandatory (prior year)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mandatory (total)	(35,108,084)	(36,625,618)	(36,625,618)	(36,625,618)	(37,205,514)	(+2,097,430)
Discretionary	(42,269,959)	(45,100,419)	(43,906,200)	(2,951,250)	(44,143,000)	(+1,873,041)
Discretionary (prior year)	---	---	---	---	---	---
Discretionary (total)	(42,269,959)	(45,100,419)	(43,906,200)	(2,951,250)	(44,143,000)	(+1,873,041)
RECAP BY FUNCTION						
Mandatory	35,108,084	36,625,618	36,625,618	36,625,618	37,205,514	+2,097,430
Prior year outlays	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Mandatory	35,108,084	36,625,618	36,625,618	36,625,618	37,205,514	+2,097,430
General purpose discretionary:						
Defense	10,003,000	12,116,611	12,262,392	-29,314,139	12,166,611	+2,163,611
Prior year outlays	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Defense	10,003,000	12,116,611	12,262,392	-29,314,139	12,166,611	+2,163,611
Nondefense	32,266,959	32,983,808	31,643,808	32,265,389	31,976,389	-290,570
Prior year outlays	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Nondefense	32,266,959	32,983,808	31,643,808	32,265,389	31,976,389	-290,570
Subtotal, General purpose discretionary	42,269,959	45,100,419	43,906,200	2,951,250	44,143,000	+1,873,041
Prior year outlays	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total General purpose discretionary	42,269,959	45,100,419	43,906,200	2,951,250	44,143,000	+1,873,041
Grand total, Mandatory and Discretionary	77,378,043	81,726,037	80,531,818	39,576,868	81,348,514	+3,970,471
DISCRETIONARY 302B ALLOCATION						
GENERAL PURPOSE	42,269,959	45,100,419	43,906,200	2,951,250	44,143,000	+1,873,041
302B ALLOCATION	---	---	85,158,000	41,962,000	44,143,000	+44,143,000
OVER/UNDER	42,269,959	45,100,419	-41,251,800	-39,010,750	---	-42,269,959

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, let me say, first of all, I want to congratulate the gentleman from New York. He always does a fine job. On this bill, he has not only done a good job on substance, he has dealt with the ranking minority member, Mr. EDWARDS, with fairness and openness and we appreciate it.

In contrast to the Labor-Health-Education bill which caused so much trouble yesterday, I am happy to support this bill today, and I know Mr. EDWARDS will be, too. But before we vote, I would simply like to recite some facts about the history of veterans health care, because I think it is important that no matter how divided we might be on any given military action, whether it be Vietnam in the past or Iraq in the present, we should not be divided on the question of what we owe to each and every person who has worn the uniform of the United States and defended the national interests of the United States, often at great risk to their own lives and at great risk to the future economic security of their own families. That is why this bill is so important.

I want to recite what has happened on veterans health care in the hopes that the divisions which we have had over the level of funding for veterans health care in the past will not be repeated in the future. Here is that history.

In March of 2003, House Republicans voted for a budget resolution that called for cutting veterans health care by $14 billion over 10 years.

In July 2003, after agreeing to reduce some of those budget cuts in the House, the GOP reneged on its promise to increase funding for VA health care and passed an appropriation bill providing $1.8 billion less than what was called for in their fiscal 2004 budget. Mr. EDWARDS tried to offer an amendment to that bill to add $2.2 billion for veterans health care, but he was blocked.

In October 2003, I offered a motion to recommit on the Iraqi supplemental that called for an additional $1.3 billion for veterans health care. The majority rejected it.

We continued to push for veterans in fiscal 2005. For 2005, the administration requested $18.3 billion for veterans medical services. In subcommittee, the House recommended $19.5 billion. At that time, veterans groups and many Members on this side of the aisle indicated we felt that those numbers fell far short. The Republican chairman of the Veterans Committee agreed. Unfortunately for him, a year later, he was removed from his position as chairman and he was removed from the committee by the Republican leadership because he had the temerity to agree with us and with veterans groups that more funding was needed in order to meet our obligations to veterans on the health care front.

In full committee, Mr. EDWARDS in July 2004 offered an amendment to try to do the right thing and bring the VA medical services account up another $1.3 billion. He was defeated on a party-line vote. Of course, the bill had so many problems that the majority could not even bring it to the House floor. It ended up getting wrapped up into the omnibus.

On September 29, 2004, I again offered a motion to recommit on the first CR, trying to add $1.3 billion for veterans health care, and that effort was rejected.

On June 23, 2005, we learned how wrong that original mark had been. The administration admitted they were a billion dollars short and even admitted that they had known about it for months. The next day, Mr. EDWARDS tried to offer an amendment to the Labor-Health bill on the House floor to try to use that vehicle to make up the $1 billion shortfall in VA health care, but again we were blocked by the majority.

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After that failed, I offered a motion to recommit with instructions to include the $1 billion for veterans. Again, I was blocked.

On June 29, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) was blocked again from bringing up an amendment to add to the veterans budget $1 billion. This time we tried to use the transportation appropriation bill as the vehicle. And now we come to the subject of this conference for 2006.

When the request came at the beginning of the year, the administration was only asking for $20 billion for medical services. On the other hand, veterans organizations' independent budgets said that $22.5 billion would be needed.

In May 2005, the subcommittee increased the medical care account to $21 billion, a half step in the right direction. In full committee, I offered an amendment that would have added $1.5 billion to this medical care account, plus increased funding to some other areas. That would have brought us pretty much to where we are today, except that my amendment would have been paid for because I proposed reducing somewhat the tax cut that was scheduled for the wealthiest of Americans, those making over $400,000 a year. This agreement before us uses an emergency designation so the costs will go directly to the deficit. The majority defeated my amendment.

Then, in July of this year, the administration finally admitted that the 2006 bill was short as well. They amended the VA budget request, asking for an additional $2 billion.

Some of the carryover funds from the additional $1.5 billion that was provided last summer is being used, and the conference agreement before us includes, guess what, $22.5 billion for VA medical services. I hope that number sounds familiar. I will repeat it, $22.5 billion in medical services. That is what the veterans organizations said they needed. It is what we were trying to get on this side of the aisle. I simply say ''Welcome Aboard'' to our friends on the majority side.

I want to make clear, I believe every Member of this House, regardless of party, recognizes their commitment to the veterans. The problem is that all too often in this place we wind up with pressures of party or party program getting in the way of our better judgment and making choices that really do not measure up to the facts.

I believe that was the case over the past 3 years, because I believe that fealty to the Republican budget resolution and to the Republican leadership's desire for tax cuts, especially tax cuts that were aimed at the very high-income people, I believe that that fealty prevented the House from doing what it really knew needed to be done on both sides of the aisle, or at least had a strong suspicion needed to be done, and when the numbers finally were revealed, it has become difficult for people to avoid reality, and so I think this bill reflects reality.

I will say that with one caveat. I hope that we can count on the numbers that are coming from OMB and the Veterans Administration on this bill. I hope we can count on them, because if we cannot, then we will have to be back here again asking for yet more money. It is not enough for us to applaud the troops when they are leaving to go to war, when the bands are playing, when everyone's blood is up. What we have to be willing to do is to remember our fundamental obligation to those troops when they return.

I do not believe that we are doing enough to meet our obligations to those troops, but this bill is certainly a good-faith effort, and I congratulate the gentleman from New York for the role he has played in trying to get here.

I most especially want to congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the subcommittee ranking member. There is no one in this House who has had a more dedicated history of fighting for the needs of veterans on the health care front and on so many other fronts than has the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), and I am pleased to stand in for him temporarily this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate very much the kind comments of the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee regarding our work product today, and I note that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), my colleague, has joined us, and I look forward to his comments also.

I think that the gentleman from Wisconsin made some points that I would like to give my reflection on.

First of all, we agree. Both parties and every individual Member of the

House holds our veterans in the highest regard, and the House, having the power of the purse, establishes its priorities by setting funding levels. Clearly, there is no budget within the Federal Government which has grown faster or been more plentifully supplied with funds than the Veterans' Affairs health care budget.

It is the fastest growing budget, I believe, within the entire Federal budget, and that is as it should be because we have a growing number of veterans from the Iraq War. We have a number of aging veterans whose health care becomes more and more expensive, and we have struggled every year to meet those needs.

Now, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) pointed out that within the last year and a half or so there have been some disagreements about the dollar amount required to meet those needs, and he is right about that. What we found was that the model that was being used by the Veterans Administration was wrong. It was inaccurate, and the resultant changes in the budget, the funding level over that period reflect that, but I would like to add that each and every year that I have chaired this appropriations bill for veterans, we have had similar disagreements about how much money is actually needed to meet the needs of the Veterans Health Administration.

I can cite year after year when the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and others came to the floor and said there is just not enough money for the veterans budget, for veterans health care, and I remember saying over and over and over we are providing record increases for the Veterans Health Administration.

I think out of this 6, I believe now 7, years that I have chaired this subcommittee, we have had that debate every time, and other than this year, I think it is pretty clearly documented that we have been right, that the dollar amounts that we have provided have been sufficient, in some cases more than sufficient, to meet the needs of our veterans health care.

So while we did have a glitch in the model, we have actually put language in the bill and provided resources to try to remedy that situation so that does not happen again. That was an aberration. We have been very solid in our estimates and very supportive of it through our budgeting of the Veterans Health Administration, and that always is the key aspect of this budget because of our concern about keeping the commitments that this Nation has made to our veterans.

So, I do not think the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) was saying that we do not care enough about our veterans to provide those resources. I do not think he was saying that the White House does not care enough. I think he is saying, quite to the contrary, bipartisanly, bicamerally, and compared by the differences between the executive branch and legislative branch, we are all in agreement: Our veterans are our highest priority, and we have funded our veterans benefits and our veterans health care accordingly.

There have been disagreements in the past. There will be disagreements in the future, but not over our commitment to keeping our commitments to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time controlled by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, at long last we are supporting America's veterans with our deeds and not just with our words, and in that process, I want to salute the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), my colleague, friend and chairman of the Veterans' Affairs, Military Quality of Life Subcommittee in that effort.

This is a good bill that takes positive steps to redress the wrongs done to veterans over the last several years when, in fact, we were cutting veterans services during a time of war, something that many of us on the floor of this House time and again said was immoral.

This bill increases VA medical services by $2.5 billion over the President's original request. I salute this committee and the House and its leadership for doing that. I also would point out that that itself suggests that the administration has woefully underfunded veterans health care needs during a time of war. Never again should our country send young Americans into war and then scrimp on supporting those who have sacrificed the most to their service during that war.

This bill specifically sets aside $2.2 billion for VA mental health care medical services, and on that particular point, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) deserves special recognition for taking the initiative to see that the VA does put more resources into helping those young Americans, men and women alike, who have paid a serious mental health care price for their love of country and service to country. The fact is that we have and the VA has been underfunding mental health care services to our veterans.

Third, this bill restores funding of $85 million for State nursing home construction. We have an aging of the veterans population. I guess I had a great difference with the administration in its original proposal to cut by as much as two-thirds the number of veterans that we provide for in long-term nursing home care. This bill corrects that mistake of the administration.

I salute the bipartisan effort in this bill to reject the administration's proposal to have a $250 enrollment fee for every veteran wanting to sign up for VA health care services. Many of us have long felt that our veterans have paid their enrollment fee when they put on our country's uniform and went into harm's way in protection of all of us. I am glad this committee rejected the administration proposal to double prescription copays for veterans, veterans who are struggling every month to make ends meet.

I think a very important part of this bill that was put together somewhat at my urging, but truly on a bipartisan basis, and that is, that no longer are we going to be just completely dependent upon the VA Secretary or OMB to tell us whether we are cutting veterans services during a time of war. This bill has some very stringent reporting requirements to be done on a quarterly basis, where the VA must provide this Congress with information about whether we are reducing staff, cutting services, underfunding health care for veterans, especially during a time of war. I think this Congress has a moral responsibility to make its own independent judgment about whether we are adequately supporting our veterans and not have to be completely dependent upon what the Director of OMB or the Secretary of the VA have said.

Having said all of that about the very positive things in this bill for veterans, I must just for a brief moment add to what the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) said about this process.

I hope this step forward for America's veterans in a tangible way ends what I think has been a sad chapter over the last 2 years. How ironic it is that the funding for veterans health care in this bill is equivalent to the funding called for over 2 years ago by Republican Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey who chaired the Veterans' Affairs Committee. How did the House Republican leadership, not this committee, how did the House Republican leadership respond to the gentleman from New Jersey's call to adequately support veterans health care? Did they thank him? Did they salute him? Did they award him? No. They fired him. They took away his chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and even took him off the committee itself. That was a sad moment in the history of this House in our service to veterans, and I hope never again will a chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee be fired for standing up for veterans and putting his commitment to veterans above his commitment to partisan loyalty.

□ 1000

I salute this bill and the chairman of this subcommittee for the step forward in military construction. It provides about $2 billion more than we spent on military construction last year. These are training ranges. These are houses and barracks and much-needed quality-of-life improvements for our service men and women.

I am proud of what this committee has done under the leadership of the chairman and on a bipartisan basis for military construction commitments and improving the quality of life for Americans who are sacrificing so very much every day for our Nation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would just express two concerns, not about this committee's work, but about the future for veterans and our military. One is the VA is still grossly underestimating the net number of new veterans coming into the VA health care system. The latest numbers I saw said they projected 84,000 net new veterans this year in the VA medical system. That is in total contrast to a net increase of about 250,000 each year for the last 2, 3, or 4 years. I think it is going to be important for our subcommittee and for the full Appropriations Committee in this House to monitor every month in the months ahead whether the increase in the number of veterans into the VA medical care system makes even this substantially improved medical budget inadequate. I look forward to carrying out that responsibility on a bipartisan basis.

Finally, in terms of military construction, I am not sure we yet have from the administration or the Department of Defense a full cost accounting for the cost of construction, military construction, as a result of the base closing and realignment process and the redeployment of our troops from Germany and South Korea. My own prediction is that the administration has grossly underestimated the actual cost of military construction. So while this bill does have a very significant increase in MILCON projects, and, again, I enthusiastically support that increase, I think it is going to be important for this House to monitor what the true cost of military construction will be so that over the next 12 to 24 months, we are not cutting corners for better housing for our service men and women and their families even as they sacrifice for all of us during time of war.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker. I salute the chairman of the committee, Mr. WALSH; the leadership of the full Committee on Appropriations, Mr. LEWIS and Mr. OBEY, for asking the question of what is right for America's veterans. I think this bill is a great step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, a gentleman who had the great vision to assemble new jurisdiction for this committee and create this subcommittee and a personal mentor of mine.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, to the chairman and to my colleague, Mr. EDWARDS, from beautiful downtown Texas, I want to congratulate both of them for this very fine piece of legislation. It reflects a great deal of the variety of mix that we needed to be able to focus upon in a very special way in the arena that involves not just veterans, certainly our veterans, but beyond that, the families of the men and women who serve us and ofttimes put their lives on the line, questions like their housing, other kinds of benefits that are very important to their being able to have decent lives while they serve us. Focusing on all those issues within one subcommittee, I think, is going to produce real results down the line. The bipartisan spirit that is a part of this committee, and we can see it reflected in the House today, is very much a part of that.

I would like to mention just one thing to my colleagues, an item that has been of concern to me for most of my career here. In the past, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of chairing the subcommittee that did the funding for our veterans. One of my concerns during those years was that ofttimes within the community that is Washington, DC, we expressed great support for our veterans, raised funds to try to improve the funding flows, and then did not do very much about following the money when it went down to the communities where veterans are served.

Particularly, I have been concerned over the years with the kind of treatment that ofttimes took place at the hospitals, and I have been urging the veterans service organizations to do more than be proud of the money that is appropriated here, but rather make sure that money is used in a quality way in terms of the service at the other end of the line.

We are beginning to do some things like involving clinics in rural areas where there are open spaces and the hospitals are not close by. All of that, I think, portends well for the future here.

But I would raise just one cautionary note: It is very important that we continue to put pressure on those organizations whose design and purpose is to support our veterans, to help us follow the money down to the local communities, make sure that it is being spent well. It is great to have increased dollar flows, but throwing money at problems is not always the solution. We all know that. So in this instance, I would say to my ranking member, Mr. OBEY, as well as to the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee, together we ought to form a partnership to make certain every one of those dollars is spent well on behalf of our veterans at the local community.

With that, congratulations on your work. It is a very fine product.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) for yielding me this time.

When we left here last night, we had spent the evening in bitter rancor over serious political issues, however we arrived this morning, and the first thing we do is take up a bill where we all agree on something. And I think that is the beauty of the United States Congress. We can disagree and we can have partisan fights, but there is one thing we have in common, and that is that we all support the people who volunteer to serve in our United States military and support the veterans who have served in that military, and the benefits that they should receive afterwards. It is sort of promises made and promises kept.

I think, also, that the reason why we do not have any rancor on this legislation is, we have two of the finest Members of Congress, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. WALSH, Mr. EDWARDS as ranking member and Mr. WALSH as Chair, of a committee where the divergent members come together. We still have strong political differences on either side. We have different backgrounds, life experiences that we bring to the committee. In fact, I think it is kind of ironic that Mr. WALSH and I, who are former Peace Corps volunteers, are now very active in the committee that deals with the quality of life for the military, but I think that the things we have learned in the Peace Corps about service to human beings are very important to the subject matter in this committee.

I also would like to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. LEWIS, and the ranking member, Mr. OBEY, because they have given us sort of that parental consent to go ahead and do the best we can do with the money allocated.

There are a lot of good things in this bill mainly because we have added money to it, and Congress has been more supportive than the administration to our veterans, and I think that that ought to be made very clear. We are providing a second increment of $1.5 billion in addition to what Congress has already passed, $1.2 billion in emergency money. But now there is still some talk that there is going to be an across-the-board cut. We cannot provide the services that Mr. LEWIS just talked about one day and then come back here later and provide a cut to those services. That is total hypocrisy, and we do not want to see that across-the-board cut affect our veterans and our active duty members of our services.

This committee has a lot of issues that we have to deal with. Are we providing enough care for our returning service members? I have been out to Bethesda and to Walter Reed Hospital, talking to the people who have been injured. We have seen a difference between the rehabilitation care that is given to spinal cord injury soldiers than that of the ones that are amputees, and we ought to try to bring coordination to one place, that they both

get the same kind of rehabilitative care.

Are we doing enough to reduce the waiting period for veterans for health care? Is there enough money to meet the staggering mental health care, something that we have never really put enough focus on? Posttraumatic syndrome, how long does it take sometimes? Veterans and active Reservists and National Guardsmen who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan may not develop their mental problems from serving for many years after they leave the service. Is there going to be adequate mental health care for them?

How about the price tag for prosthetics? Our centers for our wounded military are quality centers of excellence in trying to develop the latest technology in prosthetics. Yet we do not spend enough time looking at it and making sure that those things are funded well, because the private sector just cannot meet that responsibility. This is a responsibility of the United States Congress. And are we hiring enough people to make sure that we can serve those who need that service, whether it be in a health care clinic or whether it be at the military hospitals? These are questions that we have got to address.

We also have got to address the fact that we have closed military bases, and in those bases we have a lot of unexploded ordnance. Those are ordnances that could only be cleaned up by people that have Federal special training, a very limited specialty field, and yet it is one of the lowest priorities of the military. Obviously, their duty is to train people to defend our country, not necessarily to do environmental cleanup, but we cannot turn that real estate over for subsequent use to the community unless there are enough funds to clean it up, and we have been sorely lacking in enough funds. Fortunately, the chairman and ranking member of this committee have really worked with me in trying to get additional funds for cleanup, although we are way short of the billions of dollars that are needed.

So today is the day where we bring together the differences that we had last night and show that Congress can, indeed, unanimously support the needs of the men and women in uniform and all voluntary service.

I am very proud to have served on this committee. I am proud of its leadership, and I would urge that all my colleagues support the men and women in uniform, support the quality of life that we provide for our services, and help the veterans of the United States by approving this appropriations bill. Thank you.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude with several comments. First, I could not agree more with Mr. LEWIS, the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, that it would be a positive step for all of us to work in carrying out our responsibility for congressional oversight over VA health care programs, and I would add to that, over military construction programs. I know that is something the chairman of the subcommittee has worked on and actually started the process on, and I look forward to continuing that effort. It is important that we not only adequately fund veterans health care and other veterans programs, the quality-of-life programs for military servicemen and women and their families, we need to be sure those dollars are being spent in the way that Congress intended them to be spent.

I want to thank several groups. First, I want to thank our veterans service organizations, made up of millions of men and women who have served our country proudly in uniform during time of war and peace. And yet like so many veterans, when they take that uniform off, their love of country does not wane, and their continuing commitment to service is an inspiration to all of us.

Without the strong leadership over the last 2 years of the veterans service organizations who have never let up in saying it would be wrong, and it is wrong, to cut veterans health care services during a time of war, I am not sure we would be at this funding level today. So I salute them.

I also want to salute the incredibly able staff of this subcommittee. On the Democratic side: Tom Forhan and Bob Bonner. On the Republican side, hardworking, dedicated employees as well: Carol Murphy, the staff director of this committee; Tim Peterson; Sarah Young; Walter Hearne; and Mary Arnold. What a privilege it is for the chairman and me to be able to work with a staff that at every step of the way is simply asking one question: What is the right thing to do for our servicemen and women and their families and what is the right thing to do for our veterans?

Like so many of our veterans that are not honored with memorials in this Nation's Capitol, this subcommittee staff is working every day behind the scenes to make a positive difference for very, very deserving people, and I want to thank them for all they do, day in and day out, without any expectation of public acclaim.

My final note is left to honor a veteran. As we approach Thanksgiving and in a few minutes pass this bill, I cannot help but think, Mr. Speaker, about a young veteran, 20 years old, that I met at Walter Reed Army Hospital on Thanksgiving morning 2 years ago. He had come back from Iraq with an amputated leg, sitting in his room alone with the exception of being there with his mother. When I walked in and saw his condition, the first thing he said to me was, ''Sir, I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me. I'm proud to have served my country, and I would be proud to serve it again.''

□ 1015

I hope we will always remember that is what this bill is all about, standing up for those who have stood up for our Nation and the American family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction for the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for interrupting the progress here. I know all of us want to move forward and conclude as early as possible today.

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to Mr. WALSH for working with the authorizing committee so well. For years we have established, I think, an example for this House in how the authorizers and appropriators should work together, and the gentleman has followed in that tradition.

If Members remember, when we first began to look at this early in the year, we had those early meetings together, and we thought the outcome, because of the reorganization, might be very, very different than what we have today. The outcome, I think, is a good outcome. I think we are taking care of infrastructure needs that need to be taken care of in an area where so often these kinds of things become billpayers for other things.

Particularly when we are in the midst of a war and there are all kinds of demands, it is awfully easy to say with military construction and these feel-good things for our soldiers that we just put those off another year. We can put them off another year, and then we will do it, and next year maybe we do it and maybe we do not.

In this case all of the way around you have done an excellent job. We have provided for the soldier. We have provided for the infrastructure needs, and I am very, very pleased with the kind of relationship we have had in working with this. Your staff has been just terrific. With that, I will just say thank you and let you get back to your normal schedule here.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague Mr. EDWARDS, especially regarding our staff who have done a really great job and worked through all of the issues with us. They do so much of the detail work and just leave a few things for us to resolve. We are very grateful for that.

To the veteran service organizations, I have often said pressure is a good thing. We need that. It creates a dynamic tension within this legislative process, and it is always constructive. We may not agree on every single detail, but for the most part we are on the same page.

And lastly to our Nation's soldiers, Active Duty sailors, airmen and to our

marines, thank you for your service, God bless you, and come home safe and sound.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3058.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 72. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 467. An act to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

S. 1418. An act to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 565, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 565, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of November 17, 2005.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG).

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I bring to the House the first-ever conference report for Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the independent agencies, plus the District of Columbia. This is a complex bill, but an important bill, making appropriations for our Nation's important infrastructure: roads, airports and rail, for our Nation's capital, for our Nation's housing needs, and for our Nation's judiciary. We have met the needs for fiscal year 2006, all the while staying within our 302(b) allocation of $65.9 billion, and total spending of $133.4 billion.

I would like to thank my friend and ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for all of the hard work and the keen interest in the programs in this bill. He has proven to be a valuable partner, and I want to commend him. He has made significant contributions to this bill, and I thank him for his support.

I would also like to thank the members of the subcommittee for their hard work during the hearing process and in creating the bill. I certainly want to mention and point out that this staff, the entire staff, has really done some extraordinary things over the last several days, and they have had some sleepless nights, and so they are prepared to leave here tonight and catch up on some needed sleep.

This is a good bill, a clean bill, and one that I urge a ''yes'' vote to pass the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and the District of Columbia bill.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION						
Office of the Secretary						
Salaries and expenses	86,536	87,046	67,824	86,000	84,900	-1,636
Immediate Office of the Secretary	(2,202)	---	(2,198)	(2,198)	(2,198)	(-4)
Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary	(699)	---	(698)	(698)	(698)	(-1)
Office of the General Counsel	(15,272)	---	(15,433)	(15,183)	(15,183)	(-89)
Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy	(12,526)	---	(11,680)	(12,650)	(11,650)	(-876)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs	(8,504)	---	(7,593)	(8,585)	(8,485)	(-19)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs	(2,297)	---	---	(2,293)	(2,293)	(-4)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	(23,249)	---	(23,139)	(22,031)	(22,031)	(-1,218)
Office of Public Affairs	(1,914)	---	---	(1,910)	(1,910)	(-4)
Executive Secretariat	(1,444)	---	(20)	(1,442)	(1,442)	(-2)
Board of Contract Appeals	(698)	---	(697)	(697)	(697)	(-1)
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization	(1,268)	---	(1,265)	(1,265)	(1,265)	(-3)
Office of Intelligence and Security	(2,037)	---	(2,033)	(2,033)	(2,033)	(-4)
Office of the Chief Information Officer	(11,301)	---	---	(11,895)	(11,895)	(+594)
Office of emergency transportation	(3,125)	---	(3,128)	(3,120)	(3,120)	(-5)
Undesignated reduction	---	---	(-60)	---	---	---
User fees	(-2,500)	(-2,500)	(-2,500)	(-2,500)	(-2,500)	---
Spending of user fees	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)	(2,500)	---
Subtotal	(86,536)	(87,046)	(67,824)	(86,000)	(84,900)	(-1,636)
Office of Civil Rights	8,630	8,550	8,550	8,550	8,550	-80
Rescission of excess compensation for air carriers	-235,000	---	---	---	---	+235,000
Transportation planning, research, and development	19,840	9,030	9,030	15,000	15,000	-4,840
Working capital fund	(149,846)	---	(120,014)	(120,014)	(118,014)	(-31,832)
Minority business resource center program	893	900	900	900	900	+7
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(18,367)	(18,367)	(18,367)	(18,367)	(18,367)	---
Minority business outreach	2,976	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	+24
New headquarters building	67,456	100,000	55,000	50,000	50,000	-17,456
Payments to air carriers (Airport & Airway Trust Fund)	51,584	---	54,000	60,000	60,000	+8,416
General Aviation and Fixed Based Operator Reimbursement (sec. 186)	---	---	---	---	17,000	+17,000
Total, Office of the Secretary	237,915	208,526	198,304	223,450	239,350	+1,435
Federal Aviation Administration						
Operations	7,712,800	8,201,000	8,396,920	8,176,000	8,186,000	+473,200
Air traffic organization	---	(6,647,305)	---	(6,627,010)	---	---
Aviation Safety	---	(941,742)	---	(956,242)	---	---
Research and Acquisitions	---	---	---	---	---	---
Commercial Space Transportation	---	(11,759)	---	(11,759)	---	---
Financial Services	---	---	---	(50,983)	---	---
Human Resource Management	---	---	---	(69,943)	---	---
Region and Center Operations	---	---	---	(150,744)	---	---
Staff Offices	---	(450,194)	---	(141,909)	---	---
Information Services	---	---	---	(36,112)	---	---
Flight Service Stations A-76 transition	---	(150,000)	(91,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(+150,000)
Undistributed reduction	---	---	---	(-18,702)	---	---
Subtotal	7,712,800	8,201,000	8,396,920	8,176,000	8,186,000	+473,200
Facilities & equipment (Airport & Airway Trust Fund)	2,519,680	2,448,000	3,053,000	2,448,000	2,540,000	+20,320
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	5,100	---	---	---	---	-5,100
Research, engineering, and development (Airport and Airway Trust Fund)	129,880	130,000	130,000	134,500	138,000	+8,120
Grants-in-aid for airports (Airport and Airway Trust Fund)(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(2,800,000)	(3,300,000)	(3,600,000)	(3,390,000)	(3,399,000)	(+599,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(3,472,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,600,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,550,000)	(+78,000)
Small community air service development program	(19,840)	---	(20,000)	(20,000)	(10,000)	(-9,840)
Airport Cooperative Research Program	---	(10,000)	(10,000)	---	(10,000)	(+10,000)
2006 F&E Pop-up contract authority	---	605,000	---	605,000	513,000	+513,000
Rescission of contract authority (2006 F&E Pop-up)	---	-605,000	---	-605,000	-513,000	-513,000
Rescission of contract authority (2006 AIP)	---	-600,000	---	-100,000	-50,000	-50,000
Rescission of contract authority (prior yr Pop-up)	-265,000	-469,000	-469,000	-469,000	-469,000	-204,000
Emergency assistance to airports (Airport and Airway Trust Fund) (P.L. 108-324)	25,000	---	---	---	---	-25,000
Subtotal	(3,232,000)	(1,931,000)	(3,131,000)	(2,931,000)	(3,031,000)	(-201,000)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
War risk insurance program extension	-50,000	---	-80,000	-80,000	-80,000	-30,000
Total, Federal Aviation Administration	10,342,460	11,384,000	11,499,920	11,283,500	11,297,000	+954,540
(Limitations on obligations)	(3,472,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,600,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,550,000)	(+78,000)
Rescissions of contract authority	-265,000	-1,674,000	-469,000	-1,174,000	-1,032,000	-767,000
Total budgetary resources	(13,549,460)	(12,710,000)	(14,630,920)	(13,609,500)	(13,815,000)	(+265,540)
Federal Highway Administration						
Limitation on administrative expenses	(343,728)	(367,638)	(359,529)	(364,638)	(364,638)	(+20,910)
Federal-aid highways (Highway Trust Fund):						
(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(36,000,000)	(40,194,259)	(36,032,344)	(+1,032,344)
(Limitation on obligations)	(34,422,400)	(34,700,000)	(36,287,100)	(40,194,259)	(36,032,344)	(+1,609,944)
(Exempt contract authority)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---
(Transfer to NHTSA)	(-156,127)	---	---	---	(-122,457)	(+33,670)
Rescission of contract authority (Highway Trust Fund)	-520,277	---	---	---	---	+520,277
Appalachian development highway system	79,360	---	---	80,000	20,000	-59,360
Emergency relief programs (Highway Trust Fund)	735,072	---	---	---	---	-735,072
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	1,202,000	---	---	---	---	-1,202,000
Rescission of contract authority (Hwy Trust Fund)	-741,000	---	---	-2,300,000	-1,999,999	-1,258,999
TIFIA (rescission of contract authority)	-100,000	---	---	---	---	+100,000
Belleair causeway bridge	33,728	---	---	---	---	-33,728
Unobligated balances(rescission of contract authority)	-14,408	---	---	---	---	+14,408
Unobligated balances (rescission)	-2,000	---	---	---	---	+2,000
Total, Federal Highway Administration	2,050,160	---	---	80,000	20,000	-2,030,160
(Limitations on obligations)	(34,422,400)	(34,700,000)	(36,287,100)	(40,194,259)	(36,032,344)	(+1,609,944)
(Transfer out)	-156,127	---	---	---	-122,457	+33,670
(Exempt contract authority)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---
Rescissions	-2,000	---	---	---	---	+2,000
Rescissions of contract authority	-1,375,685	---	---	-2,300,000	-1,999,999	-624,314
Total budgetary resources	(35,677,748)	(35,439,000)	(37,026,100)	(38,713,259)	(34,668,888)	(-1,008,860)
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration						
Motor carrier safety (limitation on administrative expenses)(liquidation of contract authorization)	(257,547)	---	---	---	---	(-257,547)
(Limitation on obligations)	(255,487)	---	---	---	---	(-255,487)
Motor carrier safety operations and programs (Highway Trust Fund)(Liquidation of contract authorization)	---	(233,000)	(215,000)	(211,400)	(213,000)	(+213,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	---	(233,000)	(215,000)	(211,400)	(213,000)	(+213,000)
National motor carrier safety program (Highway Trust Fund)(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(190,000)	---	(286,000)	---	---	(-190,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(188,480)	---	(286,000)	---	---	(-188,480)
Motor carrier safety grants (Highway Trust Fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	---	(232,000)	---	(278,620)	(282,000)	(+282,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	---	(232,000)	---	(278,620)	(282,000)	(+282,000)
Total, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Admin.	---	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitations on obligations)	(443,967)	(465,000)	(501,000)	(490,020)	(495,000)	(+51,033)
Total budgetary resources	(443,967)	(465,000)	(501,000)	(490,020)	(495,000)	(+51,033)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration						
Operations and research	---	---	152,367	6,000	---	---
Operations and research (Highway trust fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(72,000)	(227,367)	(75,000)	(226,688)	(110,000)	(+38,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(71,424)	(227,367)	(75,000)	(226,688)	(110,000)	(+38,576)
(Transfer from FHWA)	(156,127)	---	---	---	(122,457)	(-33,670)
National Driver Register (Highway trust fund) (Liquidation of contract authorization)	(3,600)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(+400)
(Limitation on obligations)	(3,571)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(+429)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Highway traffic safety grants (Highway Trust Fund)						
(Liquidation of contract authorization)	(225,000)	(465,000)	(551,000)	(548,182)	(578,176)	(+353,176)
(Limitation on obligations):						
Highway safety programs (Sec. 402)	(163,680)	(172,000)	(229,000)	(209,218)	(217,000)	(+53,320)
Formula grants (Sec. 402(k))	---	(183,000)	---	---	---	---
Formula grants (Sec. 402(l))	---	(50,000)	---	---	---	---
Occupant protection incentive grants (Sec. 405)	(19,840)	---	(136,000)	(149,667)	(25,000)	(+5,160)
Safety belt performance grants (Sec. 406)	---	---	---	---	(124,500)	(+124,500)
Demonstration program grants	---	---	---	(7,400)	---	---
Alcohol-impaired driving countermeasures grants (Sec. 410)	(39,680)	---	(129,000)	(115,721)	(120,000)	(+80,320)
Emergency medical services grants (Sec. 407)	---	(10,000)	---	(5,000)	---	---
State traffic safety information system improvement grants (Sec. 412)	---	(50,000)	(30,000)	(45,000)	(34,500)	(+34,500)
High visibility enforcement	---	---	(15,000)	---	(29,000)	(+29,000)
Child safety and booster seat grants	---	---	(6,000)	---	(6,000)	(+6,000)
Motorcyclist safety	---	---	(6,000)	---	(6,000)	(+6,000)
Grant administration	---	---	---	(16,176)	(16,176)	(+16,176)
Subtotal	(223,200)	(465,000)	(551,000)	(548,182)	(578,176)	(+354,976)
Total, National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.	---	---	152,367	6,000	---	---
(Limitations on obligations)	(298,195)	(696,367)	(630,000)	(778,870)	(692,176)	(+393,981)
(By transfer)	156,127	---	---	---	122,457	-33,670
Total budgetary resources	(454,322)	(696,367)	(782,367)	(784,870)	(814,633)	(+360,311)
Federal Railroad Administration						
Safety and operations	138,651	145,949	145,949	146,000	145,949	+7,298
Railroad research and development	35,737	46,325	---	41,000	55,075	+19,338
Railroad rehabilitation and improvement program	6,000	---	---	---	---	-6,000
Next generation high-speed rail	19,493	---	10,165	11,500	---	-19,493
Alaska Railroad rehabilitation	24,800	---	---	20,000	10,000	-14,800
National Railroad Passenger Corporation						
Operating subsidy grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation	---	---	---	---	495,000	+495,000
Capital and debt service grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation	---	---	---	---	780,000	+780,000
Efficiency incentive grants to National Railroad Passenger Corporation	---	---	---	---	40,000	+40,000
Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation	1,207,264	360,000	1,176,248	1,450,000	---	-1,207,264
Total, National Railroad Passenger Corporation	---	---	---	---	1,315,000	+1,315,000
Total, Federal Railroad Administration	1,431,945	552,274	1,332,362	1,668,500	1,526,024	+94,079
Federal Transit Administration						
Administrative expenses, general fund	---	83,500	---	---	80,000	+80,000
Administrative expenses	9,672	---	12,000	13,411	---	-9,672
Administrative expenses (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(67,704)	---	(68,000)	(66,133)	---	(-67,704)
Office of the Administrator	(892)	---	(989)	(925)	(925)	(+33)
Office of Chief Counsel	(4,067)	---	(4,140)	(4,200)	(4,058)	(-9)
Office of Civil Rights	(2,989)	---	(3,113)	(3,000)	(3,153)	(+164)
Office of Communications and Congressional Affairs	(1,233)	---	(1,276)	(1,300)	(1,359)	(+126)
Office of Budget and Policy	(6,874)	---	(7,123)	(7,200)	(8,733)	(+1,859)
Office of Planning	(4,138)	---	(4,155)	(4,200)	(4,127)	(-11)
Office of Program Management	(7,337)	---	(7,916)	(7,500)	(7,986)	(+649)
Office of Demonstration and Innovation	(4,608)	---	(4,712)	(4,700)	(4,764)	(+156)
Office of Administration	(6,468)	---	(7,284)	(6,800)	(7,325)	(+857)
Central Account	(16,302)	---	(17,884)	(16,219)	(16,816)	(+514)
Regional offices	(19,988)	---	(21,408)	(21,000)	(20,754)	(+766)
National Transit database	(2,480)	---	---	(2,500)	---	(-2,480)
Subtotal	(77,376)	---	(80,000)	(79,544)	(80,000)	(+2,624)
Formula grants	499,990	---	662,550	734,117	---	-499,990
Formula grants (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(3,499,928)	---	(3,754,450)	(3,620,074)	---	(-3,499,928)
Subtotal	(3,999,918)	---	(4,417,000)	(4,354,191)	---	(-3,999,918)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Formula grants and research (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	---	(6,135,000)	---	---	(6,979,931)	(+6,979,931)
Subtotal	(3,999,918)	(6,135,000)	(4,417,000)	(4,354,191)	(6,979,931)	(+2,980,013)
University transportation research	744	---	1,200	981	---	-744
University transportation research (Highway Trust Fund Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(5,208)	---	(6,800)	(4,837)	---	(-5,208)
Subtotal	(5,952)	---	(8,000)	(5,818)	---	(-5,952)
Transit planning and research	15,872	---	24,049	26,350	75,200	+59,328
Transit planning and research (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(111,104)	---	(136,276)	(129,937)	---	(-111,104)
Rural transportation assistance	(5,208)	---	---	(5,208)	---	(-5,208)
National transit institute	(3,968)	---	---	(3,967)	---	(-3,968)
Transit cooperative research	(8,184)	---	---	(8,992)	---	(-8,184)
Planning (TEA-LU)	---	---	(103,325)	(104,004)	---	---
Research (TEA-LU)	---	---	(57,000)	---	---	---
Metropolitan planning	(59,903)	---	---	---	---	(-59,903)
State planning	(12,513)	---	---	---	---	(-12,513)
National planning and research	(37,200)	---	---	(34,116)	---	(-37,200)
Subtotal	(126,976)	---	(160,325)	(156,287)	---	(-126,976)
Trust fund share of expenses (Highway Trust Fund) (liquidation of contract authorization)	(6,744,500)	(689,700)	(7,209,700)	(6,824,667)	(6,979,931)	(+235,431)
Capital investment grants	414,014	---	546,251	588,578	---	-414,014
Capital investment grants (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(2,898,100)	---	(3,095,424)	(2,902,394)	---	(-2,898,100)
Major capital investment grants	---	872,800	---	---	1,455,234	+1,455,234
Major capital investment grants (Highway Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	---	(689,700)	---	---	---	---
Subtotal	(3,312,114)	(1,562,500)	(3,641,675)	(3,490,972)	(1,455,234)	(-1,856,880)
Fixed guideway modernization	(1,204,684)	(1,531,250)	(1,386,670)	(1,307,473)	---	(-1,204,684)
Buses and bus-related facilities	(669,600)	---	(693,335)	(796,977)	---	(-669,600)
New starts	(1,437,830)	---	(1,561,670)	(1,386,522)	---	(-1,437,830)
Metropolitan and statewide planning activities	---	(31,250)	---	---	---	---
Subtotal	(3,312,114)	(1,562,500)	(3,641,675)	(3,490,972)	---	(-3,312,114)
Job access and reverse commute grants	15,500	---	26,250	20,541	---	-15,500
Job access and reverse commute grants (Hwy Trust Fund, Mass Transit Account)(limitation on obligations)	(108,500)	---	(148,750)	(101,292)	---	(-108,500)
Subtotal	(124,000)	---	(175,000)	(121,833)	---	(-124,000)
Total, Federal Transit Administration	955,792	956,300	1,272,300	1,383,978	1,610,434	+654,642
(Limitations on obligations)	(6,690,544)	(6,824,700)	(7,209,700)	(6,824,667)	(6,979,931)	(+289,387)
Total budgetary resources	(7,646,336)	(7,781,000)	(8,482,000)	(8,208,645)	(8,590,365)	(+944,029)
Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation						
Operations and maintenance (Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund)	15,773	8,000	16,284	16,284	16,284	+511
Spending from proposed mandatory user fee	---	8,284	---	---	---	---
Total, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.	15,773	16,284	16,284	16,284	16,284	+511
Maritime Administration						
Maritime security program	97,910	156,000	156,000	156,000	156,000	+58,090
Operations and training	108,602	113,650	112,336	118,649	122,249	+13,647
Ship disposal	21,443	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	-443
Maritime Guaranteed Loan (Title XI) Program Account: Administrative expenses	4,726	3,526	3,526	4,726	4,126	-600
National defense tank vessel construction program	74,400	---	---	25,000	---	-74,400
Rescission	---	-74,400	---	---	---	---
Ship construction (rescission)	-1,979	---	-2,071	-2,071	-2,071	-92
Total, Maritime Administration	305,102	219,776	290,791	323,304	301,304	-3,798

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration						
Hazardous materials safety	---	26,324	26,183	26,138	26,138	+26,138
Administrative expenses	---	16,382	16,382	16,232	16,232	+16,232
Pipeline Safety Fund	---	645	645	645	645	+645
Subtotal	---	17,027	17,027	16,877	16,877	+16,877
Pipeline safety:						
Pipeline Safety Fund	54,679	54,165	57,860	58,165	58,010	+3,331
Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund	14,882	19,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	+118
Subtotal	69,561	73,165	72,860	73,165	73,010	+3,449
Emergency preparedness grants:						
Emergency preparedness fund	198	200	200	200	200	+2
Limitation on emergency preparedness fund	(14,300)	---	(14,300)	(14,300)	(14,300)	---
Total, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	69,759	116,716	116,270	116,380	116,225	+46,466
Research and Innovative Technology Administration						
Research and development	---	6,274	4,326	4,326	5,774	+5,774
Research and special programs	46,738	---	---	---	---	-46,738
(By transfer)	(645)	---	---	---	---	(-645)
Total, Research and Innovative Technology Admin.	46,738	6,274	4,326	4,326	5,774	-40,964
Office of Inspector General						
Salaries and expenses	58,528	62,499	62,499	62,499	62,499	+3,971
Surface Transportation Board						
Salaries and expenses	21,080	24,388	26,622	24,388	26,450	+5,370
Offsetting collections	-1,050	-1,250	-1,250	-1,250	-1,250	-200
Total, Surface Transportation Board	20,030	23,138	25,372	23,138	25,200	+5,170
Total, title I, Department of Transportation	13,656,517	11,871,787	14,501,795	11,717,359	12,188,095	-1,468,422
Appropriations	(14,304,081)	(13,620,187)	(14,972,866)	(15,193,430)	(15,222,165)	(+918,084)
Rescissions	(-238,979)	(-74,400)	(-2,071)	(-2,071)	(-2,071)	(+236,908)
Rescission of contract authority	(-1,640,685)	(-1,674,000)	(-469,000)	(-3,474,000)	(-3,031,999)	(-1,391,314)
Emergency appropriations	(1,232,100)	---	---	---	---	(-1,232,100)
Offsetting collections	---	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitations on obligations)	(45,327,106)	(45,686,067)	(48,227,800)	(51,787,816)	(47,749,451)	(+2,422,345)
(Exempt contract authority)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---
(By transfer)	(156,772)	---	---	---	(122,457)	(-34,315)
(Transfer out)	(-156,127)	---	---	---	(-122,457)	(+33,670)
Net total budgetary resources	(59,722,623)	(58,296,854)	(63,468,595)	(64,244,175)	(60,676,546)	(+953,923)
Transportation discretionary total	13,656,517	11,871,787	14,501,795	11,717,359	12,188,095	-1,468,422
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
Departmental Offices						
Salaries and expenses	156,299	195,253	157,452	197,591	196,592	+40,293
Executive direction	(7,216)	(16,656)	(7,216)	(8,642)	(8,642)	(+1,426)
General Counsel	(7,142)	---	(7,521)	(7,852)	(7,852)	(+710)
Economic policies and and programs	(31,405)	(32,011)	(32,011)	(32,011)	(32,011)	(+606)
Financial policies and programs	(25,863)	(24,721)	(24,721)	(27,221)	(26,574)	(+711)
Financial crimes	(10,548)	(39,938)	(35,409)	(39,938)	(39,939)	(+29,391)
Treasury wide management	(16,626)	(16,843)	(16,843)	(16,843)	(16,843)	(+217)
Administration	(57,499)	(65,084)	(63,731)	(65,084)	(63,731)	(+6,232)
currency manipul	---	---	---	---	(1,000)	(+1,000)
Undesignated reduction	---	---	(-30,000)	---	---	---
Subtotal	(156,299)	(195,253)	(157,452)	(197,591)	(196,592)	(+40,293)
Office of Foreign Assets Control	22,113	---	---	---	---	-22,113
Department-wide systems and capital investments programs	32,002	24,412	21,412	24,412	24,412	-7,590
Office of Inspector General	16,368	16,722	17,000	16,722	17,000	+632
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration	128,093	133,286	133,286	133,286	133,286	+5,193

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
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	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Air transportation stabilization program account	1,984	2,942	---	2,942	2,750	+766
Community development financial institutions fund program account	55,078	7,900	55,000	55,000	55,000	-78
Treasury building and annex repair and restoration	12,217	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-2,217
Expanded access to financial services (rescission)	-4,000	---	---	---	---	+4,000
Violent crime reduction program (rescission)	-1,200	---	---	---	---	+1,200
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network	71,922	73,630	73,630	73,630	73,630	+1,708
Total, Departmental Offices	490,876	464,145	467,780	513,583	512,670	+21,794
Financial Management Service	229,083	236,243	236,243	236,243	236,243	+7,160
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:						
Salaries and expenses	82,336	62,486	91,126	91,126	91,126	+8,790
Spending from proposed mandatory user fees	---	28,640	---	---	---	---
Subtotal	82,336	91,126	91,126	91,126	91,126	+8,790
Bureau of the Public Debt	173,765	176,923	176,923	176,923	176,923	+3,158
Payment of government losses in shipment	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	---
Total, Dept. of Treasury, non-IRS	977,060	969,437	973,072	1,018,875	1,017,962	+40,902
Internal Revenue Service						
Tax administration and operations	---	10,460,051	---	---	---	---
Adjusted appropriation	---	(446,496)	---	(446,000)	---	---
Processing, assistance, and management	4,056,857	---	4,181,520	4,136,578	4,136,578	+79,721
Tax law enforcement	4,363,539	---	4,580,216	4,725,756	4,725,756	+362,217
Information systems	1,577,768	---	1,575,146	1,597,717	1,598,967	+21,199
Subtotal	9,998,164	10,460,051	10,336,882	10,460,051	10,461,301	+463,137
Business systems modernization	203,360	199,000	199,000	199,000	199,000	-4,360
Health Insurance Tax Credit Administration	34,562	20,210	20,210	20,210	20,210	-14,352
Rescission	---	---	---	---	-9,000	-9,000
Total, Internal Revenue Service	10,236,086	10,679,261	10,556,092	10,679,261	10,671,511	+435,425
Total, title II, Department of the Treasury	11,213,146	11,648,698	11,529,164	11,698,136	11,689,473	+476,327
Appropriations	11,218,346	11,648,698	11,529,164	11,698,136	11,698,473	+480,127
Rescissions	-5,200	---	---	---	-9,000	-3,800
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT						
Public and Indian Housing						
Tenant-based Rental Assistance:						
Direct appropriation	10,599,520	11,645,194	11,431,400	11,436,064	11,373,656	+774,136
Renewals	(13,355,285)	(14,089,756)	(14,189,756)	(14,089,756)	(14,089,756)	(+734,471)
Tenant protection vouchers	(161,696)	(354,081)	(165,700)	(192,000)	(180,000)	(+18,304)
Family self-sufficiency coordinators	(45,632)	(55,000)	(45,000)	(48,000)	(48,000)	(+2,368)
Administrative fees	(1,200,426)	(1,295,408)	(1,225,000)	(1,295,408)	(1,250,000)	(+49,574)
Working capital fund	(2,881)	(5,949)	(5,900)	(5,900)	(5,900)	(+3,019)
Additional rental subsidy	---	(45,000)	---	---	---	---
Technical assistance fund	---	---	---	(5,000)	---	---
Advance appropriations provided in previous acts	4,166,400	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	+33,600
Subtotal	14,765,920	15,845,194	15,631,356	15,636,064	15,573,656	+807,736
Advance appropriations provided in current year	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	---
Total, Tenant-based rental assistance	18,965,920	20,045,194	19,831,400	19,836,064	19,773,656	+807,736
Project-based rental assistance	5,298,272	5,072,100	5,088,300	5,072,100	5,088,300	-209,972
Renewals	(5,195,203)	(4,923,100)	(4,940,100)	(4,918,100)	(4,939,700)	(-255,503)
Contract administrators	(101,085)	(147,200)	(147,200)	(147,200)	(147,200)	(+46,115)
Working capital fund	(1,984)	(1,800)	(1,000)	(1,800)	(1,400)	(-584)
Public housing:						
Capital fund	2,579,200	2,327,200	2,600,000	2,327,200	2,463,600	-115,600
Operating fund	2,438,336	3,407,300	3,600,000	3,557,300	3,600,000	+1,161,664
Revitalization of severely distressed public housing	142,848	---	60,000	150,000	100,000	-42,848
Native American housing block grants	621,984	582,600	600,000	622,000	630,000	+8,016
Indian housing loan guarantee fund program account	4,960	2,645	2,645	5,000	4,000	-960
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(145,345)	(98,967)	(98,967)	(145,345)	(116,276)	(-29,069)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Native Hawaiian housing:						
Block grant	---	8,815	8,815	---	8,815	+8,815
Loan guarantee fund	992	882	882	1,000	900	-92
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(37,403)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(37,403)	(37,403)	---
Total, Public and Indian Housing	30,052,512	31,446,736	31,792,042	31,570,664	31,669,271	+1,616,759
Current year advance appropriations	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	---
Net Total (excluding current year advances)	25,852,512	27,246,736	27,592,042	27,370,664	27,469,271	+1,616,759
Community Planning and Development						
Housing opportunities for persons with AIDS	281,728	268,000	290,000	287,000	289,000	+7,272
Rural housing and economic development	23,808	---	10,000	24,000	17,000	-6,808
Empowerment zones / enterprise communities	9,920	---	---	---	---	-9,920
Community development fund	4,671,328	---	4,243,000	4,323,610	4,220,000	-451,328
Community development fund (sec. 424)	30,752	---	---	---	---	-30,752
Emergency appropriations (P.L.108-324)	150,000	---	---	---	---	-150,000
Section 108 loan guarantees:						
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(275,000)	---	---	(275,000)	(137,500)	(-137,500)
Credit subsidy	5,952	---	---	6,000	3,000	-2,952
Administrative expenses	992	---	---	1,000	750	-242
Brownfields redevelopment	23,808	---	---	15,000	10,000	-13,808
HOME investment partnerships program	1,899,680	1,941,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,775,000	-124,680
Homeless assistance grants	1,240,511	1,440,000	1,340,000	1,415,000	1,340,000	+99,489
Self-help homeownership opportunity program	---	30,000	60,800	---	61,000	+61,000
Total, Community Planning and Development	8,338,479	3,679,000	7,843,800	7,971,610	7,715,750	-622,729
Housing Programs						
Housing for the elderly	741,024	741,000	741,000	742,000	742,000	+976
Housing for persons with disabilities	238,080	119,900	238,100	240,000	239,000	+920
Housing counseling assistance	---	39,700	---	---	---	---
Technical assistance (by transfer)	---	---	---	(45,000)	---	---
Manufactured housing fees trust fund	13,000	13,000	12,896	13,000	13,000	---
Offsetting collections	-13,000	-13,000	-12,896	-13,000	-13,000	---
Rental housing assistance	---	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	+26,400
Total, Housing Programs	979,104	927,000	1,005,500	1,008,400	1,007,400	+28,296
Federal Housing Administration						
FHA - Mutual mortgage insurance program account:						
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(185,000,000)	(185,000,000)	(185,000,000)	(185,000,000)	(185,000,000)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	---
Administrative expenses	354,051	355,000	355,000	355,000	355,000	+949
Offsetting receipts	-2,234,000	-1,309,000	-1,309,000	-1,309,000	-1,309,000	+925,000
Offsetting receipts (legislative proposal)	---	18,000	---	---	---	---
Administrative contract expenses	77,376	62,600	62,600	62,600	62,600	-14,776
Additional contract expenses	992	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	+8
FHA - General and special risk program account:						
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	---
Administrative expenses	225,945	231,400	231,400	231,400	231,400	+5,455
Offsetting receipts	-248,000	-300,000	-339,000	-339,000	-339,000	-91,000
Credit subsidy	9,920	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	-1,120
Non-overhead administrative expenses	85,312	71,900	71,900	71,900	71,900	-13,412
Additional contract expenses	3,968	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	+32
Total, Federal Housing Administration	-1,724,436	-856,300	-913,300	-913,300	-913,300	+811,136
Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA)						
Guarantees of mortgage-backed securities loan guarantee program account:						
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	---
Administrative expenses	10,609	11,360	10,700	11,360	10,700	+91
Offsetting receipts	-368,000	-368,000	-368,000	-368,000	-368,000	---
Total, Gov't National Mortgage Association	-357,391	-356,640	-357,300	-356,640	-357,300	+91
Policy Development and Research						
Research and technology	45,136	69,738	60,600	48,000	56,350	+11,214
Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity						
Fair housing activities	46,128	38,800	46,500	46,000	46,000	-128
Office of Lead Hazard Control						
Lead hazard reduction	166,656	119,000	166,656	167,000	152,000	-14,656

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Management and Administration						
Salaries and expenses	542,819	579,000	579,000	570,000	579,000	+36,181
Transfer from:						
Limitation on FHA corporate funds	(560,673)	(562,400)	(562,400)	(562,400)	(562,400)	(+1,727)
GNMA	(10,695)	(10,695)	(10,700)	(11,360)	(10,700)	(+5)
Community Development Loan Guarantees Program	(1,000)	---	---	(1,000)	(750)	(-250)
Native American Housing Block Grants	(150)	(146)	(150)	(150)	(150)	---
Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program	(250)	(244)	(250)	(250)	(250)	---
Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantees	(35)	(34)	(35)	(35)	(35)	---
Subtotal	(1,115,622)	(1,152,519)	(1,152,535)	(1,145,195)	(1,153,285)	(+37,663)
Working capital fund	267,840	265,000	62,000	265,000	197,000	-70,840
Office of Inspector General	79,360	79,000	79,000	82,000	82,000	+2,640
(By transfer, limitation on FHA corporate funds)	(24,000)	(24,000)	(24,000)	(24,000)	(24,000)	---
Subtotal	(103,360)	(103,000)	(103,000)	(106,000)	(106,000)	(+2,640)
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight	59,209	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	+791
Offsetting receipts	-59,209	-60,000	-60,000	-60,000	-60,000	-791
Total, Management and Administration	890,019	923,000	720,000	917,000	858,000	-32,019
Rescissions:						
Housing certificate fund	-1,557,000	-2,500,000	-2,493,600	-1,500,000	-2,050,000	-493,000
Public housing elimination grants	-5,000	---	---	---	---	+5,000
Revitalization of severely distressed public housing	---	-142,848	---	---	---	---
Title VI credit subsidy	-21,000	---	---	---	---	+21,000
Indian housing credit subsidy	-33,000	---	---	---	---	+33,000
Brownfields Redevelopment	---	---	---	---	-10,000	-10,000
Rental housing assistance	-675,000	---	---	---	---	+675,000
GI/SRI credit subsidy	-30,000	---	---	---	---	+30,000
Subtotal	-2,321,000	-2,642,848	-2,493,600	-1,500,000	-2,060,000	+261,000
Total, title III, Department of Housing and Urban Development	36,115,207	33,347,486	37,870,898	38,958,734	38,174,171	+2,058,964
Current year advance appropriations	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	---
Net total, excluding current year advance	31,915,207	29,147,486	33,670,898	34,758,734	33,974,171	+2,058,964
Appropriations	(32,842,016)	(29,622,334)	(34,053,394)	(34,147,734)	(33,923,171)	(+1,081,155)
Rescissions	(-2,321,000)	(-2,642,848)	(-2,493,600)	(-1,500,000)	(-2,060,000)	(+261,000)
Emergency appropriations	(150,000)	---	---	---	---	(-150,000)
Offsetting receipts	(-2,850,000)	(-1,959,000)	(-2,016,000)	(-2,016,000)	(-2,016,000)	(+834,000)
Offsetting collections	(-72,209)	(-73,000)	(-72,896)	(-73,000)	(-73,000)	(-791)
Previously enacted advances	(4,166,400)	(4,200,000)	(4,200,000)	(4,200,000)	(4,200,000)	(+33,600)
(By transfer)	---	---	---	45,000	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	---
(Limitation on guaranteed loans)	(420,457,748)	(420,133,967)	(420,133,967)	(420,457,748)	(420,291,179)	(-166,569)
(Limitation on corporate funds)	(596,803)	(597,519)	(597,535)	(599,195)	(598,285)	(+1,482)
TITLE IV - THE JUDICIARY						
Supreme Court of the United States						
Salaries and expenses:						
Salaries of justices	1,985	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	+15
Other salaries and expenses	55,387	58,730	58,730	58,730	58,730	+3,343
Subtotal	57,372	60,730	60,730	60,730	60,730	+3,358
Care of the building and grounds	9,846	5,624	5,624	5,624	5,624	-4,222
Total, Supreme Court of the United States	67,218	66,354	66,354	66,354	66,354	-864
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit						
Salaries and expenses:						
Salaries of judges	2,257	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-257
Other salaries and expenses	19,263	24,462	22,613	21,489	22,000	+2,737
Total, US Court of Appeals for the Fed Circuit	21,520	26,462	24,613	23,489	24,000	+2,480

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
United States Court of International Trade						
Salaries and expenses:						
Salaries of judges	1,757	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	+243
Other salaries and expenses	12,956	13,480	13,480	13,480	13,480	+524
Total, US Court of International Trade	14,713	15,480	15,480	15,480	15,480	+767
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services						
Salaries and expenses:						
Salaries of judges and bankruptcy judges	289,877	305,312	301,000	301,000	305,312	+15,435
Judges COLA	---	5,000	---	5,000	5,000	+5,000
Other salaries and expenses	3,835,444	4,168,432	4,047,780	4,068,959	4,038,468	+203,024
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	4,125,321	4,478,744	4,348,780	4,374,959	4,348,780	+223,459
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	3,254	3,833	3,833	3,833	3,833	+579
Defender services	667,351	768,064	721,919	710,785	717,000	+49,649
Fees of jurors and commissioners	60,713	71,318	60,053	61,318	61,318	+605
Court security	327,565	390,316	379,461	372,426	372,000	+44,435
Total, Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services	5,184,204	5,712,275	5,514,046	5,523,321	5,502,931	+318,727
Administrative Office of the United States Courts						
Salaries and expenses	67,289	72,198	70,262	72,198	70,262	+2,973
Federal Judicial Center						
Salaries and expenses	21,447	22,876	22,249	22,350	22,350	+903
Judicial Retirement Funds						
Payment to judiciary trust funds	36,700	40,600	40,600	40,600	40,600	+3,900
United States Sentencing Commission						
Salaries and expenses	13,126	14,700	14,046	14,700	14,400	+1,274
Total, title IV, the Judiciary	5,426,217	5,970,945	5,767,650	5,778,492	5,756,377	+330,160
Mandatory appropriations	332,576	351,912	347,600	347,600	351,912	+19,336
Discretionary appropriations	5,093,641	5,619,033	5,420,050	5,430,892	5,404,465	+310,824
TITLE V - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
Federal payment for Resident Tuition Support	25,395	33,200	33,200	33,200	33,200	+7,805
Federal payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia	14,880	15,000	15,000	12,000	13,500	-1,380
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Courts	189,274	221,693	221,693	218,912	218,912	+29,638
Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts	38,192	45,000	45,000	45,000	44,000	+5,808
Federal payment to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia	178,560	203,388	203,388	201,388	201,388	+22,828
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority	4,762	---	10,000	5,000	7,000	+2,238
Federal payment for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative	2,976	5,000	5,000	3,000	3,000	+24
Federal payment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	1,290	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	+10
Federal payment for the Unified Communications Center	5,952	---	---	---	---	-5,952
Federal payment for Public School Libraries	5,952	---	---	---	---	-5,952
Federal payment for the Family Literacy Program	992	---	---	---	---	-992
Federal payment for Transportation Assistance	2,480	---	---	1,000	1,000	-1,480
Federal payment for Foster Care Improvements in the District of Columbia	4,960	---	---	2,000	2,000	-2,960
Federal payment to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia	32,240	---	20,000	16,500	29,200	-3,040
Federal payment for School Improvement	39,680	41,616	41,616	40,000	40,000	+320
Federal payment for Bioterrorism and Forensics Labs	7,936	7,200	7,200	5,200	5,000	-2,936
Federal payment for the National Guard Youth Challenge in the District of Columbia	---	---	---	500	500	+500
Federal payment for Marriage Development Accounts	---	---	---	3,000	3,000	+3,000

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Federal payment for Latino youth Initiative	---	---	---	2,000	---	---
Federal payment for Prisoner Reentrant Housing	---	---	---	3,000	---	---
Total, Federal funds to the District of Columbia	555,521	573,397	603,397	593,000	603,000	+47,479
Total, Title V, District of Columbia	555,521	573,397	603,397	593,000	603,000	+47,479
TITLE VI - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT						
The White House						
Salaries and expenses	---	183,271	---	---	---	---
Compensation of the President and the White House Office:						
Compensation of the President	450	---	450	450	450	---
Salaries and expenses	61,504	---	52,330	56,581	53,830	-7,674
Executive Residence at the White House:						
Operating expenses	12,658	---	12,436	12,436	12,436	-222
White House repair and restoration	1,885	---	1,700	1,700	1,700	-185
Council of Economic Advisers	4,008	---	4,040	4,040	4,040	+32
Office of Policy Development	2,282	---	3,500	---	3,500	+1,218
National Security Council	8,861	---	8,705	8,705	8,705	-156
Privacy and Civil Liberties Board	---	---	1,500	1,500	---	---
Office of Administration	91,531	---	89,322	98,609	89,322	-2,209
Total, The White House	183,179	183,271	173,983	184,021	173,983	-9,196
Office of Management and Budget	67,864	68,411	67,930	68,411	76,930	+9,066
Office of National Drug Control Policy:						
Salaries and expenses	26,784	24,224	26,908	24,224	26,908	+124
Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center	41,664	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-11,664
Total, Office of National Drug Control Policy	68,448	54,224	56,908	54,224	56,908	-11,540
High intensity drug trafficking areas program	226,523	---	236,000	227,000	227,000	+477
Other Federal drug control programs	211,990	213,300	238,292	191,400	194,900	-17,090
Unanticipated needs	992	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	+8
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 108-324)	70,000	---	---	---	---	-70,000
Special Assistance to the President	4,534	4,455	4,455	4,455	4,455	-79
Official Residence of the Vice President: Operating expenses	330	325	325	325	325	-5
Total, title VI, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President	833,860	524,986	778,893	730,836	735,501	-98,359
Appropriations	(763,860)	(524,986)	(778,893)	(730,836)	(735,501)	(-28,359)
Emergency appropriations	(70,000)	---	---	---	---	(-70,000)
TITLE VII - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES						
Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board	5,641	5,941	5,941	5,941	5,941	+300
Consumer Product Safety Commission	62,149	62,499	62,449	63,000	63,000	+851
Election Assistance Commission	13,888	17,612	15,877	13,888	14,200	+312
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Office of Inspector General (transfer)	(29,884)	(29,965)	(29,965)	(31,000)	(31,000)	(+1,116)
Federal Election Commission	51,742	54,600	54,700	54,600	54,700	+2,958
Federal Labor Relations Authority	25,468	25,468	25,468	25,468	25,468	---
Rescission	-3,000	---	---	---	---	+3,000
Federal Maritime Commission	19,340	20,499	20,499	20,499	20,499	+1,159
General Services Administration						
Federal Buildings Fund:						
Limitations on availability of revenue:						
Construction and acquisition of facilities	(708,542)	(708,106)	(630,817)	(829,056)	(792,056)	(+83,514)
Repairs and alterations	(980,222)	(961,376)	(392,967)	(961,376)	(861,376)	(-118,846)
Installment acquisition payments	(161,442)	(168,180)	(168,180)	(168,180)	(168,180)	(+6,738)
Rental of space	(3,657,315)	(4,046,031)	(4,033,531)	(4,046,031)	(4,046,031)	(+388,716)
Building operations	(1,709,522)	(1,885,102)	(1,641,602)	(1,885,102)	(1,885,102)	(+175,580)
Subtotal	7,217,043	7,768,795	6,867,097	7,889,745	7,752,745	+535,702
Repayment of debt	(41,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(-1,000)

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Government-wide policy	61,603	52,796	52,796	52,796	52,796	-8,807
Operating expenses	91,438	99,890	82,179	99,890	99,890	+8,452
Office of Inspector General	42,012	43,410	43,410	43,410	43,410	+1,398
Electronic Government Fund	2,976	5,000	3,000	5,000	3,000	+24
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents	3,081	2,952	2,952	2,952	2,952	-129
Federal Buildings Fund (rescission)	-106,000	---	---	---	---	+106,000
Federal Citizen Information Center Fund	14,788	15,030	15,030	15,000	15,000	+212
Total, General Services Administration	109,898	219,078	199,367	219,048	217,048	+107,150
Merit Systems Protection Board						
Salaries and expenses	34,400	34,400	35,600	35,600	35,600	+1,200
Limitation on administrative expenses	2,605	2,605	2,605	2,605	2,605	---
Total, Merit Systems Protection Board	37,005	37,005	38,205	38,205	38,205	+1,200
Morris K. Udall Foundation						
Morris K. Udall Trust Fund	1,980	---	2,000	2,000	2,000	+20
Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund	1,299	700	1,900	1,000	1,900	+601
Total, Morris K. Udall Foundation	3,279	700	3,900	3,000	3,900	+621
National Archives and Records Administration						
Operating expenses	264,809	280,975	283,975	280,975	283,045	+18,236
Electronic records archive	35,627	35,914	35,914	38,914	37,914	+2,287
Reduction of debt	-7,810	-8,488	-8,488	-8,488	-8,488	-678
Repairs and restoration	13,325	6,182	6,182	11,682	9,682	-3,643
National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Grants program	4,960	---	7,500	5,000	7,500	+2,540
Total, National Archives and Records Admin	310,911	314,583	325,083	328,083	329,653	+18,742
National Credit Union Administration:						
Central liquidity facility:						
(Limitation on direct loans)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	---
(Limitation on admin expenses, corporate funds)	(310)	(323)	(323)	(323)	(323)	(+13)
Community development revolving loan fund	992	950	950	950	950	-42
National Transportation Safety Board:						
Salaries and expenses	76,086	76,700	76,700	76,700	76,700	+614
Rescission of unobligated balances	-8,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	+7,000
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation	114,080	118,000	118,000	115,000	118,000	+3,920
Office of Government Ethics	11,148	11,148	11,148	11,148	11,148	---
Office of Personnel Management						
Salaries and expenses	124,496	124,521	119,952	124,521	122,521	-1,975
Limitation on administrative expenses	127,434	100,017	102,679	100,017	100,017	-27,417
Office of Inspector General	1,614	1,614	1,614	1,614	2,071	+457
Limitation on administrative expenses	16,329	16,329	16,786	16,329	16,329	---
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits	8,135,000	8,393,000	8,393,000	8,393,000	8,393,000	+258,000
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance	35,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	+1,000
Payment to Civil Svc Retirement and Disability Fund	9,772,000	10,072,000	10,072,000	10,072,000	10,072,000	+300,000
Total, Office of Personnel Management	18,211,873	18,743,481	18,742,031	18,743,481	18,741,938	+530,065
Office of Special Counsel	15,325	15,325	15,325	15,325	15,325	---
Selective Service System	26,090	25,650	24,000	25,650	25,000	-1,090
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness	1,499	1,800	1,499	1,800	1,800	+301
United States Postal Service						
Payment to the Postal Service Fund	28,768	---	43,350	29,000	43,350	+14,582
Advance appropriation provided in previous acts	36,229	61,709	61,709	61,709	61,709	+25,480
Subtotal, FY2006 funding	64,997	61,709	105,059	90,709	105,059	+40,062
Advance appropriation provided in current year	61,709	87,350	73,000	87,350	73,000	+11,291
Emergency preparedness	496,000	---	---	---	---	-496,000
Mail irradiation facility (emergency)	6,944	---	---	---	---	-6,944
Total, United States Postal Service	629,650	149,059	178,059	178,059	178,059	-451,591

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES, FY 2006 (H.R.3058)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
United States Tax Court	40,851	48,998	48,998	47,998	47,998	+7,147
Total, title VII, Independent Agencies	19,755,915	19,948,096	19,967,199	19,986,843	19,988,532	+232,617
Appropriations	(19,768,033)	(19,800,037)	(19,833,490)	(19,838,784)	(19,854,823)	(+86,790)
Emergency appropriations	(6,944)	---	---	---	---	(-6,944)
Rescissions	(-117,000)	(-1,000)	(-1,000)	(-1,000)	(-1,000)	(+116,000)
Advance appropriation provided in previous act	(36,229)	(61,709)	(61,709)	(61,709)	(61,709)	(+25,480)
Advance appropriation provided in current year	(61,709)	(87,350)	(73,000)	(87,350)	(73,000)	(+11,291)
(By transfer)	(29,884)	(29,965)	(29,965)	(31,000)	(31,000)	(+1,116)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	---
(Limitation on corporate funds)	(310)	(323)	(323)	(323)	(323)	(+13)
Title VIII - General Provisions, This Bill						
HHS info match- new hires	-125,000	---	---	---	---	+125,000
Total, General provisions, This Bill	-125,000	---	---	---	---	+125,000
Grand total (net)	87,431,383	83,885,395	91,018,996	89,463,400	89,135,149	+1,703,766
Appropriations	(84,753,074)	(81,760,584)	(87,538,854)	(87,980,412)	(87,793,510)	(+3,040,436)
Emergency appropriations	(1,459,044)	---	---	---	---	(-1,459,044)
Offsetting collections	(-72,209)	(-73,000)	(-72,896)	(-73,000)	(-73,000)	(-791)
Rescissions	(-2,682,179)	(-2,718,248)	(-2,496,671)	(-1,503,071)	(-2,072,071)	(+610,108)
Rescission of contract authority	(-1,640,685)	(-1,674,000)	(-469,000)	(-3,474,000)	(-3,031,999)	(-1,391,314)
Negative subsidy receipts	(-2,850,000)	(-1,959,000)	(-2,016,000)	(-2,016,000)	(-2,016,000)	(+834,000)
Advance appropriation provided in previous act	(4,202,629)	(4,261,709)	(4,261,709)	(4,261,709)	(4,261,709)	(+59,080)
Advance appropriation provided in current year	(4,261,709)	(4,287,350)	(4,273,000)	(4,287,350)	(4,273,000)	(+11,291)
(Limitation on obligations)	(45,327,106)	(45,686,067)	(48,227,800)	(51,787,816)	(47,749,451)	(+2,422,345)
(Exempt contract authority)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	(739,000)	---
(By transfer)	(186,656)	(29,965)	(29,965)	(76,000)	(153,457)	(-33,199)
(Transfer out)	(-156,127)	---	---	---	(-122,457)	(+33,670)
Net total budgetary resources	(133,497,489)	(130,310,462)	(139,985,796)	(141,990,216)	(137,623,600)	(+4,126,111)

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am surprised, I think we must be on the train headed for Turkey or something like that, because I expected to have my chairman to have a good many more comments to say than he has done.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset I would like to thank the staff on both sides for their exceedingly diligent work in putting this conference report together. I want to recognize our committee clerk Dena Baron and her excellent majority staff, including Cheryle Tucker, Dave Gibbons, Steve Crane, Dave Napoliello, Christian Jones and Tammy Hughes.

And for the minority, I thank the committee staff Mike Malone and Michelle Burkett, and Shalanda Young; and from my own staff, Matt Washington and Nora Kaitfors.

All worked under particularly difficult circumstances to complete this bill and deserve our gratitude for a job well done.

I also want to thank Chairman KNOLLENBERG for his hard work and dedication, and for the constructive relationship that we have forged thus far as the chairman and the ranking member of this complicated jurisdiction. I particularly congratulate Chairman KNOLLENBERG for the collaborative way in which the majority and the minority staffs worked to bring this bill forward, and congratulate the chairman because he has not simply allowed, but encouraged that collaboration, and the collaboration has gotten stronger and more effective throughout the workings of the subcommittee in the hearings, then the Appropriations Committee process, then floor consideration, then the conference, and today the conference report. So I am particularly grateful to him for that collaboration.

This is a very complex bill. There are nine titles to this bill really covering two different divisions, because the jurisdiction is a little bit different in the other body than it is in this House. The portion of our jurisdiction which is the District of Columbia makes up a separate subcommittee on the other side.

The allocation for this overall subcommittee was below both the House and the Senate, by more than a billion dollars below the House number and more than a half a billion dollars below the Senate's number. All or part of a billion dollars would have made a great difference where holes remain in this bill. But that was the allocation that we were given, and so we had to deal with it.

With that I want to just point out first that in the matter of the District of Columbia, which is a separate division within this bill, as I mentioned, it is an important and sometimes overlooked portion of the bill, perhaps partly so because of the different jurisdictions in the House and the Senate. It makes up only a small portion of the appropriation in the combined bill, but the value of the initiatives funded through this bill cannot be understated.

I am pleased that we were able to provide valuable funding for important initiatives that include the Anacostia River Trail, the Water and Sewer Authority and for elementary and secondary and postsecondary education. I particularly regret the continuing rider forbidding the use of local funds for needle exchange programs. I think they are an important tool in a city such as our Capital which has a high HIV incidence. But I do commend the chairman for ensuring no new social riders were placed on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, if one looks at this legislation because of the allocations being low, I think if you have a primary interest in the judiciary, you are going to find good and bad provisions within the title relating to the judiciary. If your primary interest is in housing, you may find good and bad there. If it is in transportation, you may find good and bad there. But I believe that no one can legitimately find the effect of the low and, in my view, inadequate allocation is disproportionately borne by any one title or subtitle within the bill.

In housing, for instance, the sections that were so hotly contested on the floor when the House bill was under consideration here back in July, that section, most of those hotly contested items have been included simply by balancing halfway, reaching halfway between the two branches. One in particular, if I remember in particular, the shop program, it was in the House bill and not in the Senate, and the House number is the one that is used in the final report. So these provisions are fairly dealt with.

In the transportation section, probably the most hotly contested issue was the issue of Amtrak. And in this conference report, we have provided the largest total number of dollars for Amtrak that has ever been provided by going halfway between the House and the Senate numbers.

□ 1030

But at the same time, we have used what I think are very valuable fire walls between capital spending and debt financing and operating subsidy, and provided also language that should lead to important and significant reforms in the operation of Amtrak. So, I think that too is very fair. In fact, my comments about there being, for those who might be interested in only one title, or primarily in one title, could also apply to the good and bad in the titles which are the part of the 60 or 70 or so outside sections, those sections are included in the two titles that are general provisions for the agencies in this bill alone, and then general provisions that apply to all of government.

I want to mention just a couple of those because in one case, the case of Cuba language, we fought a war in Vietnam against the Communist North Vietnamese, the Viet Cong, in which more than 50,000 American young men and women died. Yet we have normalized relations with Vietnam by following an engagement communication trade and travel policy.

Similarly, we fought a war against China, which is virtually to the day now 55 years ago, started 55 years ago on the Korean peninsula, and we have again followed the engagement communication trade and travel policy with Communist China. And China, it goes so far as to now have China with the largest trade surplus with respect to us. Obviously our largest trade deficit is with Communist China, and China holds the second largest amount of our national debt that is held by a foreign nation.

Again, this year, the House and the Senate passed, by roll call votes in each branch, identical language to bring us to a rational engagement communication trade and travel policy in Cuba, which has been so successful in the case of Vietnam and China. You will not find any such language in this conference report. I regret that deeply because what I think that means is that America will continue its hyperventilated tantrum against Cuba for another year, and that is unfortunate that we are putting off the normalization of our relations with Cuba.

But at the same time, while I regret that, I see elsewhere other provisions that are in the so-called general provisions, which are very good. The conference report includes corporate expatriates language that was in the Senate bill which prohibits Federal agencies which are part of this act from contracting with corporations that located outside the United States to avoid paying corporate taxes. This language has been fought over year after year in this House of Representatives, and I am glad that we have gone along with the Senate's language and included it in this conference report.

This report provides a level playing field for our dedicated Federal employees by including language that deals with the Federal employee contracting out protections often referred to as ''A–76.'' This is the third straight year that conferees negotiated a compromise provision; however, this year the provision remains, and once again the intent of this House is carried out. And I thank Chairman KNOLLENBERG for that.

On balance, I believe that this is a very good bill. Under Chairman KNOLLENBERG's guidance the staff has produced a fair and proportionate bill, and I hope that the conference report will be adopted overwhelmingly.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my outrage that this conference report substantially weakens provisions providing greater consumer protection for victims of unscrupulous movers that were part of the transportation bill that was signed into law less than 4 months ago.

Let me first say thank you to Chairman KNOLLENBERG and also to the Speaker. And I want to thank the staff, as well, for the consideration that they have given to the authorizing committees and for providing such strong support for as long as was possible. I appreciate your efforts.

But it is simply wrong that this conference report contains provisions that were specifically rejected by the Senate when it was considering its transportation bill earlier this year and that were rejected during the conference on the transportation bill this past summer.

For years I have worked to provide relief to the many citizens from all across this country who call my office and other offices around here seeking help because they have been victimized and find they have nowhere to turn. The most egregious of these situations is where a moving company holds all of their earthly possessions until they pay thousands of dollars in excess of the original estimate, basically extortion. These people find themselves in a strange city with no goods and no recourse.

The Department of Transportation is simply not suited to police the 1.5 million interstate moves that occur each year. Until recently, a total of three people were assigned to handle complaints, and they could do little about them. States which want to get involved and oversee intrastate moves with little controversy have been told by the courts that they have no jurisdiction since this is interstate commerce. So SAFETEA–LU created a partnership with the States by allowing them to enforce Federal consumer protection rules, a model that works well in other areas.

It is disheartening that only a few months after these new authorities were put in place, before they could really even take effect, some in the Senate have seen fit to reopen these provisions and basically neuter the consumer protection provisions included in SAFETEA–LU. Most shockingly, State authorities will only be able to initiate actions against certain carriers, and all others are protected no matter what their actions may be. We are putting up roadblocks when we should be tearing them down.

Mr. Speaker, inclusion of these provisions is wrong on so many levels. It is an affront to all authorizing committees that language just negotiated after years of discussion can be cast aside and changed in an appropriation bill. It is wrong that those who did not get what they wanted and were rejected both in the Senate and in conference can then get another bite at the apple and basically hijack the consumer protection provisions this Congress approved in July. What we are doing is, once again, leaving the little guy unprotected with nowhere to turn, with no recourse, as their lives are in ruins.

Could we not, for a change, stand up for the consumer against industry and correct the injustice? It is a sad day when we make it more difficult, and not less, for our citizens to get the recourse that they deserve.

This was not a move on the part of this body. Again, thanks to Chairman KNOLLENBERG, the leadership, the Senate Commerce Committee and others who fought this hijacking. It is unfortunate for consumers across the Nation that we were not able to beat back this assault.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), a member of the subcommittee.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank my ranking member for yielding. Thank you very much.

I say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), I am so very proud of his leadership, as he has taken this bill, a very difficult bill with many agencies and multimillions of dollars, and am very proud of the gentleman as a Congressman, and certainly for our State, for his leadership.

I thank Ranking Member OLVER for, as well, working to see that we got through this and did our best to fund the roads, the bridges, the transit agencies and all that goes with that. I appreciate how the gentlemen work together and how you allow all of us, the subcommittee members, to participate. I think we were unique in that, and I want to thank the gentlemen.

I want to give special thanks to the staffs on both sides of the aisle. We know how important staff is, and I tell you, from Mike Malone, and I am going to mess up if I start naming names, but I want to name a couple of them. Just thank you very much for all the work that you do. Our staffs, we could not do half the work we do as efficiently if it were not for the staffs on both sides of the aisle, so I thank you for that as well.

I am a little concerned that in the HUD budget we did not assess and continue to work to change what was changed a few years ago, for the snapshot for receiving section 8 vouchers from the 3-month look to a 12-month look. At a time when housing needs are most pressing, I do believe that still we need to be able to take a 12-month snapshot of the housing authorities and then determine what their funding ought to be.

In my own State of Michigan, and my district particularly, we are losing 1,500 slots because we use a 3-month snapshot of expenses rather than a full 12 months. So, as a result, some housing authorities will get more money. Others, like mine, will get less and we will find many, many people out in the cold literally because they do not have adequate housing.

Metro Airport, at our Detroit Metro Airport, it is a brand new airport. FAA is finding, and we had in our report language last year and it did not happen, and we tried to do it again this year, to make it a little stronger. Black mold is in there with the air traffic controllers; we need to alleviate that so that they can be healthy and do their jobs as well, and I hope the FAA will take another look at that. It is most important; a new facility, air traffic controllers are working in black mold, and we all know how toxic black mold can be.

Overall, I love the bill. It is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, with two exceptions. With HUD, I want us to work more on that and I look forward to working with both the chairman and ranking member on better HUD funding and a better snapshot of the expenses so that all the housing authorities can get their equal share of that.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member and your staffs for bringing forth a wonderful transportation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, and I want to commend Chairman KNOLLENBERG, Ranking Member OLVER and the staff of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the District of Columbia and Independent Agencies Subcommittee for their hard work in getting this bill to the House floor.

This bill provides a total of $137 billion in total budgetary resources and $65.9 billion in discretionary spending for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies. This is $5.2 billion above the request and $2.7 billion more than the previous year.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Under the bill, highways and transit receive healthy increases under the conference report. The bill follows the guidelines under SAFETEA–LU for surface transportation projects. It provides a $36.0 billion highway obligation limitation, which is a $1.6 billion increase over FY05 and a $1.3 billion increase over the President's request.

Like SAFETEA–LU, the bill provides significant increases in the transit accounts, and funds New Starts programs $1.5 billion.

The increases in transportation will help cities like Detroit to invest in and maintain their transportation infrastructure and enhance the mobility of the traveling public to move to their jobs and make our communities more livable.

SC AMTRAK

Amtrak is funded at $1.313 billion, which will enable the national passenger rail system to maintain current operational requirements. The bill contains a number of mandates on the system: find savings in food and beverage service, first class service, and commuter rail fees. Amtrak also would be barred from marketing ticket discounts of more than 50 percent in peak hours: includes a new discretionary account, the Efficiency Incentive Fund, which the Secretary of Transportation can parse out as grants to fund priority capital improvements that are directly tied to short-term operating savings.

The bill funds the Federal Aviation Administration at $13.8 billion—$276 million above the fiscal year 2005 level and $1.105 billion above the President's request. This includes $3.55 billion for the Airport Improvement Program. The bill includes $25 million to hire and train 595 new air traffic controllers, and an additional $12 million above the request to hire and train safety inspectors in the office of aircraft certification and flight standards.

The House report contained language that requires the FAA to provide the Committee with a report on its effort to remediate a Black Mold problem in the control tower at the Detroit Metropolitan and Wayne County Airport. My colleagues in Southeast Michigan have received complaints from the people who work in the tower that this problem is causing workers to become ill and unfit for work. I am looking forward to receiving FAA's response.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is funded at $34.0 billion; $2.1 billion above last year's level and $4.9 billion above the President's request.

I am disappointed that the conference failed to address the problem of the unfair distribution of renewal funding for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The trend of the past few years has been to base budget allocations on a 3–month ''snapshot.'' This arbitrary snap-shot creates a disparity where some housing agencies wind up with more money than they need and others have to turn families out into the cold because their under-estimated budgets could no longer support the same number of vouchers.

At a time when rising energy costs are driving utility costs up, and job markets are fluctuating, particularly in areas like Michigan, we cannot ignore the impact of yearly market changes on subsidy needs.

TREASURY

Department of Treasury is funded at $11.7 billion, $400 million above FY05 and $50 million above the President's request.

The Internal Revenue Service is funded at request level of $10.7 billion, $434 million above FY05.

The bulk of the increase is for the tax enforcement activities of the IRS.

Federal Election Commission is funded at the budget request of $55 million, $3 million above FY05 and the Election Assistance Commission is funded at $16 million.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Chairman KNOLLENBERG, my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) I rise simply to express my deepest appreciation for the work that you have been about on this newly organized subcommittee that has a variety, a mix, of complex issues that can conflict with each other, issues that if taken the wrong way, can cause bills to be stymied and no progress made. You have done a very, very fine job of establishing a tone that says that we can work together. And where Appropriations does its best work is when we reach across the aisle and recognize that while we do not have to agree 100 percent of the time, there is little doubt that a real solution comes when we do think about these alternatives, talking to one another as human beings and people who represent citizens across the country as well.

The bill is a very fine bill, a great job. I want to congratulate the staff, especially, as we have gone through this transition. They have done wonderful work. I congratulate the entire subcommittee.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work that was done by members of the subcommittee, and I am going to vote for the bill in recognition of the very good efforts. I believe the chairman, operating within the constraints that he had to operate within, did a reasonable job. I very much agree with the gentlewoman from Michigan who lamented some of the decisions that were made with regard to HUD, and I appreciate the work that has been done by my colleague from Massachusetts in a number of areas.

Just briefly, I want to comment on one subject, and that is the question of earmarks in transportation. The Governor of my State put out a transportation plan for the entire State earlier this year. The only two highway projects for the entire region of the State in southeastern Massachusetts that several of us represent came because our colleagues in the committees did what we asked and earmarked some funding.

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That is, not only were those earmarks very important for the local areas, but the State then adopted them as their only projects. So for people who think that earmarks somehow are some excrescence imposed from without, in my judgment, they often reflect better the local priorities; and one of the ones where I have gotten some help from the ranking member and others is to create the first handicapped-accessible commuter rail station on an important commuter route going into Boston from the west. I make no apologies for that earmark.

Unfortunately, this subcommittee, however, had to operate within the constraints of a terrible budget, and while they did the best they could, with one exception, I would join the gentleman from Michigan in regretting the choice that was made about the voucher funding formula; they did not, I think, take the right choice there. They adopted a formula that locks into the past, and let me predict now that Members, once again, are going to start hearing from their local communities as the year goes on about problems with vouchers, about the waiting list being too long, about people being upset; and it is probably because of what we have been coerced into doing here.

The other problem, though, is that in some cases we simply have too little money for the programs. Community Development Block Grants is cut I am told about 9 percent, $362 million. That is a very important program. It is not the fault of the subcommittee. They have been given an allocation. Well, I take it back. It is not the fault of those members of the subcommittee that did not vote for the budget. Members of the subcommittee that voted for the budget I think are hard-pressed to complain about what it did to their allocation. That is a self-inflicted wound.

But we ought to be clear that as a result of the spending constraints, I take it back, not spending constraints, the misallocated priorities, because there is certainly plenty of money being spent elsewhere in this budget that need not have been spent; but because of these terrible priorities, Community Development Block Grants gets about a 9 percent cut, and there is not much money for brownfields.

Hope VI is a very important program. Three years ago it was at $574 million. Today it is at $100 million because we have an administration ideologically opposed to it, despite an overwhelming bipartisan consensus that it is a good way to deal with housing.

Home funds, one of the few sources left now for construction, is cut further.

So I understand that the subcommittee did a good job within the constraints that they were given, although some of them gave themselves those constraints, but the consequence of these spending priorities of this Congress is underfunding of several important housing and community development priorities.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to light an issue that several of my colleagues on the subcommittee and the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) feel should be a critical concern of the American taxpayer. I want to ensure that the IRS understands the intent of Congress that is stated in the report language of this bill.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIAHRT. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman very much; he has been extremely generous in listening to our concerns. I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) as a member of the subcommittee for working on this and working with me as well.

This ''Return-Free'' tax filing system, Mr. Speaker, would create a conflict of interest by making the IRS not only the tax collector and the enforcer, but also the tax preparer. The loser in such a scenario would be the American

taxpayer. Return-free creates, by definition, a fundamental conflict of interest by making the same agency that collects the taxes, writes the tax regulations, collects the revenues, performs audits, and enforces compliance, now also becomes the tax preparer.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, is it the chairman's understanding that the IRS is bound from setting up tax preparation services, and does the chairman agree that it is the intent of the subcommittee that the Treasury and the IRS must abide by the Free File agreement and not go into the business of preparing taxes for taxpayers?

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I do indeed. There is language in the bill addressing the Free File Alliance stating that ''the conferees are aware that the IRS and the FFA have signed a new 4-year agreement under which the IRS continues to agree not to enter the tax preparation market.''

The conferees direct IRS to abide by the terms and conditions of the agreement.

We believe that this will ensure that the IRS adheres to the agreement and will not enter the tax preparation market.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) for addressing this important issue to the American taxpayer. If the IRS does deviate from this agreement, then we will seek to stop them through statutory language to prevent tax preparation originating within the IRS.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to a member of the subcommittee and the minority whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today we consider the conference report on the Treasury, Transportation, HUD bill. That in and of itself is a remarkable achievement, given that in recent years the tendency has been to circumvent the established appropriation process.

I want to commend Chairman KNOLLENBERG and Ranking Democrat Olver for working diligently and cooperatively on a bill that is profoundly important to every American. We have seen much conflict over the last few days, and it is, I think, a happy event that we can come to the floor and be supportive of a bill that was worked on in a bipartisan, cooperative way; and I think that is a testament to Mr. KNOLLENBERG and to Mr. OLVER, and thanks to them as well.

Now, they would agree, and we all agree, this is not a perfect conference report, hardly any conference report is, and there are limited resources. Critical social programs are hurt. Public housing, Hope VI, people with AIDS, rural housing and economic development, Community Development Block Grants, brownfields, and the HOME program all face, frankly, fewer resources than I would hope they would have. But that is the reality of the dollars that were given to Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. OLVER to deal with.

I am pleased that the transportation bill report includes an adjustment for our Federal civilian employees in their cost of living consistent with the pay adjustment proposed for the military personnel. It is essential that we provide this adjustment as recognition of the contribution made by both Federal civilian employees and military personnel to the safety and security of the Nation. It also allows us to recruit and indeed retain those that we need to carry out important and vital services for our citizens.

I am also pleased that the President's request for the FDA consolidation is in this bill. These funds will go a long way in helping to relocate FDA employees from their current substandard facilities into modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

I am enormously grateful, and I want to say this publicly, I have said it privately, to Chairman KNOLLENBERG for his leadership in making possible reimbursement to small business people who operated small airports and, for security reasons, were shut down by the Federal Government and sustained substantial losses. We have been working on this for many years, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. OLVER have now ensured that we resolve this, and I thank the chairman for that. The failure to provide these small businessmen with compensation in the years past has caused great difficulty, and this will be a welcome addition to this bill.

I also want to commend the conferees for withstanding pressure from the White House, including the Bond-Mikulski reform provision, which will correct fundamental flaws in the contracting-out provisions. Simply put, the provision will eliminate waste and save taxpayer money while, at the same time, preserving appropriate competition by employees with the private sector to get the most efficient and effective results for our taxpayers.

I want to close by saying that I am concerned about what I believe to be one very significant provision that is not in this bill, or funding that is not in this bill. As the sponsor of the Help America Vote Act with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and it was overwhelmingly supported on this side, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator DODD on the Senate side, strong support, we promised the States some $3.8 billion in funding. We have given $3 billion to get our technology up to date, to ensure that every voter has access to the polls, that our registration rolls are up to date and accurate, that no American is precluded from voting because of inefficiencies in the registration system, and we required the States to have statewide registration systems, a centralized database so that no Marylander, no Massachusetts resident, no Michigander would be shut out of the process because they were not properly included on the rolls.

That is an expensive process, and the States are required to have it in place by January 1 of 2006. We have shortchanged them to this date $800 million of the promised $3.8 billion. Mr. Speaker, $3 billion is a large sum of money; but when you spread it throughout 50 States, it diminishes.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we could work together with the White House that has been helpful in the past and Speaker HASTERT, who has been very helpful in the past; Mr. OBEY and Mr. OLVER have both been helpful in making sure that next year we can work with the administration to try to get this funding at the level that it really ought to be, because that is what we promised the States and, but for that, it will be an unfunded mandate.

So, again, in closing, I thank the chairman, I thank Mr. OLVER, Mr. OBEY and Mr. LEWIS for working together to bring this bill to the floor, and I will certainly be supportive.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished ranking member from Massachusetts for a tough job, a tough task, and very good work. I add my appreciation to the chairman, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG). I could not imagine a more combined challenge than the appropriations bill that we have before us. Unfortunately, in tough times we have tough choices, and many times some along the way are affected by those tough choices.

So, Mr. Speaker, I add my appreciation for a number of aspects of this bill. First of all, I want to thank the combined Texas delegation and, as I said, the ranking member and chairman of the subcommittee, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) in particular, on at least providing for New Start monies for Metro in Houston.

Mr. OLVER knows that this has been a long journey. We have had discussions on the floor in sessions past when we have not made it. We have had conflicting views coming out of the Houston delegation. But I can stand proudly and say that the Houston money, $12 million for New Starts, will not go unused and unappreciated.

We have a system that is one of the most used New Starts in America, with very large numbers of utilization; and it is important that we get started and continue to commit.

Might I also say, however, it is important for Metro to listen to community input so that we will have light rail and not have BRT. Light rail is what we voted on, and light rail is what we want.

I am gratified that the judiciary, or the Justice Department, has been funded in aspects where the staff has been

kept. I do raise a point about an overuse of the national security letters by the FBI and hope that we may look at that in the future.

But the real issue, Mr. Speaker, is to talk about HUD, which really has become a bank for this bill, as hard as my colleagues have worked. The bad news is that CDBG funds have been cut; that is the very heart of many of our communities, and we see that it has been cut by 9 percent.

The voucher question is severe. The section 8 vouchers have been cut. Unfortunately, public housing authorities will come up short this year. Even though we have used the House formula of a snapshot of a few years back, we are going to face a crisis because Houston is an example where we have thousands of Hurricane Katrina survivors and Rita survivors, and we are short of vouchers for housing as we speak. FEMA has shut off the doors for the hotels by December 1. We hope to press them to realize that that is an untenable position.

I also hope the elderly repair housing dollars are protected because the elderly are some of our most vulnerable populations.

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Then we do not even have Section 8 vouchers for the 25,000 backlog list that we already have in Houston.

I am disappointed that the brownfields are effectively zeroed out. That has, of course, been an effort to clean up many of the dastardly conditions in urban and rural areas, particularly some of the chemical plants that have been in our inner cities.

This is a bill that took a lot of choices and I know a lot of hard work. I wish we could have done better the housing area, Mr. Speaker, and I hope we do so in the future.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following: Statement of Managers Correction for H.R. 3058 Relating to the Economic Development Initiative Submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives November 18, 2005.

The following corrects, and constitutes a complete substitute for, the provisions of the statement of managers of the committee of conference accompanying H.R. 3058 relating to the Economic Development Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Fund.

The conference agreement includes $310,000,000 for the Economic Development Initiative with specific requirements on how these funds can be used. The conference agreement directs HUD to implement the Economic Development Initiatives program as follows:

1. $100,000 to the Salvation Army, City of Anchorage, Alaska for facilities construction associated with the SAFE Center at Chester Creek;
2. $400,000 for Bean's Café, in Anchorage, Alaska for the expansion of its kitchen;
3. $150,000 for the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage, Alaska for expansion and renovation of its infrastructure;
4. $750,000 for the Bering Straits Native Corporation in Nome, Alaska for Cape Nome Quarry upgrades;
5. $950,000 for the Western Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America in Anchorage, Alaska for construction of the Boy Scouts High Adventure Base Camp near Talkeetna, Alaska;
6. $750,000 for the construction of the Tongass Coast Aquarium;
7. $750,000 for Alaska Pacific University for the construction of a building;
8. $250,000 for the construction of the Alyeska Roundhouse in Girdwood, Alaska;
9. $500,000 for the People's Regional Learning Center in Bethel, Alaska to construct a vocational school and dormitories;
10. $500,000 for the Dillingham City School District in Dillingham, Alaska, to repair the gymnasium in the Dillingham middle/high school;
11. $250,000 to the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama for facilities planning and improvements to the advocacy center;
12. $200,000 to Chambers County, Alabama for the development of the Chambers County industrial park;
13. $400,000 to Clarke County Commission, Alabama for an ongoing economic development project by the Clark Co. commission;
14. $150,000 to Jefferson State Community College in Alabama for facilities renovation of an existing building;
15. $200,000 to the City of Ashland, Alabama for the purchase of land for Ashland industrial development;
16. $300,000 to the City of Bear Creek, Alabama for industrial park expansion;
17. $500,000 to the City of Decatur, Alabama for the Ingalls Harbor/Day Park Riverfront Renovation;
18. $200,000 to the city of Fort Payne, Alabama for facilities renovation of a building as part of the downtown revitalization project;
19. $100,000 to the City of Guntersville, Alabama for renovations to the Whole Backstage Theater;
20. $100,000 to the City of Huntsville, Alabama for land acquisition for downtown redevelopment;
21. $100,000 to the City of Montevallo, Alabama for sidewalks, street furniture, and façade improvements;
22. $1,000,000 to the City of Opelika, Alabama for the Northeast Opelika Industrial Park;
23. $150,000 to the City of Prattville, Alabama for the Prattville Waterfront Development Project to provide access to local waterways;
24. $100,000 to the City of Robertsdale, Alabama for upgrades to the PZK Civic Center;
25. $100,000 to the City of Shorter, Alabama for facilities construction and renovation of the Old Shorter School building to a community center;
26. $150,000 to the City of Thomasville, Alabama to construct a worker training center at Alabama Southern Community Center;
27. $100,000 to the Huntsville Museum of Art, Alabama for facility renovations;
28. $75,000 to the Town of Mooresville, Alabama for rehabilitation, facility improvements, and build out of three buildings;
29. $250,000 to the University of Montevallo, Alabama for facilities renovation and expansion of the Ramsay Conference Center at the University of Montevallo in Alabama;
30. $275,000 to Troy University, Alabama for small business training;
31. $400,000 for Construction and outfitting of the University of South Alabama's Mitchell School of Business Library in Mobile, Alabama;
32. $400,000 for construction and outfitting of the New Centurions, Inc. New Life for Women Shelter in Etowah County, Alabama;
33. $250,000 for the Greenville Family YMCA for child care facility acquisition, renovation, and construction in Greenville, Alabama;
34. $300,000 for the City of Evergreen for expansion of the Evergreen Conecuh County Library in Evergreen, Alabama;
35. $400,000 for the Fayette County Commission for the Fayette County Industrial Park in Fayette County, Alabama;
36. $200,000 for the Hayneville/Lowndes County Library Foundation for construction of a new library in Hayneville, Alabama;
37. $350,000 for the Jasper Area Family Services Center for construction of the Center in Jasper, Alabama;
38. $300,000 for the City of Tuskegee for Downtown Revitalization in Tuskegee, Alabama;
39. $400,000 for the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind's Tuscaloosa Regional Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama;
40. $250,000 for the City of Montgomery to develop the Montgomery Riverwalk in Montgomery, Alabama;
41. $250,000 for the Cleveland Avenue YMCA for facility expansion in Montgomery, Alabama;
42. $200,000 for the Wilcox County Industrial Development Authority for planning and development of its Industrial/Commercial Park;
43. $300,000 for the City of Guin for planning and development of its Industrial/Commercial Park;
44. $150,000 to Grand Prairie Center for the Arts and Allied Health, Phillips County Community College in Stuttgart, Arkansas for facility construction;
45. $150,000 to the City of Little Rock, Arkansas for facilities renovation and improvements to the community center at Granite Mountain;
46. $150,000 to the El Dorado Public Schools in El Dorado, Arkansas for the expansion of a recreational field;
47. $150,000 to the North Arkansas College, Harrison County, Arkansas for renovations to a Conference and Training facility;
48. $250,000 to Vada Sheid Community Development Center, ASU in Mountain Home, Arkansas for the community development center auditorium;
49. $800,000 for the Central Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council in Helena, Arkansas for the construction of the Phillips County Agricultural Storage Facility;
50. $200,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Ouachita County, Arkansas for the construction of recreational facilities;
51. $200,000 for the City of Conway, Arkansas for downtown revitalization;
52. $200,000 for Audubon Arkansas for the development of the Audubon Nature Center at Gillam Park in Little Rock, Arkansas;
53. $600,000 to Chicanos Por La Causa in Phoenix, Arizona for redevelopment of the Nuestro Barrio Community;
54. $250,000 to Chicanos Por La Causa in Phoenix, Arizona for land acquisition and redevelopment of the East Washington Fluff site;
55. $250,000 to Pinal County, Arizona for the renovation and repair of the Pinal County Courthouse;
56. $650,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Vista, City of Sierra Vista, Arizona for construction of the Boys & Girls Club in Sierra Vista;
57. $500,000 to the City of Eloy, Arizona for construction of a community center;
58. $250,000 to the City of Globe, Arizona for land acquisition and streetscape improvements;
59. $180,000 to the City of Scottsdale, Arizona for the renovation of the Vista del Camino Community Center;
60. $350,000 to the Douglas Arts and Humanities Association, City of Douglas, Arizona for facilities renovation of the Grand Theater;

61. $150,000 to the Dunbar Coalition in Tucson, Arizona for the Dunbar Project;
62. $350,000 to Valley of the Sun YMCA in Phoenix, Arizona for facilities construction of a YMCA;
63. $500,000 to Camp Ronald McDonald for the Good Times, California for building cabins and dining hall improvements;
64. $150,000 to Chualar, California for construction of a multipurpose cultural room on the Chualar Elementary School campus;
65. $125,000 to Esperanza Mercado Project, California for the Esperanza Community Maple-Mae Project;
66. $1,000,000 to Los Angeles County, California for the ongoing construction of a new library;
67. $50,000 to LOVARC in the City of Lompoc, California for construction of an elevator for a building that serves the disabled;
68. $150,000 to Merced County, California for renovation of the George Washington Carver Community Center in Dos Palos, California;
69. $150,000 to Mono County Library Authority Board/Board of Ed., Mono County, California for the Library Authority Board of Education for construction of a building;
70. $100,000 to San Bernardino County, CA for the development of the Santa Ana River Regional Park;
71. $200,000 to Solano County, California for renovation of two structures used by local veterans groups;
72. $250,000 to SVDP Management-Father Joe's Villages, City of Lake Morena, California for the design of a residential facility for homeless youth;
73. $150,000 to Taylor Yard Park in Los Angeles, California for recreational equipment and other park upgrades that will serve at-risk youth;
74. $100,000 to the Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Club, City of Lancaster, California for improvements to the Boys and Girls Club of Antelope Valley;
75. $150,000 to the Aquarium of the Pacific, City of Long Beach, California to develop an exhibit to educate the public on the importance of ports;
76. $500,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of East County, City of Santee, California for construction of a new facility at East County;
77. $250,000 to the City of Alhambra, California for development and construction of a park;
78. $1,000,000 to the City of Apple Valley, California for Civic Center Park development;
79. $250,000 to the City of Banning, CA for city pool improvements;
80. $350,000 to the City of Beaumont, CA for the construction of the Beaumont Sports Park;
81. $200,000 to the City of Bell Gardens, California for renovation and update of facilities;
82. $100,000 to the City of Bishop, California for improvements to City housing;
83. $150,000 to the City of Chowchilla, California for reconstruction of an industrial park;
84. $80,000 to the City of Colfax, California for an expansion of the Youth Center;
85. $150,000 to the City of Colton, California for improvements to Veterans Park;
86. $100,000 to the City of Corona, California for the renovation of the Old City Hall;
87. $150,000 to the City of East Palo Alto, California for the construction of facilities for community services;
88. $350,000 to the City of El Monte, California for construction of a community gymnasium;
89. $250,000 to the City of Greenfield, California for construction of a multipurpose community facility;
90. $100,000 to the City of Huntington Beach, California for the planning and design phase of a senior center;
91. $200,000 to the City of Huntington Park, California for renovation of a recreation center building;
92. $200,000 to the City of Inglewood, California for construction of a new senior center;
93. $150,000 to the City of La Mirada, California for construction of an aquatic center;
94. $250,000 to the City of Lancaster, California for installations related to the baseball complex;
95. $400,000 to the City of Los Angeles, California for site acquisition and development;
96. $100,000 to the City of Madera, California to construct a youth center for at risk youth;
97. $150,000 to the County of Fresno, California for construction of the Rural Vocational Training Facility (RVTF);
98. $150,000 to the City of Oakland, California for renovation of historic Fruitvale Masonic Temple;
99. $200,000 to the City of Oceanside, California for a Senior Center facility to serve seniors from Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad and San Marcos;
100. $100,000 to the City of Oroville, California for Vega Center renovations;
101. $200,000 to the City of Pico Rivera, California for the expansion of the California senior center;
102. $200,000 to the City of Placerville, California for Gold Bug Park Renovations;
103. $100,000 to the City of Riverside, California for the development of a Technology Center within University Research Park;
104. $100,000 to the City of Riverside, California for construction of a pedestrian bridge in the California Citrus State Park;
105. $100,000 to the City of San Fernando, California for revitalization of downtown San Fernando;
106. $300,000 to the City of San Jacinto, California for improvements to city musuem/Estudillo property;
107. $150,000 to the City of San Jose, California to the construction of a community center in a low and moderate-income area;
108. $350,000 to the City of San Leandro, California for streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements;
109. $150,000 to the City of San Pedro, California for streetscape and other improvements along Gaffey Street;
110. $100,000 to the City of Thousand Oaks, California to construct a community aquatics complex on the campus of California Lutheran University;
111. $250,000 to the City of Twentynine Palms, California for Development of a Visitors Center;
112. $350,000 to the City of Yucaipa, California for development and construction of the Yucaipa/Crafton Hills College Recreational Facility;
113. $350,000 to the City of Yucaipa, California for development of the Yucaipa Valley Regional Sports Complex;
114. $150,000 to the Community Action partnership of Orange County in Garden Grove, California for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a service facility;
115. $200,000 to the Department of Economic Development in Rancho Cordova, California for Cordova Senior Center Expansion;
116. $250,000 to the Department of Parks and Recreation, Encinitas, California for the construction of a visitor center in the San Elijo Lagoon Open Space Preserve;
117. $250,000 to the Diamond Bar High School and Community Sports Field, City of Diamond Bar, California for the renovation of the Diamond Bar High School and Community Sports Field;
118. $250,000 to the Earle Baum Center of the Blind, Inc. in Santa Rosa, California to build a center for the visually impaired;
119. $75,000 to the Hillview Acres Children's Home, City of Chino, California for construction of a facility for the Hillview Acres Children's Home;
120. $100,000 to the International AgriCenter, City of Tulare, California to expand educational activities with the College of Sequoias and the California Polytechnic University;
121. $75,000 to the La Habra Vista Grande Park, City of La Habra, California to rehabilitate the La Habra Vista Grande Park;
122. $250,000 to the Lake County Arts Council in Lakeport, California for renovation of the Lakeport Cinema to a Performing Arts Center;
123. $100,000 to the Lompoc Healthcare District, California for the construction of a new C.N.A. training center;
124. $500,000 to the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, California to complete the renovation of the Museum;
125. $100,000 to the National Orange Show, City of San Bernardino, California for Renovations to National Orange Show stadium;
126. $100,000 to the North County Solutions for Change, City of Vista, California Solutions Family Intake/Access Center for homeless families and their children;
127. $100,000 to the Oasis of Hope Community Development Corporation, City of Stockton, California for the Oasis of Hope Community Development Corporation education project;
128. $200,000 to the Preservation of CA State Mining & Mineral Museum, City of Mariposa, California for preservation of the CA Mining and Mineral Museum;
129. $100,000 to the Riverside Community College, California for facility construction of the School for Nursing;
130. $400,000 to the Sacramento Food Bank, California for construction of the food bank;
131. $150,000 to the San Diego Housing Commission in San Diego, California for the HOPE Village Project to construct a 20–unit housing complex to house homeless individuals;
132. $150,000 to the Santa Barbara County Food bank in Santa Barbara, California for expansion and upgrades to its facility;
133. $550,000 to the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, California for development and construction of Noah's pArk;
134. $250,000 to the Stillwater Business Park, City of Redding, California to develop the Stillwater business park;
135. $125,000 to the Tehachapi Performing Arts Center Foundation, City of Tehachapi, California for design and construction of a performing arts center;
136. $250,000 to the Town of Yucca Valley, California for development and construction of the South Side Community Center;
137. $40,000 to the Tulare Veterans Memorial District, City of Tulare, California for modernization of the veterans hall;
138. $350,000 to the U of CA's Shafter Research and Extension Center, City of Davis, California; to complete the design and construction of Shafter Research and Extension Center at the University of California, Davis;
139. $200,000 to the Valley Alliance for the Arts in San Fernando Valley, California for construction of a performing arts center;
140. $100,000 to the Visalia Rescue Mission, City of Visalia, California for construction of a new facility to provide shelter for homeless women and children;
141. $200,000 to the Youth Science Institute Center in San Jose, California for building renovations;
142. $50,000 to Ventura County, California for rehabilitation of the multi-purpose room and kitchen of the Oak View Park and Resource Center;

143. $250,000 for the 10th and Mission Affordable Family Housing & Commercial Space Project, for the development of housing units and commercial space, Mercy Housing, San Francisco;
144. $200,000 for the City of Inglewood to construct a Senior Center;
145. $200,000 for the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society Old Mint Restoration Project for planning, design and construction, San Francisco;
146. $150,000 for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Fresno, CA, for construction of the Neighborhood Youth Center;
147. $600,000 for the City of Oakland, CA for the Fox Theater Restoration;
148. $200,000 for the City of Redding, CA for the Stillwater Business Park;
149. $200,000 for the West Angeles Community Development Corporation, CA for the development of the West Angeles Plaza;
150. $100,000 to the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County, CA, for the First Time Home Buyer Loan Program;
151. $175,000 for the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums, CA, for M.H. de Young Memorial Museum construction;
152. $175,000 for the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, Palm Springs, CA for construction;
153. $160,000 to the City of Montrose, Colorado for expansion of a research park for the Mesa State University;
154. $240,000 to the City of Pueblo, Colorado for redevelopment of recreation and park facilities;
155. $150,000 to the Denver Rescue Mission in Denver, Colorado for acquisition and renovation of an emergency shelter;
156. $250,000 to the Denver Rescue Mission, City of Wellington, Colorado for construction and renovation of rehabilitation facilities;
157. $300,000 for the City of Denver, Denver Rescue Mission for the Acquisition and Renovation of Emergency and Transitional Housing for Colorado's Homeless population;
158. $100,000 to the Cardinal Shehan Center, City of Bridgeport, Connecticut to complete the renovation of the former CT state armory facility;
159. $100,000 to the Charles Smith Foundation, City of Bridgeport, Connecticut for planning and implementation of a Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ);
160. $150,000 to the City of Ansonia, Connecticut for construction of a new community space;
161. $100,000 to the Friendship Service Center of New Britain, City of New Britain, Connecticut for the renovation of 85 Arch Street by the Friendship Service Center of New Britain;
162. $250,000 to the Hill-Stead Museum, City of Farmington, Connecticut for Hill-Stead Museum Renovation and Security Improvements;
163. $100,000 to the Human Services Council, City of Norwalk, Connecticut for the Human Services Council to redevelop facilities for affordable housing;
164. $100,000 to the Mattatuck Museum, City of Waterbury, Connecticut for renovations to the Mattatuck Museum to create an exhibit on the history of Brass Valley;
165. $350,000 to the Music and Arts Center for the Humanities, City of Bridgeport, Connecticut for relocation of the Music and Arts Center for the Humanities to a now-vacant department store;
166. $450,000 to the Naugatuck YMCA in Naugatuck, Connecticut for upgrades and other facilities expansion;
167. $100,000 to the Sherman Library Board of Trustees, Town of Sherman, Connecticut for reconstruction of the Sherman town library;
168. $250,000 to the Stamford Center for the Arts, City of Stamford, Connecticut for renovations to the Palace Theatre;
169. $350,000 to the Town of Stonington, Connecticut for the construction of south pier at Stonington Town Dock Complex;
170. $350,000 to the Town of Willington, Connecticut for the expansion of low-income senior housing;
171. $300,000 to the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut for facilities construction and renovation of the Hartt Performing Arts Center;
172. $100,000 to the Yerwood Community Center, City of Stamford, Connecticut for repairs to the Yerwood Community Center;
173. $100,000 to the YMCA, City of Ellington, Connecticut for construction of a new YMCA in an underserved area;
174. $450,000 for the City of Hartford for the Hartford Homeownership Initiative;
175. $200,000 for the City of Hartford for the renovation of the Mark Twain House Building;
176. $300,000 for the City of Ansonia for the renovation of the Ansonia Armory;
177. $250,000 for the City of West Haven, CT, for the redevelopment of residential housing;
178. $250,000 for the City of Stamford, CT, for renovations to the Yerwood Community Center;
179. $250,000 for the Town of Southbury, CT, for renovations to the Bent of the River Audubon Center;
180. $200,000 for the City of Hartford, CT, for neighborhood restoration activities undertaken by the Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance;
181. $250,000 to the African American Civil War Museum in Washington, DC for capital improvements to the facility and visitors center;
182. $250,000 to Beebe Medical Center, Delaware for renovations;
183. $200,000 to the Wilmington Senior Center, Delaware for renovations;
184. $250,000 for the Ministry of Caring, House of Joseph II, in Wilmington, DE for the renovation/operation of the facility;
185. $200,000 to the St. Michaels School and Nursery, Wilmington, DE, for expansion of the school;
186. $200,000 to the Wilmington Senior Center, Wilmington, DE, for the completion of the renovation of the Lafayette Court Senior Apartments project;
187. $250,000 for Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore for the construction of the new Easter Seals Facility in Georgetown, Delaware;
188. $200,000 for the Wilmington Music School for the Music School Expansion in Wilmington, Delaware;
189. $200,000 to the City of Lewes for the Lewes Canal front Park in Lewes, Delaware;
190. $75,000 to Crosswinds, Brevard County, Florida for the construction of Crosswinds youth center;
191. $200,000 to Goodwill of North Florida, Inc. in Jacksonville, Florida for the expansion of its facility;
192. $350,000 to Hubbs/Sea World, Brevard County, Florida for construction of a marine and coastal research center at Hubbs/Sea World;
193. $200,000 to Lake County, FL for construction of a library;
194. $100,000 to Little Manatee Housing Corporation, Hillsborough County, FL for construction of an agricultural worker center;
195. $150,000 to Miami-Dade County, Florida for upgrades to the Dade County water and sewer infrastructure;
196. $250,000 to Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, Florida for the renovation of Palm Harbor Public Library;
197. $96,300 to the Biltmore Hotel, City of Coral Gables, Florida for the renovation of historic Biltmore Hotel;
198. $250,000 to the Camillus House, Florida to construct a facility;
199. $300,000 to the Central Florida Community College, City of Ocala, Florida for improvements to the Fine Arts Center at Central Florida Community College;
200. $500,000 to the Centro Mater Foundation, Florida for construction of a new building;
201. $25,000 to the City of Alachua, Florida for the construction of the Veterans' Memorial at City Hall;
202. $250,000 to the City of Bartow, Florida for the redevelopment of downtown Bartow;
203. $500,000 to the City of Dunedin, FL construction of a new community center;
204. $200,000 to the City of Ft. Myers, Florida for the redevelopment of Edison & Ford Estates;
205. $400,000 to the City of Gainsville, Florida for renovations and historic preservation of James Norman Hall at the University of Florida, Gainesville;
206. $200,000 to the City of Gulfport, Florida for renovations to City of Gulfport Scout Hall;
207. $200,000 to the City of Hollywood, Florida for the construction and development of the Young Circle Arts Park project;
208. $75,000 to the City of Marathon, Florida for the redevelopment of Boot Key Municipal Harbor;
209. $250,000 to the City of Miami Gardens, Florida for revitalization of the business district;
210. $100,000 to the City of Miami Springs, Florida for the construction of a hurricane shelter;
211. $250,000 to the City of Miami, Florida for the elderly assistance program;
212. $250,000 to the City of Ocoee, Florida for construction of a senior citizens veterans service center;
213. $300,000 to the City of Riviera Beach, Florida for site acquisition and improvements for commercial revitalization;
214. $250,000 to the City of Sarasota, Florida for renovations to the Robert L. Taylor Community Center;
215. $250,000 to the City of St. Petersburg Beach, Florida for construction of a new Community Center;
216. $100,000 to the City of St. Petersburg, Florida for planning and design of Albert Whitted Waterfront Park;
217. $125,000 to the City of Treasure Island, Florida for construction of beach walkovers;
218. $250,000 to the City of Winter Haven, Florida for improvements to the downtown business district;
219. $250,000 to the Community Aging & Retirement Services, Inc., Florida to replace a building;
220. $250,000 to the Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco, Inc., Florida for the renovation of Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco, Inc;
221. $100,000 to the Osceola County Homeless Shelter, City of Osceola County, Florida for the completion of Osceola County Homeless Shelter;
222. $100,000 to the Osceola County Senior Center, City of Osceola County, Florida for the construction of a senior citizen center;
223. $250,000 to the Pearl City Masterplan, City of Boca Raton, Florida for infrastructure improvements for Pearl City;
224. $250,000 to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, City of Pinellas County, Florida for construction of Joe's Creek Greenway Park;
225. $250,000 to the Santa Fe Community College, City of Gainesville, Florida for the expansion of the Fine and Applied Arts Educational Building at Santa Fe Community College;
226. $200,000 to the St. Petersburg College, City of Seminole, Florida for the development of a Science and Nature Park at St. Petersburg College;

227. $150,000 to the Tangerine Avenue Community Redevelopment Area in St. Petersburg, Florida for the redevelopment of the Tangerine Avenue Community Area;
228. $100,000 to the DeBary Art League, City of DeBary, Florida for construction of a Gateway Center for the Arts;
229. $100,000 to the YMCA of Greater Pensacola, City of Pensacola, Florida for construction of the YMCA of Greater Pensacola;
230. $400,000 to Wakulla County, Florida for construction of the multi-purpose community center;
231. $500,000 for Orange County, FL for Central Receiving Center to renovate single occupancy rooms;
232. $500,000 for the Lowry Park Zoological Society, Tampa, FL for business development initiative;
233. $300,000 for the Central Florida YMCA to expand and renovate the Wayne Densch YMCA Family Center;
234. $250,000 for Miami Dade College and the construction of a library at their Hialeah, Florida campus;
235. $250,000 for Nova Southeastern University for the Center for Collaborative Bio-Medical Research;
236. $600,000 for the City of Coral Gables, Florida for the Biltmore Complex Restoration Project;
237. $400,000 for the City of Orlando, Florida for the Parramore Neighborhood Revitalization Project;
238. $250,000 for Miami Dade County, Florida for the Miami Performing Arts Center;
239. $250,000 for the American Beach Property Owners' Association, Fernandina Beach, Florida for the Historic Evans Rendezvous Cultural Center Restoration Project;
240. $200,000 for the City of Gainesville, Florida for the Downtown Revitalization Project;
241. $200,000 for the Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida: West Augustine Initiative;
242. $200,000 to Clarkston Community Center in Dekalb County, Georgia for renovation of Clarkston Community Center;
243. $150,000 to Clayton County, Georgia for renovation of the Clayton Senior Center;
244. $275,000 to Con-Ed, Inc., City of Savannah, Georgia for the renovation of a building annex to house a library and computer lab;
245. $400,000 to Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia for land acquisition to revitalize its West End neighborhood;
246. $250,000 to Paulding County, Georgia for site preparations;
247. $175,000 to SOWEGA Council on Aging in Albany, Georgia for facility construction;
248. $100,000 to the City of Covington, Georgia for renovation and construction of a resource center;
249. $75,000 to the Coastal Heritage Society, City of Savannah, Georgia for revitalization of the Central Georgia Railway for Coastal Heritage Society;
250. $250,000 to the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia for construction of a girls crisis center;
251. $100,000 to the George E. Ford Center, in Powder Springs, Georgia to refurbish the Ford Center;
252. $75,000 to the Georgia 4–H Foundation, City of Tybee Island, Georgia for a new facility for the Georgia 4–H Foundation;
253. $150,000 to the Hope House Inc., City of Augusta, Georgia for a Hope House facility for therapeutic childcare;
254. $225,000 to the Infantry Museum and Heritage Park in Columbus, Georgia for construction/development of National Infantry Museum and Heritage Park;
255. $100,000 to the Marietta Growth Fund, Georgia for the city redevelopment of Marietta Growth Fund;
256. $100,000 to the Morehouse School of Medicine, City of Atlanta, Georgia for development of land for Morehouse School of Medicine;
257. $50,000 to the Morehouse School of Medicine, City of Atlanta, Georgia for development of land for Morehouse School of Medicine;
258. $250,000 to the Museum of Aviation, City of Warner Robins, Georgia for the construction of a WWII exhibit and depot flight line for the Museum of Aviation;
259. $200,000 for Mercer University, Macon, Georgia for Critical Personnel Development Program (CPDP);
260. $200,000 Atlanta, Georgia Intergenerational Resource Center for a senior housing project;
261. $200,000 Warner Robins, Georgia Museum of Aviation, expansion of aviation flight and technology center;
262. $200,000 City of Moutri, Georgia for a community and economic development initiative;
263. $200,000 Morehouse School of Medicine for West End Community Development;
264. $500,000 Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Georgia for the Atlanta Symphony Center expansion;
265. $150,000 to the Children's Justice Center Foundation in Honolulu, Hawaii for renovation of a building to provide services to victims of child abuse and neglect;
266. $150,000 to the County of Hawaii in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for construction of a homeless shelter;
267. $650,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, for planning, design and construction of the Nanakuli Boys & Girls Club;
268. $300,000 for Pa'a Pono Miloli'I constructs a community and youth center;
269. $300,000 for the Children's Justice Center Foundation to construct and renovate the child counseling center on Oahu;
270. $300,000 for the Maui Economic Development Board to renovate the enterprise building;
271. $300,000 for the Kauai YMCA to construct facilities;
272. $200,000 for the Lanai Youth Center to acquire and construct activity facilities;
273. $200,000 for the County of Hawaii for the renovation of a Caregiver and Senior Resource Center;
274. $300,000 for Hale Mahaolu Ehiku to construct affordable rental housing for senior citizens;
275. $450,000 to Systems Unlimited, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa for the establishment of a service center for Systems Unlimited, Inc to aid disadvantaged families;
276. $450,000 to the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa for redevelopment of southern Cedar Rapids;
277. $400,000 to the City of Des Moines, Iowa for land acquisition for a technology park;
278. $750,000 for the City of Clinton, Iowa, for redevelopment of Liberty Square;
279. $250,000 for the National Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa, for renovation and construction of facilities;
280. $400,000 for the City of Waterloo, Iowa, for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Cedar Valley TechWorks facility;
281. $300,000 for the City of Des Moines, Iowa, for the Riverpoint West development;
282. $300,000 for the City of Fort Dodge, Iowa for the Lincoln Neighborhood housing initiative;
283. $1,000,000 to the Iowa Department of Economic Development for the Main Street Iowa program for restoration of structures on main streets throughout the state;
284. $750,000 to Polk County, Iowa for the purchase and rehabilitation of housing for low income people;
285. $200,000 to the Heartland Hill Habitat for Humanity in Brehmer County, Iowa for the renovation of deteriorated housing for low income housing;
286. $300,000 to the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa for downtown historic building renovation;
287. $100,000 Oneida Stake Academy, Franklin County, Idaho for restoration of Oneida Stake Academy for historic renovations;
288. $45,000 to the City of Franklin, Idaho for repairs to historic City Hall;
289. $350,000 to the City of Rexburg, Idaho for construction of recreational facilities and handicap accessibility;
290. $150,000 to the Clearwater Economic Development Association, City of Lewiston, Idaho for completion of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Project Planning and Implementation;
291. $100,000 to the Greater Pocatello Senior Center, City of Pocatello, Idaho for renovations to the Greater Pocatello Senior Center;
292. $1,000,000 for Ada County, Idaho for development of the Family Justice Center and the Detox Center;
293. $1,000,000 for the Clearwater Economic Development Association for the implementation of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Plan;
294. $1,000,000 for Boise State University for construction of the Center for Environmental Science and Economic Development;
295. $1,000,000 for the Idaho Migrant Council for planning, design, and construction of the Burley Community Center, Burley, Idaho;
296. $250,000 to Western Illinois University Quad City Campus in Moline, Illinois for renovations of facilities;
297. $250,000 to Coles County Council on Aging, Coles County, Illinois for construction of Lifespan Center for seniors;
298. $250,000 to Illinois College, City of Jacksonville, Illinois for renovation to Crampton Hall at Illinois College;
299. $100,000 to Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Illinois for a feasibility study on planning and design analysis for a new education building;
300. $75,000 to Our Children's Homestead, Illinois for Our Children's Homestead to construct new foster care homes;
301. $200,000 to Pioneer Center Group Home in McHenry County, Illinois for upgrades at to a group home;
302. $100,000 to Quincy University, City of Quincy, Illinois for the design and construction of an Art and Sciences Center at Quincy University;
303. $150,000 to Seguin Services in Cicero, Illinois for construction of a garden center;
304. $200,000 to the Avalon Park School in Chicago, Illinois for construction of a child-parent center;
305. $80,000 to the Beardstown Historical Society, City of Beardstown, Illinois for construction of the Grand Opera House Beardstown Historical Society;
306. $250,000 to the Bradley University, City of Peoria, Illinois for renovations to Bradley Hall at Bradley University;
307. $150,000 to the Burpee/Discovery Center Museum, City of Rockford, Illinois for the expansion of laboratories and public viewing areas at Burpee/Discovery Center Museum;
308. $250,000 to the Central Illinois Regional Museum, City of Peoria, Illinois for design and construction of Central Illinois Regional Museum;
309. $900,000 to the Chicago Academy High School in Chicago, Illinois for construction of a campus park;
310. $150,000 to the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center in Chicago, Illinois for expansion of its facilities;
311. $150,000 to the Chicago Park District in Chicago, Illinois for land acquisition and facilities improvements to expand a park;
312. $200,000 to the Chicago Park District in Chicago, Illinois for land acquisition and facilities improvements for the expansion of a park;

313. $100,000 to the City of East Moline, Illinois for revitalization of downtown;

314. $225,000 to the City of Harvey, Illinois for demolition and redevelopment of property to aid the community;

315. $500,000 to the City of Yorkville, Illinois for the redevelopment of a Yorkville site;

316. $75,000 to the City of Crest Hill, Illinois for redevelopment of Division Street;

317. $100,000 to the Collins Home Project, City of Collinsville, Illinois for completion of the Collins Home Project;

318. $150,000 to the County of DuPage, Illinois for renovation of a nursing facility to be used for nurses training center;

319. $200,000 to the DuPage Children's Museum, Illinois for the DuPage Children's Museum for building renovations;

320. $250,000 to the Glen Oak Zoo, Peoria Park District, City of Peoria, Illinois for design and construction of Africa exhibit at Glen Oak Zoo;

321. $75,000 to the Home of the Sparrow in Lake, Illinois for the renovation of a homeless shelter;

322. $100,000 to the Horizon House of Illinois Valley, City of Peru, Illinois for construction of the Horizon House;

323. $75,000 to the Inner Voice in Chicago, Illinois for upgrades to homeless shelters on the South Side of Chicago;

324. $100,000 to the Lincoln Christian College, City of Lincoln, Illinois for the restoration of the Earl C. Hargrove Auditorium at Lincoln Christian College;

325. $200,000 to the Marklund Children's Home, City of Bloomingdale, Illinois for the renovation of Marklund Children's Home;

326. $500,000 to the Ray Graham Association for People With Disabilities, City of Downers Grove, Illinois for improvements to Ray Graham Association for People With Disabilities;

327. $250,000 to the Rialto Square Theater, City of Joliet, Illinois for repairs to Rialto Square Theater;

328. $200,000 to the Shawneetown Regional Port District, City of Shawneetown, Illinois for construction of a facility at Shawneetown Regional Port District;

329. $150,000 to the Timber Pointe Outdoor Center, City of Hudson, Illinois for construction of Timber Pointe Outdoor Center;

330. $100,000 to the Village of Hazel Crest in Hazel Crest, Illinois for the redevelopment of the area around Hazel Crest Metra Station;

331. $160,000 to the Village of Orion, Illinois for lead-based paint removal;

332. $75,000 to the Village of South Jacksonville, Illinois for construction of a playground and park for disabled children;

333. $500,000 for the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition in Springfield, IL, for the Looking for Lincoln economic development and tourism initiative;

334. $800,000 for the Peace and Education Coalition in Chicago, IL, for construction of a new facility to serve San Miguel Schools in the City's Back of the Yards neighborhood;

335. $300,000 to the Haymarket Center in Chicago, IL, for construction and establishment of the McDermott Addiction Center;

336. $200,000 for the Quincy Public Library in Quincy, IL, for a newspaper digitization and community education project;

337. $200,000 to the Community Foundation of Decatur/Macon County for construction and rehabilitation of housing facilities for the homeless and disabled;

338. $200,000 to the Heartland Community Health Center for equipment and facilities to expand services;

339. $250,000 to the Chicago Historical Society for construction of a new Chicago History Exhibition and redevelopment of current facilities;

340. $200,000 for Home Sweet Home Ministries—Threshold program located in the City of Bloomington, IL for the construction of an additional housing facility;

341. $250,000 for the Village of Northfield, IL for construction of pedestrian and bicycle paths as well as other infrastructure improvements to the Northfield Park District;

342. $200,000 for the Township of North Hurricane, IL for construction of a multi-purpose building within Precinct 1 of the Township;

343. $100,000 to Crane Technology Park in Martin County, Indiana for improvements to the Park;

344. $500,000 to Memorial Coliseum Redevelopment, Indiana for the renovation of Memorial Coliseum Redevelopment;

345. $250,000 to the African American Achievers Youth Corporation in Gary, Indiana for renovations of the Glen Theater;

346. $250,000 to the City of Muncie, Indiana for enhancements to Urban Park;

347. $150,000 to the Crossroad of Fort Wayne, City of Fort Wayne, Indiana for the construction of a new building for Crossroad;

348. $100,000 to the Easter Seals Arc of NE Indiana, City of Fort Wayne, Indiana for construction of a new facility for Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana;

349. $500,000 to the South Bend Heritage Foundation, Indiana for neighborhood economic development and revitalization;

350. $250,000 to the Studebaker Corridor, Indiana for the redevelopment of a brownfield site;

351. $500,000 to the Town of Cedar Lake, Indiana for downtown streetscape improvements;

352. $500,000 for the City of Muncie, Indiana to revitalize the downtown urban park;

353. $250,000 for the Learning Collaborative to implement the Web Portal Technology Development Initiative in Daviess County;

354. $250,000 for the City of Anderson, Indiana to expand the Fiber Optic Network;

355. $150,000 for the City of Indianapolis, IN for the Link Savoy Housing Development;

356. $100,000 for the City of Evansville, IN for the Center City Industrial Park;

357. $100,000 for the City of Fort Wayne, IN for the Fort Wayne Technology Center;

358. $200,000 to SAFEHOME, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas for building acquisition;

359. $100,000 to the City of Atchison, Kansas for the redevelopment of a storm water system overflow;

360. $250,000 to the City of Fort Scott, Kansas for restoration of historic buildings and brick streets in the downtown area;

361. $250,000 to the City of Independence, Kansas for renovations to historic Landon House and Booth Theater;

362. $300,000 to the City of Wichita, Kansas for construction of food bank central distribution facility;

363. $250,000 to the City of Wichita, Kansas for the downtown WaterWalk revitalization project;

364. $300,000 to the Lord's Diner, Catholic Diocese of Wichita, City of Wichita, Kansas for expansion of Lord's Diner of Wichita;

365. $200,000 to the World Impact: Morning Star Ranch, City of Florence, Kansas for construction and upgrades of the World Impact Morning Star Ranch;

366. $150,000 to the YWCA of Greater Kansas City in Kansas City, Kansas for expansion of the facility;

367. $1,000,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City for the construction of the Heathwood Community Center for Children and Families in Wyandotte County, KS;

368. $500,000 for Sedwick County, KS for the construction of a Technical Education and Training Center;

369. $300,000 for the City of Fort Scott, KS for the redevelopment of underground infrastructure in the Central Business District;

370. $200,000 for the City of Topeka, KS for renovating and updating Heartland Park Topeka;

371. $500,000 for the City of Mission Kansas to ensure the future viability of business and residential districts near the Rock Creek Project;

372. $500,000 for the City of Fairview, Kansas to ensure the future viability of business and residential districts near the Rock Creek Project;

373. $350,000 Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Somerset, KY for construction of the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitors Center;

374. $75,000 to Crittenden County Day Care Center, Crittenden County, Kentucky for expansion of the Crittenden County Day Care Center;

375. $100,000 to LaRue County Fiscal Court, LaRue County, Kentucky for construction of a facility for the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration in 2008;

376. $150,000 to Powell County Fiscal Court in Powell County, Kentucky for the construction and development of a park;

377. $250,000 to the Community Economic Empowerment Corporation, City of Louisville, Kentucky for the construction of an entertainment facility for the Community Economic Empowerment Corporation;

378. $350,000 to the Day Spring Foundation, City of Louisville, Kentucky for construction of a community resource center for Day Spring Foundation;

379. $100,000 to the Dream Foundation, Inc., City of Louisville, Kentucky for construction of a playground in Shawnee Park;

380. $100,000 to the First Gethsemane Center for Family Development, City of Louisville, Kentucky for the renovation of First Gethsemane Center for Family Development;

381. $200,000 to the Fleming County Industrial Authority, Kentucky for construction of a building;

382. $150,000 to the LaRue County Fiscal Court, Hardin County, Kentucky for renovation of an historic state theater;

383. $100,000 to the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy, City of Louisville, Kentucky for construction of a playground in the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy;

384. $100,000 to the New Zion Community Foundation, City of Louisville, Kentucky for renovation of a facility for the New Zion Community Foundation;

385. $500,000 to the Portal 31 Exhibition Mine Site, City of Lynch, Kentucky for historic preservation of the Portal 31 Exhibition Mine Site;

386. $350,000 to the Temple Community Development Corporation, City of Louisville, Kentucky for the renovation of a facility for the Temple Community Development Corporation;

387. $70,000 to the Tompkinsville Senior Citizen Housing Complex, City of Pontotoc, Mississippi for the completion of the Tompkinsville Senior Citizen Housing Complex;

388. $500,000 to the Visions of Eastern Kentucky, City of Manchester, KY for facility construction;

389. $600,000 for the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet to develop a visitor center at the Big Bone Lick State Park;

390. $200,000 for McCracken County Fiscal Court to construct an Emergency Services Building;

391. $200,000 for Clinton County to develop and construct a Welcome Center;

392. $100,000 to Livingston Parish Veterans' Memorial Plaza, Louisiana for construction of Livingston Parish Veterans' Memorial Plaza;

393. $250,000 to Loyola University New Orleans, Louisiana for renovations and upgrades to a facility;

394. $225,000 to the City of Covington, Louisiana to build a trailhead plaza;

395. $250,000 to the City of Grand Isle, Louisiana for construction of a multiplex center;
396. $500,000 to the City of Opelousas, Louisiana for Phase I of recreation improvements;
397. $250,000 to the National Center for Community Renewal (NCCR), City of Shreveport, Louisiana for renovations to a donated building in Shreveport;
398. $180,000 to the Village of Sun, City of St. Tammany, Louisiana for repairs to the Town Hall and Community Center;
399. $250,000 for Alexandria Central Economic Development District, to develop the Alexandria Riverfront Development;
400. $250,000 for Ascension Parish, to develop the Lamar Dixon Exposition Center;
401. $500,000 for the Audubon Nature Institute for the Audubon Living Science Museum and Wetlands Center in New Orleans, Louisiana;
402. $500,000 for Lafourche Parish for waterfront development along Bayou Lafourche in Ascension, Asumption and Lafourche Parishes, Louisiana;
403. $300,000 to American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts for the renovation of Reed Mansion and Breck Hall;
404. $600,000 to Banknorth building in Fitchburg, Massachusetts for renovation and construction;
405. $200,000 to Boston Healthcare for the Homeless in Boston, Massachusetts for renovation of its facility;
406. $300,000 to Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc. in Lenox, Massachusetts for facilities upgrade and build out;
407. $300,000 to Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts for construction of a research center;
408. $100,000 to Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, Massachusetts for a feasibility study;
409. $380,000 to Lawrence Community Works in Lawrence, Massachusetts for construction of a design and technology training center;
410. $250,000 to Stetson Town Hall in Randolph, Massachusetts for improvements and renovations of its facility;
411. $200,000 to the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts for renovations of facility for Solutions Development Corporation;
412. $200,000 to the City of Lynn, Massachusetts for the renovation of the City Hall and Auditorium;
413. $500,000 to the City of Medford, Massachusetts for construction and renovation of an outdoor facility;
414. $300,000 to the City of Melrose, Massachusetts for improvements to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall;
415. $1,000,000 to the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts for design and construction of a community center;
416. $100,000 to the City of Sommerville, Massachusetts for renovations and upgrades to its facility;
417. $100,000 to the Community Art Center, Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts for renovation and capital improvements;
418. $300,000 to the Mahaiwae Performing Arts Center, Inc. in Great Barrington, Massachusetts for facilities renovation and improvements;
419. $400,000 to the Main South Community Development Corporation in Worcester, Massachusetts for revitalization of the Gardner-Kilby-Hammond neighborhood;
420. $125,000 to the Mashpee Wampanoq Tribal Council, Inc. in Massachusetts for renovation of a facility;
421. $200,000 to the Merrimack Repertory Theater in Lowell, Massachusetts for renovation of facilities;
422. $100,000 to the Narrows Center in Fall River, Massachusetts for renovations and upgrades to facilities;
423. $400,000 to the Springfield Day Nursery in Springfield, Massachusetts for renovations to the King Street Children's Center;
424. $400,000 to Western Mass Enterprise Fund, Inc. in Greenfield, Massachusetts for capitalization of a loan fund;
425. $200,000 to Whittier Street Community Center in Roxbury, Massachusetts for facilities renovation;
426. $400,000 Walpole, MA for improvements and renovations to town fields;
427. $280,000 for the City of North Adams, MA for the renovation of the historic Mohawk Theater;
428. $280,000 for the City of Holyoke, MA for renovations to the Picknelly Adult and Family Education Center;
429. $200,000 for the City of Medford, MA for the redevelopment of Medford Square;
430. $280,000 for the Main South Community Development Corporation, Worcester, MA for the redevelopment of the Gardner-Kilby-Hammond Neighborhood;
431. $260,000 for the City of Lawrence, MA for the redevelopment of the Lawrence In-Town Mall site;
432. $250,000 for the Bird Street Community Center, Boston, MA for facility renovations;
433. $200,000 for Straight Ahead Ministries of Westboro, MA for the acquisition and renovation of facilities in Hubbardston, MA;
434. $200,000 for Girls Incorporated of Lynn, MA for building renovations;
435. $250,000 to Dawson Safe Haven for Children, Youth, and Families in Baltimore, Maryland for reconstruction of the Dawson Safe Haven facility;
436. $225,000 to St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Maryland for the renovation and purchasing of technology equipment for Goodpaster Hall;
437. $150,000 to the City of Baltimore, Maryland for revitalization of the East Baltimore Development Project Area;
438. $250,000 to the City of Hyattsville, Maryland for construction of the Renaissance Square Artists' Housing;
439. $250,000 to the City of Takoma Park, Maryland for construction and build out of a community learning center;
440. $500,000 to the Historic St. Mary's City Commission in St. Mary's City, Maryland for construction and renovation of a brick chapel;
441. $275,000 to the Ministers Alliance of Charles County in Waldorf, Maryland for the acquisition, renovation, and construction of a business center;
442. $100,000 to the Towson YMCA Day Care in Towson, Maryland for the renovation and expansion of the Day Care Facility;
443. $300,000 for the Maryland Food Bank in Baltimore for construction and equipping of new food distribution center;
444. $500,000 for the Washington Archdiocese/Langley Park Health Clinic and Social Service Center, Maryland;
445. $450,000 for the East Baltimore Development Project, Maryland;
446. $500,000 for Patterson Park/Library Square Revitalization, Maryland;
447. $400,000 for Goucher College, Community Service Center, Maryland;
448. $200,000 for the American Visionary Arts Museum, Maryland;
449. $200,000 for the Our Daily Bread Employment Center, Maryland;
450. $100,000 to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine for site planning and renovation of a building;
451. $200,000 to the Town of Milo, Maine for the development of an industrial park;
452. $325,000 for the City of Brewer Administrative Building Redevelopment;
453. $300,000 for the Franco-American Heritage Center, Renovation Project;
454. $325,000 for the Bangor Waterfront Park on the Penobscot River for the City of Bangor;
455. $350,000 for the Town of Milo, Maine for the development of the Eastern Piscataquis Industrial Park;
456. $350,000 for the Town of Van Buren: Van Buren Regional Business Park;
457. $350,000 for Western Maine Community Action: Keeping Seniors Home program;
458. $300,000 for the University of New England: George and Barbara Bush Cultural Center for construction and equipment;
459. $200,000 for the City of Portland, Portland Public Library Renovation and Expansion Project;
460. $100,000 for the Penobscot Marine Museum Maine-Mawooshen: One Country, Two Worlds Project—Construction of exhibit;
461. $300,000 for the Westbrook Housing Authority: Larrabee Village Supportive Services for construction and design of facilities for the elderly & disabled;
462. $250,000 to Grand Traverse County, Michigan for a homeless shelter to serve five counties;
463. $400,000 to Grand Valley State University in the Town of Allendale, Michigan for renovations to a research and education facility;
464. $150,000 to Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan for construction and facility expansion of the Olympic Village Project;
465. $550,000 to the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, Michigan for construction of a museum;
466. $250,000 to the Boysville Neighborhood Centers, Village of Clinton, Michigan for renovations to the Boysville Neighborhood Centers;
467. $550,000 to the City of Detroit, Michigan for the demolition of unsafe buildings;
468. $500,000 to the City of Detroit, Michigan for demolition of dangerous structures;
469. $300,000 to the City of Detroit, Michigan for revitalization of Eastern Market;
470. $350,000 to the City of East Lansing, Michigan for the construction of housing units for low-income families;
471. $400,000 to the City of Ferndale, Michigan for the expansion of the existing Kulick Community Center;
472. $100,000 to the City of Frankfort, Michigan for mixed-use development;
473. $250,000 to the City of Port Huron, Michigan for the renovation of areas in conjunction with the city revitalization plan;
474. $100,000 to the Detroit Zoo for construction of the Ford Center for Environmental and Conservation Education;
475. $200,000 to the Jewish Vocational Services in the City of Southfield, Michigan for the development of assisted housing;
476. $300,000 to the Labor Museum and Learning Center of Michigan in Flint, Michigan for construction and build out of a museum;
477. $400,000 to the Lighthouse of Oakland County, Michigan for construction of new homes in Unity Park;
478. $475,000 to the Michigan Jewish Institute in West Bloomfield, Michigan for improvements to campus buildings and classrooms;
479. $200,000 to the MotorCities National Heritage Area in Detroit, Michigan for renovations to the historic Piquette Plant;
480. $150,000 to the Municipal Riverfront Park, City of Farmington, Michigan for trail improvements to Shiawassee Park;
481. $350,000 to the Municipal Riverfront Park, City of Farmington, Michigan for ADA compliance of the Municipal Riverfront Park;
482. $700,000 to the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan for the development of advanced technologies to the manufacturing base;

483. $200,000 to The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency in Pontiac, Michigan for the purchase of 196 Cesar Chavez Avenue;

484. $250,000 to the Presbyterian Villages of Pontiac, Michigan for improvements to the senior wellness center;

485. $350,000 to the Presbyterian Villages of Redwood, Michigan for construction of green housing;

486. $200,000 to the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in the City of Troy, Michigan for material dissemination to homes and classrooms;

487. $250,000 to the Samaritan Center in the City of Detroit, Michigan for renovation of a multipurpose facility;

488. $350,000 to the YMCA of Saginaw, Michigan for renovation of the YMCA of Saginaw;

489. $250,000 to Walsh College in the City of Troy, Michigan for a library expansion;

490. $600,000 for The Enterprise Group of Jackson, MI for the Armory Arts redevelopment project;

491. $600,000 to the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) in Dearborn, MI for expansion of a museum;

492. $600,000 to the City of Detroit, MI for redevelopment of the Far East Side neighborhood;

493. $350,000 to the City of Saginaw, MI to provide for the revitalization of Northeast Saginaw;

494. $300,000 for the State of Michigan for costs associated with the relocation of the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum;

495. $300,000 for Focus: Hope in Detroit, MI for the upgrades to the cogeneration microgrid;

496. $250,000 for the Goodwill Inn Homeless Shelter in Traverse City, MI for construction of a new shelter;

497. $200,000 to the Harbor Habitat for Humanity in Benton Harbor, MI for costs associated with infrastructure in the construction of new homes;

498. $150,000 to the City of St. Paul, Minnesota for rehabilitation needs at the Ames Lake Neighborhood/Phalen Place Apartments;

499. $500,000 to the Minneapolis American Indian Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota for facilities renovation;

500. $100,000 to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, City of St. Paul, Minnesota for the development of supporting housing for homeless youth;

501. $275,000 to the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council in Minneapolis, Minnesota for construction of mixed-use facilities;

502. $550,000 to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Red Lake, Minnesota for construction and build out of a multi-purpose complex;

503. $200,000 for the Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association in Minneapolis, Minnesota to complete the HAMAA Community Center;

504. $200,000 for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Red Lake, Minnesota to construct criminal justice complex project;

505. $200,000 for the Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES) in St. Paul, Minnesota for facility construction;

506. $200,000 for Redwood County, Minnesota for the Material Recovery/Waste to Energy Facility at Lamberton, Minnesota;

507. $300,000 to construct a community, activity center for low-income seniors in Mora, MN;

508. $500,000 to Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri for the construction of a new school for the visual and performing arts;

509. $75,000 to the 3rd Ward Neighborhood Council in St. Louis, Missouri for renovation and preservation of a facility;

510. $150,000 to the Better Family Life Cultural Center & Museum in St. Louis, Missouri for facility construction and renovation;

511. $250,000 to the City of Joplin, Missouri for the renovation of center downtown district;

512. $150,000 to the City of Kansas City, Missouri for project planning and design, demolition, and redevelopment at the Columbus Park Redevelopment Project;

513. $250,000 to the City of Springfield, Missouri for the construction of a multi-purpose community facility;

514. $150,000 to the City of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri for streetscape improvements;

515. $500,000 to the Gillioz/Reagan Theater, Missouri for the renovation of the theater;

516. $250,000 to the Mid-America Research and Development Foundation, Missouri for construction of a Discovery Research Institute;

517. $500,000 for the Liberty Memorial Association in Kansas City, MO for construction and renovation;

518. $250,000 for the St. Louis Bosnian Chamber of Commerce for construction of a community center in St. Louis, MO;

519. $250,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City, MO for RBI construction;

520. $250,000 for the Winston Churchill Memorial in Fulton, MO for construction and renovation;

521. $250,000 for Covenant House Missouri for construction of homeless youth center in St. Louis, MO;

522. $250,000 for Truman State University for construction of Speech and Hearing Clinic in Kirksville, MO;

523. $250,000 for City of Springfield, MO for renovation of the Springfield Commercial Club Building;

524. $750,000 to the Family Support Services Center for Autistic Children for construction of a Center to serve families with autistic children in St. Charles County, Missouri;

525. $500,000 to the University of Missouri for Hickman House preservation, renovation and improvements projects in Howard County, Missouri;

526. $500,000 to the Salvation Army Northland Community Center, to construct a family center and community room Clay County, Missouri;

527. $1,000,000 to the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance for capital improvements in Kansas City, Missouri;

528. $1,000,000 to Better Living Communities for capital improvements for Salisbury Park neighborhood housing development in St. Louis, Missouri;

529. $500,000 to the St. Louis Housing Authority for neighborhood housing development of the Cochran Gardens Public Housing Site in St. Louis, Missouri;

530. $620,000 to the City of Kansas City for Swope Community Builders for the Linwood Housing project, Kansas City, Missouri;

531. $500,000 to the Missouri Soybean Association for test plots for the Life Sciences Research Development and Commercialization Project in Boone County, Missouri;

532. $500,000 to the Mark Twain Neighborhood Association for capital improvements in St. Louis, Missouri;

533. $750,000 to the Students in Free Enterprise World Headquarters for capital improvements [equipment] in Greene County, Missouri;

534. $250,000 to the Advanced Technology Center for construction of Laser/photronics lab complex and classroom in Mexico, Missouri;

535. $750,000 to the Youzeum for construction of youth health museum in Boone County, Missouri;

536. $400,000 to City of Kennett for downtown revitalization in Kennett, Missouri;

537. $550,000 City of Moorhead, Sunflower County, Mississippi for streetscape improvements;

538. $300,000 to Panola County Board of Supervisors, Panola County, Mississippi for the construction of a multi-purpose community facility;

539. $750,000 to Pontotoc County, MS for construction of the Pontotoc County Sportsplex;

540. $200,000 to the City of Meridian, Mississippi for the construction of the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center;

541. $100,000 to the City of Natchez, Mississippi for a long term master plan for community development;

542. $50,000 to the Mississippi State University, City of Starkville,

Mississippi for improvements to the Cornerstone Industrial Park;

543. $250,000 to the Town of McLain, Mississippi for industrial park development;

544. $500,000 in the City of Oxford, Mississippi for the Innovation and Outreach Center;

545. $500,000 in the City of Madison, Mississippi, for the Historic Madison Gateway Project;

546. $500,000 in the City of Tchula, Mississippi for the Tchula New Town

Infrastructure Project;

547. $1,500,000 for the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson, Mississippi, for renovations and improvements;

548. $950,000 for the Education Building for the Jackson Zoo in Jackson, Mississippi, to construct an educational building;

549. $850,000 for the Lafayette County Courthouse in Oxford, Mississippi, to restore and renovate their historic c.1872 courthouse;

550. $800,000 for the Hinds Community College Performing Arts Center in Utica, Mississippi, to construct a performing arts, multi-purpose building;

551. $500,000 for the Mississippi University for Women Facility Restoration in Columbus, Mississippi, for facility improvements and restoration;

552. $500,000 for the Simpson County, Mississippi Courthouse for renovations and improvements;

553. $500,000 for the Jackson Public School-Belhaven College H.T. Newell Field Complex Partnership for facility improvements and construction in Jackson, Mississippi;

554. $600,000 for the City of Collins, Mississippi, to build a multi-purpose civic center;

555. $500,000 for the renovation of the Robert O. Wilder Building at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi;

556. $500,000 for the St. Ambrose Leadership College in Wesson, Mississippi, for restoration of a historic building for housing;

557. $500,000 for Delta State University for economic development activities and campus and facility improvements;

558. $500,000 for the Historical Preservation at Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Mississippi, for the restoration project of existing historic buildings;

559. $100,000 to the Child and Family Intervention Center, City of Billings, Montana for the renovation of the Child and Family Intervention Center;

560. $500,000 to the Montana Food Bank Network, City of Missoula, Montana for expansion of the Montana Food Bank Network;

561. $100,000 to the Montana State University-Applied Technology Center, City of Havre, Montana for improvements to the

Montana State University Applied Technology Center;

562. $40,000 to the Traveler's Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, City of Lolo, Montana for construction of a pedestrian bridge over Lolo Creek;

563. $200,000 for the Liberty House Foundation, for construction expenses in Ft. Harrison, MT;

564. $350,000 for the Rocky Mountain Development Council, to continue the PenKay Eagles Manor Renovation in Helena, MT;

565. $250,000 for the Rocky Boy Reservation's utilization of Malmstrom Air Force Base's excess housing;

566. $250,000 for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Missoula, MT for the infrastructure needs of their new headquarters facility;

567. $250,000 for the Center for St. Vincent Healthcare's Center for Healthy Aging in Billings, MT;

568. $200,000 for the Child and Family Intervention Center to renovate the Garfield School Building in Billings, MT;

569. $200,000 for the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch's Education Facilities Expansion in Billings, MT;

570. $200,000 for the Carter County Museum's Highway to Hell Creek project facilities expansion in Ekalaka, MT;

571. $400,000 for the Big Sky Economic Development Corporation for acquisition and rehabilitation for low-income housing in Billings, MT;

572. $200,000 for the Missoula Aging Services building renovation in Missoula, MT;

573. $200,000 to the St. Vincent Center for Healthy Aging for construction in Billings, MT;

574. $300,000 to the Daly Mansion Preservation Trust for the renovation of the Daly Mansion in Hamilton, MT;

575. $250,000 to CommunityWorks for the construction of the ExplorationWorks Museum in Helena, MT;

576. $200,000 to the Montana Technology Enterprise Center for the construction of lab facilities in Missoula, MT;

577. $250,000 Davidson County Community College, North Carolina for facility and equipment upgrades;

578. $150,000 to Columbus County, North Carolina for construction of a center for the Southeast Community College;

579. $200,000 to DHIC, Inc. in Wake County, North Carolina for a revolving loan fund for low-income homebuyers;

580. $200,000 to EmPOWERment, Inc. in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for a revolving loan fund for low-income homebuyers;

581. $150,000 to Gaston County, North Carolina for technology park expansion;

582. $100,000 to Northampton County, North Carolina for planning, design, and construction of a community center;

583. $50,000 to Spring Creek Community Center, Madison County, North Carolina; for restoration of an old school building to be used as the Spring Creek Community Center;

584. $348,700 to the City of Asheville, North Carolina for the renovation of the Asheville Veterans Memorial Stadium;

585. $150,000 to the City of Durham, North Carolina for facilities construction/renovation and streetscape improvements;

586. $150,000 to the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, North Carolina for the development of a business park;

587. $250,000 to the City of Laurinburg, North Carolina for the demolition of an old hospital;

588. $250,000 to the City of Monroe, North Carolina for the renovation of Old Armory for neighborhood revitalization;

589. $200,000 to the City of Raeford, North Carolina for improvements to the Raeford downtown streetscape;

590. $250,000 to the City of Troy, North Carolina for the implementation of an affordable housing program;

591. $250,000 to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, City of Hatteras, North Carolina for the construction of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum;

592. $250,000 to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for construction, renovation, and build out of facilities;

593. $200,000 to the Piedmont Environmental Center in High Point, North Carolina for renovation and expansion of the Naturalist Education Center;

594. $250,000 to the Sparta Teapot Museum, North Carolina for construction of the Sparta Teapot Museum;

595. $150,000 to the Central Library of Forsyth County, North Carolina for renovation and expansion of the Central Library;

596. $50,000 to the Town of Dobbins Heights, North Carolina for the redevelopment of downtown;

597. $150,000 to the Town of Zebulon, North Carolina for land acquisition;

598. $250,000 to the UNC Asheville Science and Multimedia Center, City of Asheville, North Carolina; for construction of a new science and multi-media building;

599. $150,000 to the Western Carolina University Center for Engineering Technologies, Town of Cullowhee, North Carolina for interior building renovations to the Center for Engineering Technologies at Western Carolina University;

600. $200,000 to UDI Community Development Corporation in Durham, North Carolina for construction/renovation and build out of an industrial park facility;

601. $400,000 for Renovations to the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum in Harkers Island, NC;

602. $200,000 to the City of Kannapolis, NC for the rehabilitation of the Pillowtex Plant 1 site;

603. $250,000 for New River Community Partners, Inc., in Sparta, NC for the Sparta Teapot Museum;

604. $200,000 for Catawba Science Museum to renovate and expand exhibitions in Hickory, NC;

605. $200,000 for Military Business Park Development in Fayetteville, NC;

606. $250,000 for the City of Wilmington, NC, for the Downtown Park & Open Space Initiative;

607. $250,000 for the City of Fayetteville, NC, for the Military Business Park;

608. $250,000 for the City of Asheville, NC, for the Veterans Memorial Restoration;

609. $350,000 to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Residential Facilities in North Dakota for construction and renovation of its three facilities;

610. $250,000 for the Northwest Ventures Communities, Minot, ND for the construction of the Northwest Career and Technology Center;

611. $200,000 for the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND for the construction of family housing;

612. $350,000 for the City of Killdeer, ND to construct a community activity center;

613. $400,000 for the City of Rugby, ND to support construction and other projects within two North Dakota REAP Zones;

614. $300,000 for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND for facilities at their Minot location;

615. $350,000 for the UND Center for Innovation Foundation in Grand Forks, ND for the Ina Mae Rude Entrepreneur Center;

616. $300,000 for the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association, Bismarck, ND for the construction of the National Energy Technology Training and Education Facility;

617. $200,000 for the Minot Area Community Development Foundation, Minot, ND for the Prairie Community Development Center;

618. $200,000 for the Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, ND for the Turtle Mountain Community College Vocational Educational Center;

619. $150,000 to Peru State College, Nebraska for construction of a new technology building;

620. $200,000 to the Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Columbus, NE for renovations to the Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska;

621. $400,000 to the City of Lincoln, Nebraska for the revitalization of the Antelope Valley Neighborhood Project;

622. $250,000 to the Girls and Boys Town USA, Nebraska for the national priorities of Girls and Boys Town USA;

623. $100,000 to the Tech Auditorium Restoration Committee, City of Omaha, Nebraska for the restoration of Tech Auditorium;

624. $100,000 to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln for the expansion of rural business enterprise development;

625. $100,000 to the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial, City of Red Cloud, Nebraska for renovations to the historic Moon Block building;

626. $200,000 to Thurston County, Nebraska for the renovation of the Thurston County Courthouse;

627. $1,000,000 for Metro Community College's Health Careers and Science Building in the City of Omaha;

628. $200,000 for Thurston County Courthouse renovation in the City of Pender;

629. $200,000 for the Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska's Columbus Family Resources Center in the City of Columbus;

630. $200,000 for the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation's Moon Block restoration project in the City of Red Cloud;

631. $200,000 for Clarkson College's Central Student Service Center Facility in the City of Omaha;

632. $200,000 for University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Enterprise Development in Rural Nebraska in the City of Lincoln;

633. $950,000 for a parking facility as part of the Joslyn Art Museum Master Plan, in Omaha, Nebraska;

634. $100,000 to the Bethlehem Redevelopment Association, New Hampshire for the renovation of Main Street performing arts theater;

635. $150,000 to the City of Concord, New Hampshire for site preparation for improvements to White Park;

636. $100,000 to the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire for construction of an environmentally responsible library;

637. $100,000 to the New Hampshire Community Technical College for construction of an academic learning center at the New Hampshire Community Technical College;

638. $225,000 to the Town of Temple, New Hampshire for restoration of Temple Town Hall;

639. 450,000 for Families in Transition, Manchester, New Hampshire for the Mothers and Children: Staying Together Recovery Center;

640. 350,000 for New Hampshire Community Technical College System, Conway, New Hampshire for the Consortium-Based Academic Center;

641. 200,000 for Gibson Center, Madison, New Hampshire for the preservation of senior housing at Silver Lake Landing;

642. $500,000 for the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, manufactured housing park program

643. $200,000 for the Monadnock, NH, Township home owner initiative

644. $400,000 for the Derry, NH, Senior Center project

645. $600,000 for the Manchester, NH, YWCA project

646. $400,000 for the Nashua, NH, Downtown Riverfront Opportunity Program

647. $400,000 for the Student Conservation Association service center, New Hampshire

648. $400,000 to 2nd Floor Youth Helpline in Hazlet, New Jersey for construction and renovation of its space;

649. $300,000 to Essex County, New Jersey for economic development;

650. $250,000 to Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Program in Paterson, New Jersey for renovation and construction of a homeless shelter;

651. $100,000 to Montclair State University, New Jersey for construction of a facility at Montclair State University;

652. $300,000 to Morris County, New Jersey for economic development;

653. $150,000 to Oldwick Village, Hunterdon County, New Jersey for improvements to the Village of Oldwick;

654. $150,000 to Rutgers University in New Jersey for land acquisition for Early Childhood Research Learning Academy;

655. $300,000 to Somerset County, New Jersey for economic development;

656. $300,000 to Sussex County, New Jersey for economic development;

657. $100,000 to the Appel Farm Arts and Music Center, City of Elmer, New Jersey for expansion of Appel Farm Arts and Music Center;

658. $90,000 to the Center for Community Arts, City of Cape May, New Jersey for rehabilitation of a community arts center;

659. $150,000 to the City of Atlantic City, New Jersey for the development of a manufacturers business park;

660. $150,000 to the City of Bridgeton, New Jersey for the revitalization of Southeast Gateway Neighborhood;

661. $350,000 to the City of East Orange, New Jersey for upgrades and improvements to recreation fields;

662. $600,000 to the City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey for rehabilitation and construction of the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center;

663. $50,000 to the Martin House Transitional Housing Program, City of Trenton, New Jersey for the completion of the Martin House Transitional Housing Program;

664. $250,000 to the Monroe Township in Middlesex County, New Jersey for the development of recreation facilities;

665. $250,000 to the School for Children with Hidden Intelligence, City of Lakewood, New Jersey for the construction of a new building for the School for Children with Hidden Intelligence;

666. $200,000 to the Viking Village, City of Barnegat Light, New Jersey for renovations to historic structures;

667. $100,000 to the Westfield YMCA, New Jersey for the renovation of the new East Board Street YMCA;

668. $350,000 to West Milford Township, New Jersey for public commercial improvements;

669. $250,000 for the City of Pleasantville, NJ for the construction and renovation of the Pleasantville Marina;

670. $200,000 for the City of Paterson, NJ for the design and renovation of the Silk City Senior Nutrition Center;

671. $200,000 for the St. Joseph's School of the Blind in Jersey City, NJ for the construction of a new facility;

672. $300,000 for the Rutgers-Camden Business Incubator, Camden, NJ for the expansion of the business incubator;

673. $250,000 to the City of Belen, New Mexico for construction of a multipurpose community center;

674. $150,000 to the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico for construction of the Carlsbad Battered Family Shelter;

675. $20,000 to the East Central Ministries, City of Albuquerque, New Mexico for the East Central Ministries enterprises program;

676. $350,000 to the Placitas Public Library, City of Placitas, New Mexico for the construction of the Placitas Public Library;

677. $200,000 to the Village of Angel Fire in New Mexico for construction and development of a town square;

678. $500,000 to the YMCA of Albuquerque, City of Albuquerque, New Mexico for the construction of the YMCA of Albuquerque;

679. $1,130,000 for Presbyterian Medical Services for their Head Start Facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico;

680. $750,000 for the Albuquerque Mental Health Housing Coalition, Inc. for the renovation of the Support Plaza Apartments in Albuquerque, New Mexico;

681. $620,000 for Eastern New Mexico State University in Portales, New Mexico for scientific instructional equipment;

682. $200,000 Otero County, NM, Veteran's Museum Construction;

683. $350,000 City of Carlsbad, NM, Battered Family Shelter Construction;

684. $250,000 Helping Hands Food Bank of Deming, NM, Construction;

685. $350,000 City of Sunland Park, NM, Community Center Construction;

686. $250,000 Sandoval County, NM, Community Health Alliance, Construction and Equipment;

687. $200,000 City of Portales, NM, Rehabilitation of the Yam Movie Palace;

688. $100,000 to Nevada's Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology in Carson, Nevada for expansion of the center;

689. $150,000 to Nye County, Nevada for the development of multifunctional recreational facilities;

690. $500,000 to the City of Henderson, Nevada for improvements and building renovations;

691. $150,000 to the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada for construction of a recreation center;

692. $350,000 to the WestCare Foundation, City of Las Vegas, Nevada for improvements to WestCare;

693. $300,000 for the Pahrump Senior Center, Pahrump NV, for senior transportation;

694. $500,000 for the Nathan Adelson Hospice, Henderson, NV, for an adult day care center;

695. $200,000 for the Ridge House, Reno, NV, for the purchase or acquisition of facilities for the Reentry Resource Center;

696. $500,000 for the University of Nevada-Reno to provide a Small Business Development Center;

697. $500,000 for the City of Las Vegas, Nevada for the renovation of the Old Post Office;

698. $350,000 for the City of Reno, Nevada to provide Fourth St. Corridor Enhancements;

699. $300,000 for the City of Pahrump/Nye County, Nevada Fairgrounds Project;

700. $500,000 for Wadsworth, Nevada to provide a Community Center;

701. $200,000 for the City of Sparks, Nevada for the Deer Park Facility Renovation Project;

702. $250,000 for the City of Reno, Nevada to provide a Food Bank of Northern Nevada Regional Distribution Facility Project;

703. $350,000 to Amherst Chamber of Commerce Inc., Erie County, New York for the Suburban Solutions Center;

704. $150,000 to Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities in Queens, New York for renovation of economic development facilities;

705. $400,000 to Fordham University in Bronx, New York for the construction of a multipurpose center;

706. $150,000 to Genesee Country Village & Museum, Monroe County, New York for construction of education center classrooms;

707. $150,000 to Greater Brockport Development Corporation, Monroe County, New York for the rehabilitation of historic Whiteside Barnett and Co. Agricultural Works property;

708. $75,000 to Mamaroneck Village, New York for a pedestrian streetscape program;

709. $250,000 to Operation Oswego County, Oswego County, New York, for the development of Riverview Business Park;

710. $250,000 to Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, New York for facility expansion;

711. $250,000 to Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn, New York for construction of a visitor's center and upgrades to its facilities;

712. $350,000 to Shaker Museum and Library, Columbia County, New York for restoration of historic Great Stone Barn;

713. $150,000 to State University of New York College at Brockport, Monroe County, New York for construction of a research and education center at the State University of New York College, Brockport;

714. $150,000 to Sunnyside Community Services in Queens, New York for construction of a senior center;

715. $150,000 to the 39th Street Recreation Center, New York Department of Parks for the renovation of a recreation center;

716. $100,000 to the 86th Street Business Improvement District, New York for streetscape improvements;

717. $100,000 to the Adirondack Champlain Fiber Network (ACFN), City of Plattsburgh, New York for the construction of Adirondack Champlain Fiber Network;

718. $200,000 to the Alfred State College, City of Alfred, New York for construction of a facility at Alfred State College;

719. $200,000 to the Arts Guild of Old Forge, New York for renovations;

720. $250,000 to the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Inc. in Poughkeepsie, New York for improvements to the Bardavon Opera House;

721. $150,000 to the Beth Gavriel Bukharian Congregation in Queens, New York for planning, design, and construction of a building expansion to serve the Bukharian and Russian populations;

722. $550,000 to the Boricua College in New York, New York for renovation of the Audubon Terrace Building;

723. $250,000 to the Breast Cancer Help, Inc, City of Lindenhurst, New York for construction of a center for Breast Cancer Help, Inc;

724. $250,000 to the Burchfield-Penney Art Center in Buffalo, New York for the construction of an art museum;

725. $250,000 to the Catskill Mountain Foundation, City of Hunter, New York for renovations of the Orpheum Theatre and renovations of the Sugar Maples Center for the Arts;

726. $450,000 to the City College of New York for the planning, design, and construction of the Center for Public Service;

727. $100,000 to the City of Geneva, New York for construction of community recreation center;

728. $100,000 to the City of Rome, New York for the construction of a community recreation center;

729. $250,000 to the Elmira College, City of Elmira, New York for the restoration of Cowles Hall on the Elmira College;

730. $200,000 to the Federation of Italian-American Organization in Brooklyn, New York for facility upgrades;

731. $250,000 to the Houghton College, City of Houghton, New York for the rehabilitation of Paine Science Center at Houghton College;

732. $150,000 to the Huntington Economic Development Corporation in Huntington, New York for planning and design of a public plaza;

733. $550,000 to the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York for renovation and capital improvements;

734. $200,000 to the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center in Bronx, New York for the construction of a multipurpose center;

735. $150,000 to the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens, New York for facility expansion;

736. $250,000 to the Neighborhood Initiative, City of Syracuse, New York for the continuation of the Neighborhood Initiative Program;

737. $100,000 to the NI—Metropolitan Development Association, City of Syracuse, New York for the Essential New York Initiative;

738. $100,000 to the North Country Children's Clinic, City of Watertown, New York for renovations to North Country Children's Clinic;

739. $150,000 to the Northwest Family YMCA, Camp Northpoint, City of Rochester, New York for construction to the Northwest Family YMCA, Camp Northpoint;

740. $375,000 to the Old Fort Niagara Gateway to History in Porter, New York for rehabilitation of a visitor's center, and $375,000 to Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation for infrastructure improvements in Central Plaza Park;

741. $400,000 to the Orange County Community College in Middletown, New York for construction of a new building;

742. $75,000 to the Pregones Theater in Bronx, New York for renovation of its facility;

743. $75,000 to the Queens Borough Children's Discovery Center, New York City, New York for the construction of a children's discovery center;

744. $300,000 to the Sephardic Community Center, New York for building additions and improvements;

745. $158,000 to the Sugar Hill Industrial Park, City of Alfred, New York for construction of the Sugar Hill Industrial Park;

746. $100,000 to the Town and Village of Fort Ann, New York for construction of the Adirondack Golden Goal complex;

747. $250,000 to the Town of Babylon 9/11 Hometown Memorial Foundation, City of Babylon, New York for construction of 9/11 Education Center;

748. $200,000 to the Town of Brookhaven, Farmingville, New York for demolition and construction of a new Senior Citizens Wellness Center;

749. $75,000 to the Town of Eastchester, New York for construction of a youth center;

750. $100,000 to the Town of Lenox, New York for construction of WWI Memorial;

751. $150,000 to the Town of North Hempstead, New York for construction and revitalization in New Cassel;

752. $100,000 to the Town of Ripley, New York for land acquisition;

753. $250,000 to the Utica Public Library, New York for the replacement of windows at the Utica Public Library;

754. $75,000 to the Village of Elmsford, New York for construction of a new senior center;

755. $75,000 to the Village of Pleasantville, New York for a pedestrian streetscape program;

756. $200,000 to the Village of Tuckahoe, New York for streetscape improvements in the Crestwood section;

757. $100,000 to the YMCA at Glen Cove, City of Glen Cove, New York for construction of children's center for the YMCA at Glen Cove;

758. $100,000 to Utica College, New York for the construction and expansion of nursing laboratory;

759. $500,000 to Warren County Economic Development Corporation, Warren County, New York for facilities construction at North Creek Ski Bowl;

760. $200,000 to the YWCA of Niagara, NY for the computer lab expansion;

761. $250,000 to Alianza Dominicana of New York City, NY for expansion of the Triangle building;

762. $200,000 to SUNY Plattsburgh, NY for the expansion of the Adirondack-Champlain Community Fiber Network;

763. $250,000 to the El Museo del Barrio in New York City, NY for capital improvements;

764. $200,000 to the Central New York Community Arts Council of Utica, NY for the expansion of the Stanley Theater;

765. $200,000 to the City of Canandaigua, NY for the construction of a regional tourism center;

766. $200,000 for the Graduate College of Union University, Schenectady, NY to establish a freestanding campus;

767. $200,000 for the Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, NY for auditorium restoration;

768. $200,000 for the Griffiss Local Development Corporation, Rome, NY for development of a multi-tenant technology office complex;

769. $200,000 for the Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY for building restoration;

770. $200,000 for the Veterans Outreach Center, Rochester, NY for renovation and expansion of employment and training facilities;

771. $100,000 to Carroll County, Ohio for the development of a community center;

772. $250,000 to Columbiana County, Ohio for construction of a new community services building;

773. $200,000 to Connecting Point, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio for facility construction;

774. $200,000 to Ross County, Ohio for development of an industrial park;

775. $250,000 to Starr Commonwealth in Van Wert, Ohio for the renovation of a facility;

776. $150,000 to the Champaign County Preservation Alliance, City of Urbana, Ohio for the revitalization of Champaign County heritage sites;

777. $100,000 to the Cincinnati Young People Theater, Ohio for the renovation of Covedale Center for Performing Arts;

778. $100,000 to the City of St. Clairsville, Ohio for the renovation of the Clarendon Hotel;

779. $350,000 to the City of Cincinnati, Ohio for the construction of community education center on grounds of fire training facility;

780. $250,000 to the City of Green, Ohio for the purchase of Southgate Farm;

781. $100,000 to the City of Lima, Ohio for improvements to riverwalk;

782. $150,000 to the City of Lorain, Ohio for planning, design, demolition, and redevelopment of Broadway Avenue;

783. $175,000 to the City of Springfield, Ohio for demolition of a property to be used for a new hospital;

784. $200,000 to the City of St. Marys, Ohio for renovations to the historic Glass Block;

785. $100,000 to the City of Toledo, Ohio for the construction of Ice-Skating Rinks in City Parks;

786. $650,000 to the Community Properties of Ohio, City of Columbus, Ohio for the Campus Partners Neighborhood Initiative;

787. $200,000 to the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance in Toledo, Ohio for facility construction;

788. $200,000 to the Hocking Athens Perry Community Action, City of Glouster, Ohio for renovations to the Ohio Department of Corrections Facility;

789. $75,000 to the Ohio Glass Museum, City of Lancaster, Ohio for the renovation of a building for the glass-blowing museum;

790. $295,000 to the Ohio Historical Society, City of Peebles, Ohio for improvements to the Serpent Mound State Memorial Visitor Facility;

791. $200,000 to the Ohio Wesleyan University, City of Delaware, Ohio for renovations to the Stand Theater;

792. $1,000,000 to the Springfield-Clark County Community Improvement Corp, City of Springfield, Ohio for the expansion of Applied Research Technology Park (ARTP) in Springfield;

793. $250,000 to the St. Mary Development Corporation, City of Dayton, Ohio for street infrastructure and parking facility improvements;

794. $300,000 to the Main Street Business Association, Inc., City of Columbus, Ohio for mixed-use commercial and residential facilities;

795. $250,000 to the Marsh Foundation in Van Wert, Ohio for renovations to a facility;

796. $750,000 to the Thousand Hills Enterprises, LLC, City of Canton, Ohio for construction of a Community Youth/Recreation Activity Center;

797. $400,000 to the Towpath Trail YMCA Community Center, City of Navarre, Ohio for construction of a library for the Towpath Trail YMCA Community Center;

798. $100,000 to the University of Dayton, City of Dayton, Ohio for redevelopment of Brown and Stewart Street properties at the University of Dayton;

799. $150,000 to the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Ohio for a multicultural business development center;

800. $200,000 to the Youngstown Ohio Associated Neighborhood Center in Youngstown, Ohio for upgrades to the McGuffey Center;

801. $200,000 for the City of Canton, Ohio for the New Horizons Park land and site acquisition, demolition, or facilities construction;

802. $200,000 for Wright Dunbar, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, to construct the Gateway to Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial;

803. $200,000 for Daybreak, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, for the Daybreak Opportunity House land and site acquisition, demolition, site preparation and facilities construction;

804. $200,000 for Catholic Charities Services Corporation, Parma, Ohio, for Parmadale's land and site acquisition, demolition, site preparation and facilities construction;

805. $100,000 for Cornerstone of Hope, Independence, OH, to build a facility;

806. $300,000 for The Preston Fund for SMA Research, Beachwood, Ohio, for the construction and development of Preston's H.O.P.E.;

807. $300,000 for the Defiance County Senior Service Center, Defiance, Ohio, for construction;

808. $250,000 for the Ukrainian Museum-Archives, Cleveland, Ohio, for Phase II Development and construction;

809. $250,000 for The Scioto Society, Inc., Chillicothe, Ohio for the ''Tecumseh!'' Capital Improvement Project;

810. $270,000 for the Lorain County Community College Great Lakes Business Growth and Development Center;

811. $200,000 for the City of Jackson's Day Care Center;

812. $260,000 for Wilberforce University Ohio Private Historically Black University Residence Hall Project;

813. $270,000 for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) Pyramid Resource Center;

814. $300,000 to the City of Pawnee, Oklahoma for the renovation of the Buffalo Theater;

815. $250,000 to the Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc., City of Durant, Oklahoma for an employer assisted housing initiative;

816. $100,000 to the Tulsa Family and Children's Services, City of Tulsa, Oklahoma for the renovation of a facility to establish a one-stop youth and family service center;

817. $100,000 to the Youth and Family Services, Inc., City of El Reno, Oklahoma for the construction of a facility for Youth and Family Services;

818. $220,000 for the City of Ardmore, OK, to construct the Ardmore Community Resource Center;

819. $220,000 for Norman Economic Development Corporation, Norman, OK, to construct an engineering incubator;

820. $200,000 for the City of Ponca City, OK, to construct a museum building and information center for the statue of Ponca Chief Standing Bear;

821. $220,000 for the United States-Mexico Cultural Education Foundation to establish the Center for North American Sustainable Economic Development at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK;

822. $220,000 for the Native American Cultural Center and Museum, Oklahoma City, OK, for construction of the American Indian Cultural Center;

823. $200,000 for the City of Midwest City, OK to construct a community outreach center;

824. $150,000 to the Portland Center Stage Armory Theater in Portland, Oregon for renovations and upgrades to its facility;

825. $150,000 to the Portland Development Commission in Portland, Oregon for urban revitalization of the South Waterfront District;

826. $300,000 to the Richard E. Wildish Community Theater in Springfield, Oregon for the completion of construction of its' facility;

827. $200,000 to the Salem Urban Renewal Agency in Salem, Oregon for rehabilitation of downtown Salem;

828. $200,000 for the City of Lakeview, Oregon to develop geothermal resources;

829. $200,000 for Marion-Polk Food Share in Salem, Oregon to improve and renovate an emergency food distribution center;

830. $200,000 for the City of Pendleton, Oregon to improve and renovate round-up facilities;

831. $500,000 for construction of an education building at the Blue Mountain Community College's Northeastern Oregon Collaborative University Center, Hermiston, Oregon;

832. $250,000 for construction of the Downtown/Riverfront Access Project by the City of The Dalles for the Port of The Dalles, Oregon;

833. $200,000 for construction of a Teen Activity Center at the Santo Community Center in Medford, Oregon;

834. $200,000 SAFE Inc. New Hope Farm, Tunkhannock, Wyoming Co, PA for construction of a community facility for autistic children;

835. $200,000 to Armstrong County, Pennsylvania for rebuilding the Belmont Complex;

836. $500,000 to Bradford County Progress Authority, Bradford County, Pennsylvania for the construction of two business parks;

837. $250,000 to Cabrini College, Pennsylvania for expansion of a community center;

838. $150,000 to Carbon County, Pennsylvania for land acquisition, facilities renovation, and demolition;

839. $200,000 to Greene County, Pennsylvania for revitalization of recreational facilities;

840. $100,000 to Gwen's Girls, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for construction of a residential facility;

841. $100,000 to KidsPeace, Pennsylvania for the renovation to the Broadway Campus;

842. $47,000 to Liverpool Township, Perry County, Pennsylvania for expansion of the community pool in Liverpool Township;

843. $750,000 to Lower Makefield Township, Pennsylvania for construction of the Lower Makefield 9/11 Memorial Garden;

844. $150,000 to North Central Triangle Revitalization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for planning and design of the Triangle Revitalization project;

845. $200,000 to Pine Forge Academy, Pennsylvania for construction of a student center;

846. $100,000 to Point Breeze Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for renovations and upgrades of its facility;

847. $100,000 to the Allentown Art Museum, Pennsylvania for expansion of the museum;

848. $200,000 to the Berks County Community Foundation, Pennsylvania for a Competitive Greater Reading Initiative;

849. $200,000 to the Borough of Mahonoy City, Pennsylvania for improvements to West Market Street;

850. $250,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster, Inc., City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania for construction of the Columbia Clubhouse for the Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster;

851. $200,000 to the Brookville YMCA, City of Bradford, Pennsylvania for construction of an aquatic area at Brookville YMCA;

852. $200,000 to the Bucks County Planning Commission, Pennsylvania for the construction of a community center for Freedom Neighborhood;

853. $100,000 to the Carroll Park Neighbors Advisory Council in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for facility renovations and upgrades;

854. $250,000 to the Chartiers West Council of Governments, City of Carnegie, Pennsylvania for infrastructure improvements;

855. $400,000 to the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania for construction and improvements to the convention center;

856. $250,000 to the City of Monroeville, Pennsylvania for construction of a new center and park for Monroeville Community Center;

857. $300,000 to the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for streetscape of the vendors mall;

858. $250,000 to the City of Sunbury, Pennsylvania for construction of an amphitheater complex for the Susquehanna Riverfront;

859. $150,000 to the City of York, Pennsylvania for improvements to streetscapes;

860. $200,000 to the Clearfield YMCA, City of Clearfield, Pennsylvania for improvements to the Clearfield YMCA;

861. $60,000 to the Coal Country Hang-out Youth Center, City of Cambria, Pennsylvania for construction of a playground facility for Coal Country Hang-out Youth Center;

862. $200,000 to the Corry Redevelopment Authority, Pennsylvania for the redevelopment of the former Cooper Ajax facility;

863. $100,000 to the Da Vinci Discovery Center of Science & Technology, Pennsylvania for the construction of a new facility for science and technology;

864. $100,000 to the Delaware County Community College, City of Media, Pennsylvania for technology infrastructure at the Delaware County Community College;

865. $100,000 to the Downtown Chambersburg Inc, City of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania for renovations to the Capitol Theater;

866. $25,000 to the Fermanagh Township, Juniata County, City of Mifflintown, Pennsylvania for the development of a playground facility;

867. $100,000 to the Gettysburg Borough, Pennsylvania for the renovation of Gettysburg Railway Station as a visitor's center;

868. $150,000 to the Greenville Area Economic Development Corporation, Pennsylvania for the reconstruction of streetscapes;

869. $50,000 to the Hollidaysburg YMCA, City of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania for the renovations to the YMCA in Hollidaysburg;

870. $50,000 to the Homer City School District, City of Homer, Pennsylvania for construction of a new athletic facility;

871. $1,500,000 to the Indiana University, Indiana, Pennsylvania for the development and construction of a Regional Development Center;

872. $1,500,000 to the Indiana University, Indiana, Pennsylvania for the construction of a multiuse training facility in Indiana, Pennsylvania;

873. $250,000 to the Jeanette Downtown Redevelopment Project, City of Jeanette, Pennsylvania for parking improvements to the business district;

874. $150,000 to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for facilities construction and improvements;

875. $100,000 to the Lehigh County Historical Society, Pennsylvania for the construction of a center for LeHigh Valley Heritage;

876. $10,000 to the Marysville Borough Council, City of Marysville, Pennsylvania for enhancements to a public playground;

877. $100,000 to the Oil Creek Railway Historic Caboose Project, City of Oil City, Pennsylvania for upgrades to the Oil Creek Railway Historic Caboose;

878. $200,000 to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, City of Galeton, Pennsylvania for the expansion of the museum's visitor center;

879. $200,000 to the Sawmill Center for the Arts, City of Clarion, Pennsylvania for improvements to Sawmill Center for the Arts;

880. $15,000 to the Toboyne Township, City of Blaine, Pennsylvania for renovations to the baseball park in Toboyne Township;

881. $250,000 to the YWCA of Chester, City of Chester, Pennsylvania for improving the YWCA of Chester;

882. $200,000 to Waynesburg College Center, Greene County, Pennsylvania for a center for economic development;

883. $200,000 YMCA of Carbondale, Lackawanna County, PA for construction of a new facility for the YMCA of Carbondale;

884. $200,000 for the City of Carbondale, Pennsylvania for the South Main Street Economic Development Initiative which is designed to reduce blight along the City's Main Street Corridor.

885. $200,000 for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Corry to acquire a brownfield site in downtown Corry, Pennsylvania.

886. $200,000 for Weatherly Borough, Pennsylvania to acquire and redevelop the Lehigh Valley Railroad Shops and Weatherly Steel Plant complex in the heart of Weatherly, PA.

887. $200,000 for Indiana County, Pennsylvania to acquire the Wayne Avenue Property in Indiana.

888. $200,000 for Armstrong County, Pennsylvania for remediation and infrastructure development on a 14.2 acre of brownfield property in Apollo Borough.

889. $200,000 for Perry County, Pennsylvania to develop an industrial park in New Bloomfield.

890. $200,000 for People for People, Inc. for planning and project development efforts for the Triangle redevelopment projects.

891. $200,000 for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, to develop the Alta Vista Business Park, a mixed-use business park on a former strip mine site adjacent to I–70, in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

892. $300,000 for the Allegheny County Airport Authority in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for site preparation and construction of its North Field Development project;

893. $200,000 for Gaudenzia, Inc. in Norristown, Pennsylvania to renovate and expand its residential facilities;

894. $200,000 for Our City Reading in Reading, Pennsylvania to rehabilitate abandoned houses and provide down payment assistance to home buyers;

895. $200,000 for the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania for the revitalization and construction of Lancaster Square;

896. $200,000 for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania for acquisition, planning, and redevelopment of the historic Irem Temple;

897. $200,000 for the Greene County Department of Planning and Economic Development in Greene County, Pennsylvania for

construction and site development of a multi-phased business park on the grounds of the Greene County Airport;

898. $200,000 for Impact Services Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to renovate, redevelop, and convert an existing building into low-income housing units;

899. $200,000 for the Shippensburg University Foundation in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania for construction of Phase III of the Shippensburg Regional Conference Center;

900. $200,000 for the Partnership CDC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for acquisition, renovation and rehabilitation of affordable housing for moderate- and low-income families;

901. $200,000 for the Allentown Art Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania to expand and modernize its facilities;

902. $200,000 for the Pittsburgh Zoo in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for the planning, site development, and construction of Phase I of its expansion project;

903. $200,000 for Universal Community Homes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for conversion of parcels of land into housing units for low- and moderate-income families;

904. $150,000 to the Commission of Puerto Rico, Office of Youth affairs for the construction of a youth center;

905. $250,000 to the Sports and Recreation Authority of the Community, Puerto Rico for construction of a little league baseball park at Old Ramey Air Force Base;

906. $200,000 to the City of Central Falls, Rhode Island for construction and renovation of parks facilities;

907. $150,000 to the Providence YMCA in Providence, Rhode Island for the construction of a multipurpose center;

908. $200,000 to the Town of North Smithfield, Rhode Island for economic development initiatives focused on technology improvements;

909. $350,000 for the Cranston Public Library in Cranston, Rhode Island for building renovations;

910. $250,000 for Jamiel Park in Warren, Rhode Island for facility improvements;

911. $200,000 for the Town of West Warwick, Rhode Island for the development and construction of a river walk;

912. $200,000 for Meeting Street School in Providence, Rhode Island for the construction of the Bright Futures Early Learning Center;

913. $200,000 for Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center in Providence, Rhode Island for building acquisition and renovations;

914. $200,000 for the Pastime Theatre in Bristol, Rhode Island for building improvements;

915. $200,000 for Family Service of Rhode Island in Providence, Rhode Island for building purchase and renovations;

916. $200,000 for St. Mary's Home for Children in North Providence, Rhode Island for building renovations;

917. $200,000 for Stand Up for Animals in Westerly, Rhode Island for building construction;

918. $300,000 for the acquisition and renovation of the Seniors Helping Others volunteer center in South Kingstown, RI;

919. $300,000 for the expansion and renovation of the Pawtucket Day Child Development Center, Pawtucket, RI;

920. $300,000 for the renovation and expansion of the John E. Fogarty Center to provide services and programs for children and adults with disabilities, North Providence, RI;

921. $200,000 for the City of Woonsocket, RI for the redevelopment of the Hamlet Avenue Mill site;

922. $200,000 to provide for equipment and construction of the Arlington Branch of the Cranston Public Library, Cranston, RI;

923. $1,000,000 Engenuity South Carolina in the City of Columbia for the National Institute of Hydrogen Commercialization;

924. $100,000 to Georgetown County, South Carolina for construction of the Choppee Regional Resource Center;

925. $400,000 to Greenwood Partnership Alliance, South Carolina for the renovation of Old Federal Courthouse;

926. $60,000 to Laurens County, South Carolina for the Hunter Industrial Park improvements;

927. $250,000 to Lee County, South Carolina for construction of a county recreation center;

928. $150,000 to Marion County, South Carolina for constructing of an outdoor wellness facility;

929. $125,000 to the Bible Way Community Development Corporation, Columbia, South Carolina for construction of a multipurpose facility;

930. $100,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee in Florence, South Carolina for renovation and expansion of Florence and Sumter facilities;

931. $300,000 to the City of Lancaster, South Carolina for renovation of the ''Hope on the Hill'' adult education and after school center;

932. $300,000 to the City of Walterboro, South Carolina for construction of Great Swamp Sanctuary Discovery Center and associated streetscape;

933. $500,000 to the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research, City of Greenville, South Carolina for the development of Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research;

934. $200,000 to the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. in Bishopville, South Carolina for construction of the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Park;

935. $200,000 to the Paxville Community Development Center in Paxville, South Carolina for the construction of a multipurpose center;

936. $50,000 to the Progressive Club in John's Island, South Carolina for renovation of a multi-purpose building;

937. $100,000 to the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, City of Spartanburg, South Carolina for the expansion of dormitories and classrooms at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind;

938. $400,000 to the Spirit of South Carolina for construction completion;

939. $100,000 to the Town of St. Stephens, South Carolina for renovation of the Berkeley Senior Center;

940. $75,000 to the Williamsburg County Boys and Girls Club in Hemingway, South Carolina for expansion and upgrading of facilities;

941. $280,000 for the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg, SC for dormitory renovation;

942. $220,000 for Crisis Ministries Homeless Shelter in Charleston, SC for facilities renovation;

943. $100,000 to the Children's Home Society of South Dakota in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for construction of facilities;

944. $100,000 to the City of Aberdeen, South Dakota for renovations to the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center;

945. $150,000 to Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place in Ft. Pierre, South Dakota for construction of the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place;

946. $250,000 for the City of Aberdeen, South Dakota to construct a Recreation and Cultural Center;

947. $250,000 for the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls to expand its at- risk youth facility;

948. $400,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Brookings, SD for Facilities Expansion;

948. $200,000 to the Children's Home Society of Sioux Falls, SD for At-Risk Youth Facilities Expansion;

949. $200,000 to the City of North Sioux City, SD for Community Library Expansion;

950. $200,000 to the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD for the Theater and Lecture Hall Project;

951. $200,000 to the Wakpa Sica Historical Society of Fort Pierre, SD for the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place;

952. $200,000 to the Rapid City Area Economic Development Partnership of Rapid City, SD for the Technology Transfer and Entrepreneur Center Project;

953. $200,000 to Miner County Revitalization of Howard, SD for the Rural Learning Center Project;

954. $100,000 to Clay County, Tennessee for renovation of the Clay County Senior Citizens Center;

955. $100,000 to Cleveland Bradley County Incubator Bradley County, Tennessee for construction of a facility to house small business development;

956. $150,000 to Hamilton County Center for Entrepreneurial Growth, Hamilton County, Tennessee for technology improvements to the Hamilton County Center for Entrepreneurial Growth;

957. $250,000 to The Appalachia Service Project, Johnson City, Tennessee for construction materials for expansion;

958. $250,000 to Knox County, Tennessee for the construction of a senior center;

959. $100,000 to Loudon County Senior Center, Tennessee to complete construction of a senior center;

960. $500,000 to Southeast Local Development Corporation, Polk County, Tennessee for the construction of community projects;

961. $100,000 to the City of Gallatin, Tennessee for construction of facilities;

962. $200,000 to the Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville, Tennessee for facility renovations;

963. $150,000 to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Middle, Tennessee for facilities renovation and build out;

964. $150,000 to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville, Tennessee for facilities renovation and equipment;

965. $50,000 to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee for renovations to the storage warehouse;

966. $150,000 to the Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, Tennessee for construction of a teaching facility;

967. $100,000 to the Tech 2020 East TN Nanoscience Initiative, City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee for the nanoscience research initiative for Tech 2020;

968. $100,000 to the Tennessee River Museum, Tennessee for the expansion of the Tennessee River Museum;

969. $750,000 for the City of Clinton, Tennessee to renovate the Green McAdoo Cultural Center;

970. $400,000 for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee in Nashville, Tennessee for the expansion of its distribution center;

971. $300,000 for the Chattanooga African American Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee to construct the Martin Luther King Business Solutions Center;

972. $600,000 for the Carroll County Watershed Authority in Carroll County, Tennessee for land acquisition;

973. $200,000 for the Big South Fork Visitors Center in Cumberland County, Tennessee to develop new visitors facilities;

974. $500,000 for Technology 2020 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee to support the East Tennessee Nanotechnology Initiative;

975. $250,000 for Smith County, Tennessee for construction and infrastructure improvements to the Health, Senior, and Education complex;

976. $320,000 to Cameron County, Texas for construction of a Boys and Girls Club in Santa Rosa, Texas;

977. $150,000 to Harris County, Texas for the development of an economic development plan;

978. $150,000 to Harris County, Texas for the construction of a senior education center;

979. $250,000 to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas for facility improvements;

980. $500,000 to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Texas for construction of an entrepreneur center;

981. $150,000 to the Children's Museum of Houston, Texas for construction of an annex to a Children's Museum;

982. $250,000 to the City of Abilene, Texas for construction of a new hangar at Abilene Regional Airport;

983. $500,000 to the City of Cleburne, Texas for construction of a new East Cleburne Community Center;

984. $150,000 to the City of Dallas, Texas for planning and design of an Afro-Centric cultural district;

985. $650,000 to the City of Fort Worth, Texas for construction of the Trinity River Vision;

986. $350,000 to the City of Fort Worth, Texas for the Central City Revitalization Initiative;

987. $200,000 to the City of Leonard, Texas for streetscape improvements;

988. $100,000 to the City of Madisonville, Texas for upgrades and improvements to its community recreational fields;

989. $250,000 to the City of Midland, Texas for the renovation of downtown Midland;

990. $200,000 to the City of Nacogdoches, Texas for renovations to The Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center;

991. $250,000 to the City of Odessa, Texas for the renovation of Historical Globe Theatre;

992. $250,000 to the City of Rio Bravo, Texas for the construction of a community center;

993. $150,000 to the City of Tilden, Texas for construction of a community center;

994. $250,000 to the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc. in McAllen, Texas for purchase of a facility;

995. $250,000 to the Foundation for Brownsville Sports in Brownsville, Texas for renovation of a site;

996. $150,000 to the San Antonio Food Bank in San Antonio, Texas for construction of a distribution facility;

997. $1,000,000 to the University of Houston Clear Lake, Texas for construction of a facility for the Bay Area Business and Technology Center at the University of Houston Clear Lake;

998. $100,000 to the WCIT 2006, Inc., City of Austin, Texas for construction of International Center of Austin;

999. $400,000 for the Dallas Women's Museum in Dallas, Texas to conduct renovations;

1000. $200,000 for the Houston Hispanic Forum of Houston, Texas to provide the historic preservation and renovation of the Houston Light Guard Armory into the Hispanic Cultural and Educational Center;

1001. $200,000 for Polk County, Texas to restore the Polk County Annex;

1002. $200,000 to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce in Arlington, Texas to establish the Arlington Entrepreneur Center;

1003. $200,000 to the City of Fort Worth, Texas for the Central City revitalization initiative;

1004. $200,000 to the World Congress on Information Technology in Austin, Texas for convention center renovations;

1005. $200,000 to the City of Commerce, Texas for a new city hall facility;

1006. $200,000 to the City of Hillsboro, Texas for the district warehouse development project;

1007. $200,000 to the City of Dallas, Texas for the Dallas Fair Park Commercial District;

1008. $300,000 to the City of Lufkin, Texas for the convention center initiative;

1009. $200,000 for the Los Fresnos Texas Boys and Girls Club, Los Fresnos, TX for planning, design and facility construction;

1010. $200,000 to Sandy City, Utah for streetscape improvements and revitalization efforts;

1011. $250,000 to the City of Riverton, Utah for the construction of Nature Center;

1012. $250,000 to the City of Riverton, Utah for the reconstruction of Old Dome Meeting Hall;

1013. $150,000 to the College of Eastern Utah in Blanding, Utah for construction of a building on its campus;

1014. $600,000 for the City of Provo, Utah to build the Provo Community Arts Center in the City of Provo;

1015. $200,000 for the City of Hyrum, Utah to build the Hyrum Library and Museum Complex in the City of Hyrum;

1016. $1,000,000 for Sandy City, Utah, for the revitalization of the city's original historic district;

1017. $1,200,000 for the City of Blanding's College of Eastern Utah—San Juan Campus, for the construction of a library community multipurpose building;

1018. $800,000 for Summit County, Utah, for improvements to the Utah Olympic Park facilities;

1019. $100,000 to Fairfax County, Virginia for creation of the Housing Counseling Information and Technology Center;

1020. $150,000 to Henrico County, Virginia for site preparation and construction of a war memorial and visitor's center;

1021. $100,000 to Prince William County, Virginia for improvements to the Nokesville streetscape;

1022. $200,000 to the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority in Alexandria, Virginia for renovations of the Family Resource Learning Center;

1023. $50,000 to the American Armoured Foundation, Inc. Tank Museum in Danville, Virginia for development of the museum;

1024. $250,000 to the Barns of Rose Hill, City of Berryville, Virginia for the restoration of Barns of Rose Hill;

1025. $400,000 to the Bayview Citizens for Social Justice Inc., Virginia for construction of a community center;

1026. $250,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Alexandria in Alexandria, Virginia for renovation and expansion of facilities;

1027. $250,000 to the City of Chesapeake, Virginia for improvements to the Poindexter streetscape;

1028. $150,000 to the City of Staunton, Virginia for building renovations and improvements to downtown buildings;

1029. $250,000 to the County of Northampton, Virginia for the construction of a recreational facility;

1030. $150,000 to the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia for construction of the Virginia Packaging Applications Center;

1031. $100,000 to the Falls Church Education Foundation in Falls Church, Virginia for planning and expansion of Mt. Daniel Elementary School;

1032. $100,000 to the Harrisonburg Children's Museum, Virginia for renovations to the museum;

1033. $150,000 to the Jubal A. Early Preservation Trust, Virginia for restoration of the Jubal A. Early homeplace;

1034. $100,000 to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in Bedford County, Virginia for construction of the National D-Day Memorial;

1035. $300,000 to the Northern Virginia Community College, City of Manassas, Virginia for construction of a technology building at the Northern Virginia Community College;

1036. $100,000 to The Prizery in South Boston, Virginia for restoration to the community arts center;

1037. $250,000 to the Southwestern Virginia Food Bank in Roanoke, Virginia for renovations to the food bank;

1038. $75,000 to the Town of Boydton, Virginia for revitalization projects in the central business district;

1039. $50,000 to the Town of Charlotte Court House, Virginia for the revitalization of the historic Charlotte Court House;

1040. $200,000 to the Town of Vienna, Virginia for the Green Project;

1041. $250,000 to the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum, Virginia for the restoration of USS Monitor artifacts;

1042. $150,000 to the Virginia Historical Society for construction and renovations;

1043. $200,000 to the Virginia Holocaust Museum for construction and renovations to the museum;

1044. $150,000 to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for facility expansion;

1045. $300,000 to the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation for the construction of an education center;

1046. $100,000 to the West Piedmont Business Development Center in Martinsville, Virginia for the expansion of the center;

1047. $50,000 to Thyne Institute Memorial Inc. in Chase City, Virginia for the construction of an African-American historic landmark memorial;

1048. $450,000 to Warren County, Virginia for renovations to the county youth center;

1049. $250,000 for the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia to continue undertaking initial design of the Library;

1050. $250,000 for the Radford University Business and Technology Park in Radford, Virginia to begin site preparation and schematic design of the Park;

1051. $200,000 for the George L. Carter Home Regional Arts and Crafts Center in Hillville, Virginia to restore the historic home to serve as a regional Appalachian arts and crafts center;

1052. $200,000 for the Suffolk Museum of African-American History in Suffolk, Virginia to renovate the former Phoenix Bank of Nansemond for the Museum of African-American History;

1053. $500,000 for the Christopher Newport News University Real Estate Foundation for the Warwick Boulevard Commercial Corridor Redevelopment Project in Newport News, Virginia;

1054. $200,000 for the Mariners' Museum for the USS *Monitor* Center in Newport News, Virginia;

1055. $200,000 for the Total Action Against Poverty to restore and revitalize the Dumas Center for Artistic and Cultural Development in Roanoke, Virginia;

1056. $200,000 for the Appalachia Service Project for its Home Repair Program in Jonesville, Virginia;

1057. $200,000 to the Northeast Vermont Area Agency on Aging in Vermont for construction and rehabilitation of senior centers;

1058. $750,000 for the Preservation Trust of Vermont, Burlington, VT for the Village Revalorization Initiative;

1059. $750,000 for the Vermont Broadband Council, Waterbury, VT for high speed broadband deployment;

1060. $450,000 for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Montpelier, VT for development of affordable housing in Townsend, VT;

1061. $300,000 for Project Independence, Bennington, VT for renovation of the Harwood Hill Farm Facility;

1062. $250,000 for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to build low-income housing and reconstruct downtown Enosburg, VT;

1063. $250,000 for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to construct senior housing in South Burlington, VT;

1064. $250,000 for the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, VT to construct a low-income parent and child center in Burlington, VT;

1065. $200,000 for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to rehabilitate and construct affordable rental housing in Bradford, VT;

1066. $150,000 to Kitsap County, Washington for land acquisition for a community center and park/utility complex;

1067. $800,000 to Mamma's Hands, City of Bellevue, Washington for the purchase of an additional Safe House for short-term transitional shelter;

1068. $200,000 to Skagit County, Washington for land acquisition to assist in the redevelopment of Hamilton, Washington;

1069. $150,000 to Skamania County Wind River Public Development Authority in Washington for rehabilitation and upgrades to existing buildings;

1070. $350,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of King County in Seattle, Washington for renovation of the Greenbridge Community Center;

1071. $200,000 to the Foss Waterway Development Authority in Tacoma, Washington for redevelopment of its downtown urban core;

1072. $250,000 to the Kent Youth and Family Services, City of Kent, Washington for renovations to the Springwood Community Center;

1073. $550,000 to the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington for construction of facilities;

1074. $225,000 to the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend, Washington for construction of its facility;

1075. $200,000 to the Old North Yakima Historic Restoration Project, City of Yakima, Washington for restoring buildings and improving streetscapes;

1076. $300,000 to the Roslyn City Hall Rehabilitation, Washington for rehabilitation of Roslyn City Hall;

1077. $300,000 for the City of Roslyn, WA, for the Old City Hall and Library Renovation Project;

1078. $325,000 for the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, WA for an expansion project;

1079. $500,000 for North Helpline in Seattle, WA for new facility site acquisition;

1080. $500,000 for the Fremont Public Association in Seattle, WA for the Housing for the Homeless project;

1081. $500,000 for the Asian Counseling and Referral Service in Seattle, WA for facility construction;

1082. $325,000 for the Urban League in Seattle, WA for construction of the Northwest African American Museum;

1083. $500,000 for the Seattle Art Museum in Seattle, WA for construction of the Olympic Sculpture Park;

1084. $325,000 for the Seattle Aquarium Society in Seattle, WA for the renovation and expansion of the Seattle Aquarium;

1085. $500,000 Northeast Community Center Association in Spokane, WA for a capital improvement project;

1086. $400,000 for Easter Seals Washington in Seattle, WA for construction of a camp and respite lodging facility;

1087. $500,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of King County, WA for renovations to the Greenbridge Community Center;

1088. $325,000 for the Spokane Symphony in Spokane, WA for renovations to the Fox Theater;

1089. $500,000 for Kitsap Community Resources in Bremerton, Washington, for the construction of the Bremerton Community Services Center;

1090. $150,000 to Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin for construction of an addition to the Gateway Manufacturing and Technology Center;

1091. $200,000 to Manitowoc County, Wisconsin for reconstruction of the Manitowoc County Courthouse;

1092. $150,000 to Monroe Senior Center in Monroe, Wisconsin for renovation of its facilities;

1093. $100,000 to the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin for demolition of a facility for future construction;

1094. $300,000 to the Door County Economic Development Corporation, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin for the completion of the New Launch System at Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding Cluster;

1095. $100,000 to the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation in Wisconsin for renovation of a multipurpose facility;

1096. $200,000 to the Milwaukee Public Schools for a demolition project;

1097. $150,000 to the West End Development Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for revitalization of the city's Near West Side;

1098. $200,000 for the City of LaCrosse, WI to construct the Center for Manufacturing Excellence;

1099. $300,000 for the City of Appleton, WI for construction of affordable housing units at the Appleton Wire Works factory site;

1100. $270,000 for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Racine, WI to redevelop brownfields space for the Racine Industrial Park;

1101. $200,000 for the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI to redevelop a vacant school and provide for the Bronzeville Cultural Center;

1102. $200,000 for the City of Kenosha, WI for construction related to the Columbus Neighborhood Affordable Housing Project;

1103. $200,000 for West End Development Corporation in Milwaukee, WI to rehabilitation a commercial building as part of the North 27th Street Project;

1104. $230,000 for the City of Green Bay, WI, for the Green Bay Waterfront construction and revitalization project;

1105. $200,000 for the City of Milwaukee, WI for construction of the Menomonee Valley Partners Stormwater Park;

1106. $200,000 for City of Necedah, WI to construct a facility for the Juneau County Business Incubator;

1107. $250,000 for the City of Milwaukee, WI for rehabilitation associated with the 30th Street Industrial Corridor-Esser Paint site;

1108. $25,000 Mineral County Historical Foundation for facilities construction;

1109. $2,200,000 to Glenville State College in Glenville, West Virginia for facilities construction;

1110. $550,000 to Greenbrier County, West Virginia for construction of the Greenbrier Valley Welcome and Interpretive Center;

1111. $100,000 to Preston County Commission in West Virginia for construction and renovation;

1112. $25,000 to the Friends of Preston Academy for facilities construction;

1113. $450,000 to the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center, West Virginia for a feasibility study for the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center;

1114. $300,000 to the West Virginia Technical College for completion of a building for a newspaper publishing program;

1115. $50,000 to Wetzel County Commission for construction and renovation;

1116. $1,000,000 for construction, related activities, and programs at the Scarborough Library at Shepherd University;

1117. $1,000,000 for the Wheeling Park Commission for the development of training facilities at Oglebay Park;

1118. $2,000,000 for West Virginia University for the development of a facility to house forensic science research and academic programs;

1119. $1,000,000 for the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action, for renovations to the Empowerment Center in West Dunbar, which will house an array of self-sufficiency programs for low- to moderate-income individuals;

1120. $350,000 to the Ark Regional Services, Wyoming for construction of a National Creative Arts Center facility;

1121. $150,000 to the Dubois Community Project, Wyoming for improvements to the Dubois Community area;

1122. $100,000 to the University of Wyoming for improvements to the Wyoming Technology Business Center;

1123. $900,000 for the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Extension Center (SAREC) in Goshen County Wyoming for construction of a community center building;

1124. $1,100,000 for the Wyoming Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Center (WYSTAR) in Sheridan, Wyoming to expand its substance abuse treatment facility for women with children;

1125. $1,000,000 for the Central Wyoming College Foundation in Riverton, Wyoming to construct the Intertribal Education & Community Center;

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, after being derailed for generations, I am delighted to report to New Yorkers that the Second Avenue Subway is on track and moving with real momentum, thanks to hard-fought battles for funding in Washington and an unwavering coalition of support for the project in New York.

In the last two weeks alone, the Second Avenue Subway has taken two giant leaps forward.

First, New Yorkers passed the Transportation Bond Act, putting $450 million towards the project.

Combined with $1.05 billion in subway funds previously authorized by the State, New Yorkers have now put forward nearly half of the financing for the subway's first phase.

New Yorkers did their part, and now the focus has shifted to the Federal government to ante up for its share of the project.

Last night, the Congress said loud and clear that it will stand strong for the Second Avenue Subway: I'm proud to announce that we've secured another $25 million for the project—giving us five straight years of Federal funding for the subway.

Earlier this year, the Federal Transit Administration declared the Second Avenue Subway one of only two "highly recommended" projects in the Nation.

The other project is East Side Access, which also received a boost from the federal government last night—to the tune of $340 million dollars.

For far too long, New York City residents have been riding some of the most overcrowded mass transit lines in the nation.

So, to my fellow New Yorkers, I say: take heart. The Second Avenue Subway is coming.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the completion of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor gets another step closer today with the House passage of the FY 2006 Transportation Appropriations conference report.

For over thirteen years, I have worked with many others in a bipartisan effort across

north-central Indiana as this project has developed from a design plan, to the first groundbreaking, to this latest step in bringing efficiency and safety to North Central Indiana. I commend Congressman CHRIS CHOCOLA who has provided leadership in the completion of this project and commend the $1.3 million he secured for the Cass County-Carroll County segment.

Included in this bill is a $1.5 million designation for the Hoosier Heartland's most dangerous segment yet to be completed between Lafayette and Delphi. This project continues to be a priority for me and many other community leaders and elected officials along the route.

Also included in this conference report is $750,000 to continue the Lafayette Bus Replacement plan that I have worked on the past several years with CityBus's Marty Sennett and State Senator Brandt Hershman. Earlier this year the, Transportation Authorization bill included $500,000 for FY 2006 and this appropriation places us on schedule to meet $2.5 million by FY 2009.

Finally, Johnson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and significant traffic congestion exists and will only get worse. To assist in local efforts to keep traffic moving and doing so safely, $1 million is included in the conference report to help ease this congestion through a feasibility study for the proposed East/West Corridor. These investments in Indiana's infrastructure will improve safety and efficiency and create opportunity for Hoosiers.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 3058, the FY2006 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Act.

This Conference Report, and the process by which this Body considers it, are another disappointing chapter in the Republican's Leadership's management of this House.

At 5:30 a.m. this morning, the House Appropriations Committee filed this Conference Report. At 8:00 a.m., the Rules Committee met in emergency session to report a rule waiving all points of order against a bill that no one, other than Members of the Appropriations Committee and the Republican Leadership, had seen or read. The Rules Committee waived all points of order against the Conference Report and its consideration. Within hours, the House is now forced to vote on the bill. This process, requiring Members to vote on bills they have never seen nor read, has become the all too common practice of this majority.

The days of filing a conference report, giving Members an opportunity to read it, and allowing the House to consider it without all points of order waived against the bill are a distant memory of a Democratic majority. When Democrats were the majority party of the House, under House Rules, provisions that were beyond the scope of an Appropriations Conference Report were subject to a separate vote. A Member could vote against these types of riders without killing the Conference Report. In the early 1990's, I recall how proud then-Appropriations Committee Chairman Natcher was to bring appropriations bills to the Floor with no authorizing provisions and no points of order waived. Clean bills and transparency are no longer the goal. The new order is to ram through this House the Majority's agenda.

Although there is much in this Conference Report that I support, I regret that the Committee on Appropriations, with no consultation with the Committee on Transportanon and Infrastructure, has made numerous changes to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU), just months after the President signed the Act.

The Conference Report alters the SAFETEA–LU highway formula for distribution of funds to the States to provide more than $600 million in earmarks at 100% federal funding for the chosen few. The Report cuts funding for the National Highway System, Interstate Maintenance, Bridge, Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement, Equity Bonus, Appalachian Development Highway System, and Federal Lands programs in order to finance these earmarks. Simply earmarking every available dollar of the Department of Transportation's discretionary funding is apparently not enough—the Appropriators need to skim highway formula dollars too. The earmarks are 100 percent Federally funded and subject to no reduction like other programs and projects. There appears no limit to the majority's insatiable appetite for highway and transit earmarks.

I also regret that the Appropriators, with the concurrence of the Republican Leadership, have enabled Members and Senators to revisit issues that were clearly decided in the Conference on SAFETEA–LU. We appear to be moving from a time when an agreement could be secured with a handshake to a period in which an agreement is only for today: there is always the opportunity, with an appropriations rider, to get another ''bite at the apple''—fair compromise be damned.

The Conference Report's household goods appropriations rider provides a telling example. The Report overturns SAFETEA–LU's consumer protection provisions that give States the power to enforce federal consumer laws on interstate moving companies.

Just three months ago, the President signed SAFETEA–LU with important consumer protection provisions to address the serious problem of fraud by unscrupulous moving companies. Fraud in the household goods moving industry affects thousands of victims each year, as documented in hearings of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee. Unscrupulous movers offer low estimates, then later inflate the price of the move and hold the customer's goods hostage until they pay the inflated price.

The frequency of such scams increased after federal authority over these companies was transferred from the Interstate Commerce Commission to the Department of Transportation (DOT) in 1995. These responsibilities fell to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and later to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). FMCSA's primary mission is safety, and the agency has few resources to focus on consumer protection. Corrupt movers increasingly exploited this regulatory gap.

In March of 2001, the General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that complaints of consumer fraud in the household goods moving industry rose dramatically from 1996 to 1999. Complaints to DOT rose 107 percent and the number of requests for arbitration to the American Moving and Storage Association went up 750 percent.

In response, and after much discussion in the Conference Committee, we included language in SAFETEA–LU that provided greater protection against unscrupulous ''rogue'' movers. The law authorized state attorneys general and state consumer protection agencies to enforce federal regulations governing the interstate movement of household goods.

Today, the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations Conference Report undoes this protection. The new language prevents state authorities from taking action against established movers, or those who do not egregiously violate federal motor carrier safety regulations, regardless of how flagrantly these companies violate consumer protection laws. It also prevents state consumer protection agencies from taking administrative action against unscrupulous movers, and limits these agencies to filing cases in United States District Courts.

I am disappointed that the Appropriations Committee and the Republican Leadership would not honor the agreements of SAFETEA–LU and allow such a rider to be added.

Although the Conference Report includes dozens of other surface transportation authorizing provisions that were included without the concurrence of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I will focus on only one other provision—which I find truly indefensible. Section 1926 of SAFETEA–LU requires the Department of Transportation to provide budget justification documents to the Transportation Committee and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate with the President's annual budget submission. The budget justification documents provide the line-item detail of the President's Budget that helps the Transportation Committee analyze the programs within our jurisdiction. Although the Transportation Committee routinely receives these budget documents from non-DOT agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction, the Department of Transportation has been reluctant to provide the information without express authorization. Thus, SAFETEA–LU specifically required that DOT provides the documents to the Committee with the President's budget, in February each year.

The Conference Report amends this provision to prevent our Committee from receiving these documents until June, four months after the President's Budget is submitted. Why would the Committee on Appropriations not want an authorizing Committee to have the necessary information to conduct budgetary oversight over the agencies within its jurisdiction? Does the Committee on Appropriations believe that it is the only committee entitled to such budget information? The Conference Report's provision is indefensible and I can assure you that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which provides the mandatory budget authority for the highway, transit, highway safety, and aviation programs, has every right to this information and will restore the SAFETEA–LU provision.

The Conference Report also disregards the aviation budgetary firewalls established under Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The Report cuts the capital investment guaranteed in Vision 100 by more than $500 million.

These cuts, in direct violation of the aviation budgetary firewalls, will directly impact our efforts to address the continued growth of commercial aviation. Commercial aviation is on track to reach 1 billion enplanements by 2015. DOT predicts up to a tripling of passengers, operations, and cargo by 2025. The Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry reported that consumers could lose as much as $30 billion annually if people and products cannot reach their destinations within the time periods expected today.

Yet, the Conference Report dramatically cuts the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Facilities and Equipment (F&E) capital account—the primary vehicle for modernizing the National Airspace System (NAS)—for the second year in a row. Together, the FY2005 and FY2006 Transportation Appropriations Acts have cut the F&E account by almost $1 billion below the level authorized and guaranteed by Congress in Vision 100. The DOT Inspector General testified before the Subcommittee on Aviation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that the FAA could not technologically transform the NAS with only the approximate level of F&E funding provided by the Conference Report.

In addition, according to the FAA's own analysis, two thirds of its $30 billion worth of assets is beyond their useful life. Air traffic control towers average 30 years in age. TRACON facilities average 34 years. Primary En Route Radar Systems average 27 years. En Route Control Center facilities average 40 years and are rated by the General Services Administration as being in poor condition and getting worse each year. The cuts to FAA's capital account will make it more difficult for the FAA to maintain its current deteriorating facilities and equipment, much less technologically transform the system to handle the nation's future needs.

The Appropriators, with the concurrence of the House Republican Leadership, include these and dozens of other authorizing provisions in the Conference Report that we consider today. Votes are cast before the Conference Report is even printed. I regret that so few Members know that it needn't be this way. I regret that the Republican rank-and-file Members allow their Leadership to run the House in such a way. I regret that, under this majority, we may never be able to recapture an appropriations process that made Bill Natcher so proud.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the adoption of the conference report, and yield the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, likewise, I urge everyone to support this bill. It is a good bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) at noon.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, this 15-minute call of the House will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H.R. 2528.

There was no objection.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 603]

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1225

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). On this rollcall, 417 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on adoption of the conference report on the bill, H.R. 2528, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 427, nays 0, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 604]

YEAS—427

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Berman
Boswell
Fortenberry
Hall
Paul
Towns

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1247

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on the conference report for the fiscal year 2006 Military Quality of Life-Veterans Affairs appropriations act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on adoption of the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3058, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 31, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 605]

YEAS—392

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston

Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—31

Barton (TX)
Boustany
Castle
Costello
DeFazio
Duncan
Flake
Franks (AZ)
Green (WI)
Hefley
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kucinich
LaTourette
Marchant
Matheson
McDermott
Miller (FL)
Oberstar
Petri
Poe
Price (GA)
Ryan (WI)
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shuster
Stark
Tancredo
Velázquez
Waters
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—10

Berman
Boswell
Cardin
Feeney
Fortenberry
Hall
Harris
Holt
Paul
Towns

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1305

Messrs. RYAN of Wisconsin, SHUSTER and DEFAZIO changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on the conference report for the fiscal year 2006 Transportation-Treasury-Housing appropriations act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 605 today, the vote on H.R. 3058, Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, I was present for the debate but unintentionally did not record my vote. Had my vote been recorded, I would voted ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 18, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in my family and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 602, 603, 604, and 605. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye' on all four votes.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by Public Law 108–375, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Mr. HEFLEY of Colorado.

And, in addition, Mr. Hansford T. Johnson of Virginia

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1610

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 307. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4133. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

The message also announced that the Senate requests a further conference relative to the bill (H.R. 3010) ''An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, and appoints Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be conferees on the part of the Senate.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 563 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 563

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of November 18, 2005, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

(1) A bill or joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon.

(2) A conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes.

(3) A bill or joint resolution relating to flood insurance.

(4) A bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 563 waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII that requires a two-thirds vote to consider a

rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee; applies a waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of November 18, 2005 providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

First, a bill or a joint resolution making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, any amendment thereto, or any conference report thereon; second, a conference report to accompany the bill H.R. 3199, to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism and for other purposes; third, a bill or a joint resolution relating to flood insurance; and finally, fourth, a bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 563 that the Rules Committee reported in order to ensure that we are able to complete the work of the American people in a timely and a proper manner before the Congress adjourns for Thanksgiving. In the following week, Members from both sides of the aisle will return to their districts to spend Thanksgiving with their families and with their constituents. However, before doing so, there remains important work to be done; and, Mr. Speaker, this rule will ensure that it gets done.

From making appropriations that keep this government running to ensuring that law enforcement has the tools it needs to keep this country safe, to insuring Americans against floods, to finally strengthening the economy while cutting the budget, this rule gives the House an opportunity to move forward on an important legislative agenda, though difficult choices have and will continue to have to be made for the sake of the American people, and for the sake of an agenda of which all Americans can be proud. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution and the underlying legislation for which it provides.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

I thank my friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, let me, before I begin, let me ask my friend from Georgia, does his leadership plan to amend this martial law rule in any way to add any other issues besides the ones that have been listed?

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. McGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentleman from Massachusetts, yes, we will have an amendment to the rule, which I will present at the end of the debate.

Mr. McGOVERN. Could the gentleman just tell me generally what the topic is going to be?

Mr. GINGREY. The amendment would basically say, ''A resolution relating to United States forces in Iraq.''

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day in the House. This House, I think, is about to embark on a process that should dismay every single Member of this House. The only way keeping us from going down this road is I think to vote down this martial law rule.

While I have many strong objections, and many of us on this side have strong objections, to martial rules in general, we have been accommodating in the past when they come to matters like important conference reports or emergency pieces of legislation that we need to get done before the recess. But this matter on Iraq does not qualify in that category. In fact, we just received a copy of the resolution just a couple of minutes ago about what they plan to bring up here.

This is not about a debate on Iraq. This is about politics, clear and simple. I will go further to say that I believe this is a deliberate effort to attack a Member of this House and his views because the majority is afraid of this man and afraid of his views and afraid of his words, so they believe that somehow he has to be attacked, that we need to take some quick action here on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, we should have a debate on Iraq. We should have had a debate on Iraq a long time ago. But what we are about to have is not a debate on Iraq. This will not be able to be amended, there be a limited amount of time for Members to be able to express their views, and, quite frankly, it is demeaning to this institution, it is demeaning to our soldiers, and it is demeaning to those who have raised questions about the war in Iraq. It is demeaning to the American public who now overwhelmingly have questions about this war in Iraq. They want us to take this issue seriously and not just play politics with it.

The fact of the matter is that from the very beginning, the efforts of this leadership have been geared toward covering up all of the facts about the war in Iraq. We were presented faulty intelligence. When we found out there were no weapons of mass destruction, we wanted a full investigation to figure out what actually went wrong, whether any of that intelligence had been manipulated. We were told we cannot have that investigation, we cannot have that discussion.

The fact of the matter is that we have had no formal investigations and no formal oversight of this war in Iraq. We sent a bunch of our soldiers off to war without proper equipment, without the proper body armor and Humvee protection, and this in spite of the fact that a few months before we went to war, we passed a defense authorization bill which essentially ordered the Pentagon to provide our soldiers with all the necessary equipment that they would need if they should ever go into war. Why did not that materialize? Where was the oversight into that?

Tens of billions of taxpayer dollars have been lost in this war in Iraq. We do not even know where it has gone, and nobody can give us an answer, and there is no investigation, there is no oversight, there is no debate.

The fact of the matter is this Congress has been complicit with the White House in covering up the facts. The situation at Abu Ghraib prison, I would argue that that instance probably more than anything else has been responsible for poisoning the hearts and minds of so many people in Iraq and the region. And rather than getting to the bottom of it, rather than making sure it never happens again, what has this Congress done? Covered up. Sweep it under the rug. Make believe it never happened.

You want a debate on Iraq? We should have a debate on Iraq, but not this bit of political theatrics. There are Members who believe that we should end this war immediately. I am one of those. There are Members who believe we should add more troops to the ones we already have in Iraq over there. All of us should have the opportunity to be able to debate this in a serious way.

Do you want to respect our troops? That is how you do it. You make sure we are doing our job. We have not been doing our job, and there is no objective person in this House, even those of you who staunchly support this war and advocate continuing staying the course, who can tell me things are going the way they were planned.

There are none of us in this Chamber who are going to fight in this that war, none of us are going to put our lives on the line, and, with very few exceptions, none of our kids are going to be fighting in that war. So it takes absolutely no courage for anybody in this chamber to wave the American flag and to say, ''Stay the course.''

This is not about a debate on Iraq, this is about political cover for you. This is about finding a way to not answer the tough questions. This is about a way to cover the administration's backside at a time when we should be demanding questions.

Congress should be doing its job, and this process, this process is a disgrace. We owe the people of this country, we owe the troops who are fighting bravely at our request over in Iraq, we owe them much more.

So, Mr. Speaker, this martial law rule needs to be defeated.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment does not attack any Member of this body. This amendment follows the rules of decorum of this body.

The gentleman from the other side just listed a litany of complaints in regard to Iraq. Members on his side of

the aisle even have what is known as the ''Out of Iraq Caucus.'' I do not know if the gentleman from Massachusetts is a part of that membership or not, but we have, this side of the aisle, have heard repeatedly from Members on their side of the aisle, and not just one high-profile ranking member with strong defense credentials. Oh, no. No. We have heard every night of the first session of the 109th Congress from the 30-something Group, several Members on their side of the aisle, pounding this President, coming within an inch or less, Mr. Speaker, of accusing the President of lying, of out and out lying, repeatedly accusing the President of misleading the public about Iraq, demanding the immediate pullout of our troops.

Mr. Speaker, they are going to have the opportunity today on the floor of this House to vote yes or no, do they want us to immediately pull our troops out of Iraq, and that is all this amendment is about.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, anybody who believes that what we are doing today is not in response to the comments by one single Member of this Congress, a Member who is highly respected by both sides of the aisle, a Member who is a decorated Vietnam War veteran, a Member who is an expert on military and defense issues, anybody who believes we are not doing this in response to that, quite frankly, defies credibility. This is a personal attack on one of the best Members, one of the most respected Members of this House, and it is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, how dare you. How dare you. Yesterday, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the ranking Democrat on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, a 27-year marine, a veteran of, I believe, three tours in Vietnam, a well-known conservative hawk, announced that he was introducing a resolution that was meant to stimulate a thoughtful and profound debate on how we salvage a failed policy in Iraq. That resolution was meant to stimulate the kind of hearings that Bill Fulbright ran during the Vietnam War, hearings which could bring in the best military minds and the best experts on the Middle East to try to help us find a new direction to American policy in Iraq.

The reaction of the Republican leadership of this House is nothing short of disgraceful, and, in my view, that reaction dishonors the traditions of this House and this democracy.

This resolution, which is now going to be offered as an amendment to this rule out of the Rules Committee, is nothing less than an effort to drive a stake through the heart of the Murtha resolution, without any effort to get at the facts with respect to Iraq.

For the House to be asked to vote on whether or not we ought to withdraw immediately from Iraq without having the benefit of those thoughtful hearings is a disgraceful abdication of our responsibility to think this issue through clearly and with judgment. I am absolutely appalled, I am absolutely appalled, at this action. It is a cheap political stunt that does a disservice to every serviceman and woman fighting in Iraq today, and whoever thought up this pipe dream should be ashamed of themselves. It brings incredible shame to this House.

If I have to choose between supporting the Murtha resolution, even without these hearings, and the failed, discredited policy that we are now pursuing in Iraq that dead-end nowhere-going policy, I would happily endorse as an alternative the Murtha amendment.

It is irresponsible of the House to be dealing with this in this manner. What this House ought to do is to set aside the cheap political tricks and to address the thought behind the Murtha proposal. This House, instead of politicizing this issue, ought to try to find a way for once to bring people in this institution together, instead of dividing them by phony, cynical, political, outrageously tricky and sneaky maneuvers like this.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that this amendment to the resolution basically says, ''Resolved, that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.'' It does not reference any Member whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of the rule and in strong opposition to the underlying resolution. Our mission in Iraq is clear: Peace through strength, victory through resolve. Those who would have us retreat immediately have forgotten what appeasement does to the Islamic extremist madmen and murderers. Our goal in Iraq is honorable and wise. We must see this through to our victorious end. The choice is that simple, yet that important.

In his 2005 speech commemorating Veterans Day, President Bush affirmed that it is courage that liberated more than 50 million people from tyranny in the last century, and it is courage that will once again destroy the enemies of freedom.

As the stepmother of a proud Marine, Douglas Lehtinen, who, together with my future daughter-in-law Lindsay, is currently serving our Nation in Iraq, and as the wife of a decorated Vietnam veteran, I have witnessed this courage and this commitment to the mission of liberty.

In one of his e-mails from Iraq, Dougie asked that I remind the American people that it was not the United States who asked for this global struggle against Islamic extremists. It was the Islamic jihadists who targeted the free world and our Nation long before we entered Iraq. We cannot afford to yield the victory to the Islamic extremists by withdrawing now.

Dougie forwarded a piece to me just yesterday by Lieutenant General James T. Conway which best summarizes the opinion of many of our troops about the need to stay the course. Conway states: ''Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines realize that the biggest threat to mission accomplishment depends on what their fellow Americans do. The insurgents realize full well that the only choice they have of defeating the U.S. military is to weaken the will of the American population.''

□ 1630

He adds, The insurgents in Iraq maim and kill the less protected Iraqis, but their real target is that portion of the American public that is shaped by the news media.

Let us heed the message from our men and women in our Armed Forces serving in Iraq. They are in the best position to assess what we need to do, and they are asking us not to pull out of Iraq at this juncture. Iraq is at one of the epicenters of the U.S. comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism worldwide.

Our ability to project major Armed Forces to the very heart of the Middle East provides the United States and our allies in the war against terrorism the ability to directly address the tactical and ideological challenges of Islamic extremists. Through the promotion of an incipient Iraqi democracy, we continue our concerted efforts to counter the root causes of Islamic extremists in the region. These radicals are fully cognizant that the emergence of a new and democratic Iraq will inevitably threaten their very survival because freedom threatens them. Democratic governments deny them the funds, the weapons, and the sanctuary that they need to survive. Democracy denies them the new recruits that they need.

As such, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support the people of Iraq in their efforts to strengthen their emerging democracies whose pace of development has been astounding. In January, the people of Iraq turned out in droves to vote in their first free democratic elections. In October, they once again voted to approve their Constitution, and today they are busily preparing for elections in December that will continue Iraq in its transition from a brutal totalitarian state to a free democratic nation. It takes time. We will succeed.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the gentlewoman who just spoke, I

have to tell you, I am tired, I think we are all tired, of the rhetoric. You want to discuss this issue seriously, let us have a real debate, not an hour in which we will debate this resolution that cannot be amended. That is ridiculous. That is demeaning to this House of Representatives.

We are not doing our job. This is about war. We have troops in harm's way. We have lost over 2,000 Americans. We have members of our Guard and Reserves on double and triple deployments; and the best you can do to respond to what is going on, all the mess that has been created over there is to bring this up for 1 hour. This is a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) was a hero in Vietnam. The gentleman is a hero today.

We know that the Bush administration deliberately misled the American public about nuclear weapons in Iraq, about al Qaeda in Iraq. And now out here on the House floor, in a continuation of their deliberate misleading of the American public, they are refusing to have a debate on the Murtha resolution.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has called for a debate on the redeployment of troops consistent with protecting their security and the security of our country and maintaining over the horizon forces to protect our country, to promote democracy and diplomacy that will protect our country.

What this group of Republicans, what the Bush-Cheney White House is doing today is a continuation of the perpetuation of the fraud on the American public. This is not the debate on the Murtha resolution. This is an attempt to undermine the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), to continue their attempt to undermine any critic of their administration rather than having a real debate on the war in Iraq that serves the American people, the American fighting men and women, and every single person in the world.

I have known JACK MURTHA for nearly 30 years and I have enormous respect for his patriotism and his expertise on military matters.

I've heard JACK MURTHA speak about what is going on in Iraq and about the adverse effect that this war is having on our troops and our Nation's security. I agree with him that it is time for us to start bringing our troops home, and I support his proposal to do so.

This is a war that was based on false and misleading intelligence from the Bush Administration about Iraqi nuclear weapons, and which has been bungled at almost every stage by incompetence and mismanagement on the part of the White House and the civilian leadership at the Pentagon. Our brave troops deserve better than to be asked to continue risking their lives for a mistake. At this point it has become clear that our troop presence in Iraq is making the situation over there worse, not better. The Iraqi people need to know that the U.S. is going to end its occupation of their country, and that they need to assume responsibility for their own security.

We should get our troops out of Iraq as soon as possible, consistent with ensuring their safety. Instead of continuing this diversion, which has only harmed America's international reputation, we should refocus our nation's energies on capturing Osama bin Laden and disrupting and destroying the Al Qaeda terrorist organization that was responsible for the September 11th attacks.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE).

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a perfect time to talk about the very brave acts of our men and women who are serving to defend this Nation. I recently led an armed services trip to Iraq. The very first person that I met looked me in the eye and he said to me, Ma'am, do not worry about me. He said, I know what I am doing. He said I know what the threat to this Nation is; and if I have anything to do with it, we will never have another attack on our Nation. He picked up his gear. He said, So do not worry. Just pray for me. And he walked away.

The thing that I brought back from that trip to Iraq, and I realized it immediately, is that these men and women are true heroes. They volunteered to serve in our military and many of them have volunteered to serve in Iraq because they understand the threat that faces this Nation if we were to fail. But what they want to know, Mr. Speaker, is what is America saying and what is America thinking?

They watch C–SPAN. They watch the words that you say. And I was proud to be able to be there in Iraq and tell them the stories of America, about true Americans who value what they are doing who are at Sea World and stand and clap and cheer, the marines that walked through the airport in Ireland on our way back and everyone stood and everyone clapped for those marines.

The reason we are on this floor today talking about this is because the other side has made this an issue; and for the last several months, all we have heard is that we need to bring our troops home.

I do not know if you have seen the letter that has come from a-Zawahiri to al-Zarqawi. One of the quotes in this letter is: ''Things may develop faster than we imagined. The aftermath of the collapse of American power in Vietnam and how they ran and left their agents is noteworthy.''

When the speaker of the Iraq General Assembly came to Washington about 6 weeks ago, four of us went to hear him; and he repeatedly said, there is no other option. When Members of this body went on January 30 to the first election in Iraq, there were two things that they said to our Members: one, you cannot have purple ink on your finger because you are not an Iraqi; and, two, do not abandon us.

Mr. Speaker, we are on the brink of a democracy and freedom in Iraq. If we were to cut and run like they expect us to do, then what is going to happen is the 2,000-plus Americans who have died and given their lives for freedom will be for naught.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we defeat this resolution on the floor today and show those men and women that are watching us on TV that we support what they are doing.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the gentlewoman, if she wants to honor our troops, then give us a real debate. Do not bring this piece of garbage to the floor with an hour left at the end of the day. This is not honoring our troops. We are doing them a disservice. You are politicizing this war, and it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for me as an American, as a Member of Congress, to see that we have reached a point that those who want to be critical of the President's entrance into this war and how it is being conducted now have to be called cowards and we are cutting and running and we are not deserving of being called Americans.

The vicious attacks that are taking place by people who never served their country is really something that is really painful.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has earned the right to have an opinion. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has served this country. The gentleman has served not only in the Army but he served right here in this Congress. And what is he up against? Who are these people making these dirty, nasty remarks against his character and those who support him? They are people who say that we are going to stay in this war until we win; that we are going to fight and die in this war until we win; and we are not going to leave until we win and not one day sooner.

Fight who? Who is going to surrender? What are the conditions? If you can be critical of what the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) is going to say, how can you not be critical of the confused way in which we are getting involved in this war where we do not know what the enemy looks like, we do not know what flag they carry, we do not know who is going to surrender.

It is time for us to be civil. If you want to be concerned about our troops, you have to be concerned about why they are there. And for the President of the United States on Veterans Day, the day that all of us veterans hold so true

and that brings us together, to attack his political opponents on that day and then to send out with his tuxedo-clad Vice President as someone to attack other people, other Americans, this is a sad day.

But the bottom line is if you love these troops like the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) loves these troops, you will be supporting this legislation.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman on the other side complained about not having enough time to discuss this resolution. We will have a minimum, Mr. Speaker, of 3 hours. We are debating right now the same-day rule. Then we will debate the rule on House Resolution 571 and then have the debate on the resolution itself. So there will be plenty of time for Members on both sides of the aisle to express their opinions on this hugely important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has a lot of passion; and when a lot of passion is embracing an issue, things are said that are very harsh and I think at times untrue.

Earlier we heard that there were quote/unquote dirty, nasty remarks against him, referring to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). No one is saying that about the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has a great deal of respect on both sides of the aisle and across the Nation.

This resolution is very simple. It is expressing a sense of the House. It has three lines to it. It says: ''Resolved, that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.''

We are in a war for the Free World, and I think part of what we have to do and understand is the enemy himself. Al Qaeda is not fighting for a religion. They are fighting for political power by using a religion. Their targets on Americans, Jews, secular Muslims, and other Islamists like Shiites and Sunni Muslims.

They have killed and maimed innocent men and women and children from many faiths and walks of life. Their goals are measured in steps that include Iraq and every country from Spain to the Philippines, all under one theocratic government.

They oppose the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to vote, women's rights, education for women, religious freedom. They oppose music, movies, even the right to choose your own clothing, your own education, even who gets to drive. They despise who we are and what we stand for as Americans. And it is spelled out on their Web sites, their videos, their cassette tapes. It is written in their material. It is on the laptops that we have captured, and it is undeniable.

Al Qaeda's goals are confirmed in a letter on July 9, 2005, from Ayman al-Zawahiri to Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi. Al-Zawahiri is the number two man in al Qaeda, the spiritual leader of Osama bin Laden, his advisor. Al-Zarqawi is al Qaeda's director of jihadist attacks. He has been in Iraq since before Operation Iraq Freedom.

In this letter from al-Zawahiri to al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's director of jihadist attacks, al-Zawahiri says, We have four goals. The very first goal is to expel Americans from Iraq.

If this resolution were to pass today, it would be headline news on al Jazeera TV. They would declare victory in al Qaeda, and it would jeopardize every American across the face of the globe. We have to decide where this battle is going to take place. Is it going to be in Iraq where every American carries a gun, or will it be on the streets of New York and Washington, D.C.

I say we vote this resolution down for the safety of our troops and our citizens.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if people do not like this resolution, they can vote against the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN), the ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule.

Earlier today, the Democratic members of the House Intelligence Committee issued a letter to the chairman of our committee protesting his decision to shut down a bipartisan investigation into the intelligence failures that led us into war. Failure to learn from the mistakes of the past is an abdication of our responsibility to the American people and dangerous for our country. If we do not learn lessons, we will repeat mistakes.

It is likewise the responsibility of this House to conduct rigorous oversight over our policy in Iraq. There is now broad consensus in the country that we need to change course.

□ 1645

Many of us have offered thoughtful suggestions to do just that.

Let me be clear, it is not our troops who have failed. They are performing heroically, as are our intelligence personnel. A month ago, on my most recent visit to Iraq, I had dinner with troops from California who are part of Task Force Baghdad. They are doing an outstanding job.

Reasonable people can differ on whether we should redeploy troops in 6 months or 16 months and what events should drive that redeployment, but today we stand united that a change of course is urgently needed. We stand united behind the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), our colleague, a 37-year veteran who has had his patriotism attacked by the White House, but who is not backing down, and we stand united that the Republican leadership should not use a stunt like this to score political points.

In case anyone missed it, the terrorists do not care whether we are Democrats or Republicans. They are not going to check our party registration before they blow us up.

I take a back seat to no one in my efforts to craft bipartisan solutions to problems. Iraq policy is failing, and it is time for this House to be bipartisan as the Senate was earlier this week, and it is way past time for this White House to give us a serious strategy and to clarify its intentions with respect to no permanent bases, no design on Iraqi oil, and a plan to help build true power sharing among the ethnic factions and true operational capability in the Iraqi security forces.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule. This resolution is intended to divide us, to put partisanship in the way of patriotism.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker I yield 2¾ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I must say, Scoop Jackson must be spinning in his grave. The late Democrat Senate leader would be shocked to see his party has now been taken over by Michael Moore and Cindy Sheehan and the radical extremists on the left who do not like George Bush so much that now they are going to put danger to our troops by siding with the terrorists that it is time for an immediate pullout.

I plan to vote ''no'' on the Democrat resolution for immediate pullout. I think it is irresponsible, and it definitely sends the wrong message to our troops.

I represent the 3rd Infantry Division. I am proud to represent the 3rd Infantry Division. I know many of these soldiers. I have dealt with them. I have gone to their funerals. I have gone to their services, and I would like to quote what the leading General said, General Webster, yesterday, who is in charge of the 3rd Infantry, the troops on the ground, and I am proud to say is a friend of mine, and I am proud to say is an extremely thoughtful and patriotic, brave American. General Webster said, in response to the Democrat call for immediate withdrawal, ''Setting a date would mean that the 221 soldiers I've lost this year, that their lives would have been lost in vain.''

He continued to say that Iraq's armed factions would likely take a cue from a timetable for a U.S. withdrawal to lie low, gathering their strength and laying plans for renewed conflict as soon as Americans leave. In fact, the Democrat Party now seems to be taking their cue from France: Lose, leave and wait.

The Democrats seem to want to cut and run and dishonor the sacrifices of those who are doing such a great job already. The President has said, and as much as the Democrats hate sometimes, it appears, the President's policies, he said, ''Our strategy is to clear, hold, and build.''

What have we done is we have rounded up 116 al Qaeda rulers. A number of tips from the indigenous folks on the ground have risen from 442 in February

to 3,341 today. That is cooperation by the Iraqis themselves. We have trained 210,000 Iraqi security forces, and we have more than 20 operating bases that are ready that they are doing a good job of. We have rebuilt 3,404 schools, 304 water and sewer treatment facilities, 257 fire/police stations, and 149 health services. This is progress.

Mr. Speaker, they just overwhelmingly passed a resolution adopting a new Constitution October 15, and in December, they are going to have their own elections for their own government. That is progress. Do not cut and run. Stand firm with our troops.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman may inquire.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The gentleman from Georgia just referred to this as a Democratic resolution. I would like to inquire of the Chair if he knows who introduced this legislation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman stated a parliamentary inquiry.

The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman from Massachusetts has stated a parliamentary inquiry. The chair can only identify the Member who introduced the legislation, which was Congressman HUNTER.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Congressman HUNTER, a Republican?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I have served in this House for 22 years, all of them on the House Armed Services Committee, and my esteem for the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the wisdom he has accrued over defense and military matters has increased every year. He is a real American. He is a patriot. He is a marine. He is the best embodiment of Semper Fidelis that I have ever known.

He made a proposal yesterday that I, myself, do not fully agree, but I have profound respect for the man who made it, and I watched the pain that he experienced as he agonizingly laid out what the conclusions were that he had come to. To take this proposal and trash it, trivialize it is outrageous. To treat JACK MURTHA this way, a great American, a wonderful patriot, is beneath contempt.

This resolution takes a profound issue we face, whether and when we wage war, and makes it another cheap pawn in the political process. You present a resolution that purports to be a facsimile or proxy of JACK MURTHA's resolution when it is nothing of the kind, nothing of the kind, and then you dare to call it something it is not, a Democratic resolution.

This is outrageous, Mr. Speaker, and all I can say is, at long last, have you no shame?

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

I believe it is imperative in this body that we have an open and frank dialogue on issues that are of concern to us. I am disturbed and disappointed, frankly, by some of the rhetoric I have heard, because we are judged and we are acquitted and/or we are found guilty by those words, but the luxury we have is they are simply words here.

The impact of those words, though, on the other side of the ocean, in the AOR, in Iraq and Afghanistan, is that in this small world, not only do our friends but also our enemies watch, and they do not understand our concept of openness, of tolerance, of free speech and spirited dialogue.

Indeed, sometimes remarks that have been made in this Chamber have been used for the recruiting of suicide bombers. I think that one thing, and I would have to say quite candidly, is in our oversight: It is also important that we have oversight on our own words.

The comments that were made yesterday by a man with a distinguished military record, who I do not fault one bit, fly in the face of the comments of hundreds of soldiers, ranging from junior enlisted personnel across the AOR to my West Point classmates who are commanding brigades on the ground and disagree categorically, based on the phone calls that I got last night, including one from the commander of America's premier counterterrorism organization, who asked what in the world was happening here to make those kind of comments to encourage our enemies.

However, remarks irresponsibly given, not based on facts, simply do this: They place policy over politics while our young men and women are on the front line and unwittingly cooperates with and emboldens our enemies.

Liberal leadership has stated that they do not have a policy on Iraq, as one of your leaders said yesterday, but will have one in an appropriate time, I am sure in time for the 2006 election.

Because we are accountable for our words, I urge a yes on this rule to bring this resolution to the floor so the time for tough talking will end, and there will be accountability. If people want to make hard statements, they can be accountable for their words because of this. Because of our words, our troops are going to endure the consequences of those statements, and I urge all of you to be accountable for the statements that have been made.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule, and I do so because it does not seem to me reasonable to bring us into a debate over a very serious issue where our young men and women are in harm's way without hearings, without giving it any thought, without any careful thinking or examination, but thrusting it, thrusting us into voting on a resolution that is, as the gentleman from Georgia said, three lines long.

In Texas we have saying that ''this dog don't hunt,'' and it does not hunt. This political strategy speaks to an observation that was made to us in a hearing recently by General Kelley from the Army. He said, We are a Nation at war. We are a Nation at war except in Washington, DC. We are not a Nation sharing the sacrifice. Nothing exemplifies his testimony better than the so-called debate here on this rule.

In August, we honored four soldiers that are recipients of Purple Hearts, and one of the sergeants told me, Congressman, does anybody in Washington understand that we have a flawed strategy where we are being subjected to a mentality of ''The Charge of The Light Brigade?''

So I went back and I looked up ''The Charge of The Light Brigade'' by Lord Tennyson, and I will just read a portion of it:

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred,
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!' he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
'Forward, the Light Brigade!'
Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Their's not to make reply,
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Every day our men and women are riding convoys into that valley of death. Shame on us for this resolution. Vote against it.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues are coming down here and accusing us of slandering our friend and fellow Member, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), and that is absurd. It is not about him, and it is not about any of us. It is about foreign policy and national security, and, quite frankly, this idea on the left that we can and should immediately withdraw is not only a bad idea, it is dangerous. How do you tell a 19-year-old American, fighting, bleeding for their country, that it is all pointless? How dare you do such a thing?

You may not agree with the way things are being managed, but do not minimize the importance of what we are doing in Iraq. You all on the left opened up this debate. I think they have been itching for a fight for a long time from the way their comments have sounded, and now they would like

to sneak out of the room and avoid this topic.

The left in Congress wants a debate on the idea of immediate withdrawal, and since they have been wanting it, we are going to have it. The left wanted to go out. They wanted to talk about this with no regard for the big picture, with no regard for constituents, who have families, who are fighting. Well, now, we are going to have to stand here, they are going to have to stand here. And they are going to take the heat and take the debate.

We are fighting because we do not want our kids living in a world dominated by terrorism. We are fighting for freedom.

□ 1700

The left works real hard to isolate Iraq from the Middle East and from the global war on terrorism. The left actually thinks terrorists separate Iraq from the war on terrorism.

We know that is not true. We know it is not true.

I do not believe America is willing to give up on what is the war for the Free World. I do not think they are willing to give up on the war for the Free World.

The left wanted the debate. Let us have the debate. They are going to lose the debate. The American people have stronger backbones than the radical left.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlewoman who just spoke keeps on talking about how the Democrats want to call for immediate withdrawal without providing for the safe and orderly withdrawal of our troops and the protection of our troops. Only Mr. HUNTER, the Republican from California, has called for that in his resolution. None of us have called for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the gentleman from Pennsylvania spoke with courage and conviction about the war in Iraq, and there is no one in this body who knows more about our national defense and has devoted more of his life to our troops and our security than Jack Murtha. But evidently his speech has prompted this stunt that the Republicans are pulling here to force a vote on a resolution never considered by any committee.

Well, I must tell the Members that like the intelligence that led to war, the resolution before this body is a fake. Republicans are describing this resolution as a Murtha resolution, but it is not his language and differs in key ways from his proposal.

One of the points Mr. MURTHA raised yesterday was the misuse of intelligence on Iraq. He called the war a flawed policy wrapped in illusion. Like Mr. MURTHA, I voted for that war. And like him, I have profound concerns about the intelligence, that it was warped and twisted to justify an invasion.

My concerns are deeply personal. I voted for the war resolution because the President said Iraq would soon brandish nuclear bombs; and like millions of Americans, I was misled.

I raised concerns about the nuclear intelligence in a letter to the President on March 17, 2003, before any bullets were fired and before the war started, and I am going to attach this letter to my statement, but I want to read a part of it.

I wrote: ''Dear, Mr. President, in the last 10 days, it has become incontrovertibly clear that a key piece of evidence you and others in the administration have cited regarding Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons is a hoax. The evidence in question is correspondence that indicates that Iraq sought to obtain nuclear material from an African country. For several months this evidence has been a central part of the U.S. case against Iraq. It has now been conceded that this evidence was a forgery. Even more troubling, the CIA, which has been aware of this information since 2001, has never regarded the evidence as reliable.

''The implications of this fact are profound. It means that a key part of the case you have been building against Iraq is evidence that your own intelligence experts do not believe is credible. It is hard to imagine how this situation could have developed. The two most obvious explanations, knowing deception or unfathomable incompetence, both have immediate and serious implications.''

I made that request 2½ years ago, and I am still waiting for an answer. The President has never explained how forged evidence could become a cornerstone in the case for the war on Iraq.

Yesterday, the gentleman from Pennsylvania spoke with courage and conviction about the war in Iraq. There is no one in this body who knows more about our national defense—and who has devoted more of his life—to our troops and our security than JACK MURTHA.

His speech has prompted this stunt by the Republicans to force a vote on a resolution never considered by any committee. Like the intelligence that led the Nation to war, the resolution before this body is a fake. Republicans are describing this resolution as the Murtha resolution. But it is not his language and differs in key ways from his proposal.

One of the points Mr. MURTHA raised yesterday was the misuse of the intelligence on Iraq. He called the war "a flawed policy wrapped in illusion."

Like Mr. MURTHA, I voted for the war. And like him, I have profound concerns about how the intelligence was warped and twisted to justify an invasion.

My concerns are deeply personal. I voted for the war resolution because the President said Iraq would soon brandish nuclear bombs. And like millions of Americans, I was misled.

I raised concerns about the nuclear intelligence in a letter to the President on March 17, 2003—before any bullets were fired and before the war started. I ask unanimous consent to introduce this letter into the RECORD.

I wrote:

Dear Mr. President: . . . In the last ten days, it has become incontrovertibly clear that a key piece of evidence you and other Administration officials have cited regarding Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons is a hoax. . . .

The evidence in question is correspondence that indicates that Iraq sought to obtain nuclear material from an African country, Niger. For several months, this evidence has been a central part of the –U.S. case against Iraq. . . . [I]n your State of the Union address, you stated: ''The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.''

It has now been conceded that this evidence was a forgery. . . . Even more troubling, . . . the CIA, which has been aware of this information since 2001, has never regarded the evidence as reliable. The implications of this fact are profound: it means that a key part of the case you have been building against Iraq is evidence that your own intelligence experts . . . do not believe is credible.

It is hard to imagine how this situation could have developed. The two most obvious explanations—knowing deception or unfathomable incompetence—both have immediate and serious implications.

I made that request 2½ years ago. And I am still waiting for an answer. The President has never explained how forged evidence could become a cornerstone of the case for war in Iraq.

And this body has been part of the cover-up. We've averted our eyes and shut down our oversight committees. The Washington Republicans who run this body are afraid to ask questions and embarrass the President. They have abrogated their solemn constitutional obligations to hold the executive branch accountable for its abuses.

As the ranking Democrat on the House Committee in charge of oversight and investigations, I have requested hearings to review:

(1) The way intelligence was manipulated by people in this administration. On my website—www.reform.democrats.house.gov—there is a report of 237 misleading and inaccurate statements made by the President, Vice President, Secretary of State and Defense and the National Security Adviser, based on what they knew at the time and not what we learned later.

(2) An investigation of prison treatment by the U.S. after Abu Graib.

(3) An investigation of the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame for political purposes, even though it jeopardized our national security.

(4) An investigation of the secret meetings Vice President CHENEY had with energy executives regarding our energy policy.

The Republicans should do the work required under our Constitution—do the oversight to provide the checks and balances to avoid a concentration of power in an imperial and out of touch administration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2003.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing regarding a matter of grave concern. Upon your order, our armed forces will soon initiate the first preemptive war in our nation's history. The most persuasive justification for this war is that we must act to prevent Iraq from developing nuclear weapons.

In the last ten days, however, it has become incontrovertibly clear that a key piece of evidence you and other Administration officials have cited regarding Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons is a hoax. What's more, the Central Intelligence Agency questioned the veracity of the evidence at the same time you and other Administration officials were citing it in public statements. This is a breach of the highest order, and the American people are entitled to know how it happened.

As you know, I voted for the congressional resolution condemning Iraq and authorizing the use of force. Despite serious misgivings, I supported the resolution because I believed congressional approval would significantly improve the likelihood of effective U.N. action. Equally important, I believed that you had access to reliable intelligence information that merited deference.

Like many other members, I was particularly influenced by your views about Iraq's nuclear intentions. Although chemical and biological weapons can inflict casualties, no argument for attacking Iraq is as compelling as the possibility of Saddam Hussein brandishing nuclear bombs. That, obviously, is why the evidence in this area is so crucial, and why so many have looked to you for honest and credible information on Iraq's nuclear capability.

The evidence in question is correspondence that indicates that Iraq sought to obtain nuclear material from an African country, Niger. For several months, this evidence has been a central part of the U.S. case against Iraq. On December 19, the State Department filed a response to Iraq's disarmament declaration to the U.N. Security Council. The State Department response stated: ''The Declaration ignores efforts to procure uranium from Niger.'' A month later, in your State of the Union address, you stated: ''The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.'' Defense Secretary Rumsfeld subsequently cited the evidence in briefing reporters.

It has now been conceded that this evidence was a forgery. On March 7, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, reported that the evidence that Iraq sought nuclear materials from Niger was ''not authentic.'' As subsequent media accounts indicated, the evidence contained ''crude errors,'' such as a ''childlike signature'' and the use of stationary from a military government in Niger that has been out of power for over a decade.

Even more troubling, however, the CIA, which has been aware of this information since 2001, has never regarded the evidence as reliable. The implications of this fact are profound: it means that a key part of the case you have been building against Iraq is evidence that your own intelligence experts at the Central Intelligence Agency do not believe is credible.

It is hard to imagine how this situation could have developed. The two most obvious explanations—knowing deception or unfathomable incompetence—both have immediate and serious implications. It is thus imperative that you address this matter without delay and provide an alternative explanation, if there is one.

The rest of this letter will explain my concerns in detail.

USE OF THE EVIDENCE BY U.S. OFFICIALS

The evidence that Iraq sought to purchase uranium from an African country was first revealed by the British government on September 24, 2002, when Prime Minister Tony Blair released a 50-page report on Iraqi efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. As the New York Times reported in a front-page article, one of the two ''chief new elements'' in the report was the claim that Iraq had ''sought to acquire uranium in Africa that could be used to make nuclear weapons.''

This evidence subsequently became a significant part of the U.S. case against Iraq. On December 7, Iraq filed its weapons declaration with the United Nations Security Council. The U.S. response relied heavily on the evidence that Iraq had sought to obtain uranium from Africa.

For example, this is how the New York Times began its front-page article on December 13 describing the U.S. response:

''American intelligence agencies have reached a preliminary conclusion that Iraq's 12,000 page declaration of its weapons program fails to account for chemical and biological agents missing when inspectors left Iraq four years ago, American officials and United Nations diplomats said today.

''In addition, Iraq's declaration on its nuclear program, they say, leaves open a host of questions. Among them is why Iraq was seeking to buy uranium in Africa in recent years.''

The official U.S. response was provided on December 19, when Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared before the Security Council. As the Los Angeles Times reported, ''A one-page State Department fact sheet . . . lists what Washington considers the key omissions and deceptions in Baghdad's Dec. 7 weapons declaration.'' One of the eight ''key omissions and deceptions'' was the failure to explain Iraq's attempts to purchase uranium from an African country.

Specifically, the State Department fact sheet contains the following points under the heading ''Nuclear Weapons'': ''The Declaration ignores efforts to procure uranium from Niger. Why is the Iraqi regime hiding their uranium procurement?'' A copy of this fact sheet is enclosed with this letter.

The Iraqi efforts to obtain uranium from Africa were deemed significant enough to be included in your State of the Union address to Congress. You stated: ''The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.'' As the Washington Post reported the next day, ''the president seemed quite specific as he ticked off the allegations last night, including the news that Iraq had secured uranium from Africa for the purpose of making nuclear bombs.''

A day later, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters at a news briefing that Iraq ''recently was discovered seeking significant quantities of uranium from Africa.''

KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNRELIABILITY OF THE EVIDENCE

The world first learned that the evidence linking Iraq to attempts to purchase uranium from Africa was forged from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei. On March 7, Director ElBaradei reported to the U.N. Security Council: ''Based on thorough analysis, the IAEA has concluded, with the concurrence of outside experts, that these documents—which formed the basis for reports of recent uranium transactions between Iraq and Niger—are in fact not authentic. We have therefore concluded that these specific allegations are unfounded.''

Recent accounts in the news media have provided additional details. According to the Washington Post, the faked evidence included ''a series of letters between Iraqi agents and officials in the central African nation of Niger.'' The article stated that the forgers ''made relatively crude errors that eventually gave them away—including names and titles that did not match up with the individuals who held office at the time the letters were purportedly written.'' CNN reported: ''one of the documents purports to be a letter signed by Tandjia Mamadou, the president of Niger, talking about the uranium deal with Iraq. On it [is] a childlike signature that is clearly not his. Another, written on paper from a 1980s military government in Niger, bears the date of October 2000 and the signature of a man who by then had not been foreign minister of Niger for 14 years.''

U.S. intelligence officials had doubts about the veracity of the evidence long before Director ElBaradei's report. The Los Angeles Times reported on March 15 that ''the CIA first heard allegations that Iraq was seeking uranium from Niger in late 2001'' when ''the existence of the documents was reported to [the CIA] second- or third-hand.'' The Los Angeles Times quotes one CIA official as saying: ''We included that in some of our reporting, although it was all caveated because we had concerns about the accuracy of that information.'' The Washington Post reported on March 13: ''The CIA . . . had questions about 'whether they were accurate,' said one intelligence official, and it decided not to include them in its file on Iraq's program to procure weapons of mass destruction.''

There have been suggestions by some Administration officials that there may be other evidence besides the forged documents that shows Iraq tried to obtain uranium from an African country. For instance, CIA officials recently stated that ''U.S. concerns regarding a possible uranium agreement between Niger and Iraq were not based solely on the documents which are now known to be fraudulent.'' The CIA provided this other information to the IAEA along with the forged documents. After reviewing this complete body of evidence, the IAEA stated: ''we have found to date no evidence or plausible indication of the revival of a nuclear weapons programme in Iraq.'' Ultimately, the IAEA concluded that ''these specific allegations are unfounded.''

QUESTIONS

These facts raise troubling questions. It appears that at the same time that you, Secretary Rumsfeld, and State Department officials were citing Iraq's efforts to obtain uranium from Africa as a crucial part of the case against Iraq, U.S. intelligence officials regarded this very same evidence as unreliable. If true, this is deeply disturbing: it would mean that your Administration asked the U.N. Security Council, the Congress, and the American people to rely on information that your own experts knew was not credible.

Your statement to Congress during the State of the Union, in particular, raises a host of questions. The statement is worded in a way that suggests it was carefully crafted to be both literally true and deliberately misleading at the same time. The statement itself—''The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa''—may be technically accurate, since this appears to be the British position. But given what the CIA knew at the time, the implication you intended—that there was credible evidence that Iraq sought uranium from Africa—was simply false.

To date, the White House has avoided explaining why the Administration relied on this forged evidence in building its case against Iraq. The first Administration response, which was provided to the Washington Post, was ''we fell for it.'' But this is no longer credible in light of the information from the CIA. Your spokesman, Ari Fleischer, was asked about this issue at a White House news briefing on March 14, but

as the following transcript reveals, he claimed ignorance and avoided the question:

Q: Ari, as the president said in his State of the Union address, the British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. And since then, the IAEA said that those were forged documents——

Mr. Fleischer: I'm sorry, whose statement was that?

Q: The President, in his State of the Union address. Since then, the IAEA has said those were forged documents. Was the administration aware of any doubts about these documents, the authenticity of the documents, from any government agency or department before it was submitted to the IAEA?

Mr. Fleisher: These are matters that are always reviewed with an eye toward the various information that comes in and is analyzed by a variety of different people. The President's concerns about Iraq come from multiple places, involving multiple threats that Iraq can possess, and these are matters that remain discussed.

''Thank you [end of briefing].

Plainly, more explanation is needed. I urge you to provide to me and to the relevant committees of Congress a full accounting of what you knew about the reliability of the evidence linking Iraq to uranium in Africa, when you knew this, and why you and senior officials in the Administration presented the evidence to the U.N. Security Council, the Congress, and the American people without disclosing the doubts of the CIA. In particular, I urge you to address:

(1) Whether CIA officials communicated their doubts about the credibility of the forged evidence to other Administration officials, including officials in the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the White House;

(2) Whether the CIA had any input into the ''Fact Sheet'' distributed by the State Department on December 19, 2002; and

(3) Whether the CIA reviewed your statement in the State of the Union address regarding Iraq's attempts to obtain uranium from Africa and, if so, what the CIA said about the statement.

Given the urgency of the situation, I would appreciate an expeditious response to these questions.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF OMISSIONS FROM THE IRAQI DECLARATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

ANTHRAX AND OTHER UNDECLARED BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

The UN Special Commission concluded that Iraq did not verifiably account for, at a minimum, 2160kg of growth media.

This is enough to produce 26,000 liters of anthrax—3 times the amount Iraq declared; 1200 liters of botulinum toxin; and, 5500 liters of clostridium perfrigens—16 times the amount Iraq declared.

Why does the Iraqi declaration ignore these dangerous agents in its tally?

BALLISTIC MISSILES

Iraq has disclosed manufacturing new energetic fuels suited only to a class of missile to which it does not admit.

Iraq claims that flight-testing of a larger diameter missile falls within the 150km limit. This claim is not credible.

Why is the Iraqi regime manufacturing fuels for missiles it says it does not have?

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Declaration ignores efforts to procure uranium from Niger.

Why is the Iraqi regime hiding their uranium procurement?

VX

In 1999, UN Special Commission and international experts concluded that Iraq needed to provide additional, credible information about VX production.

The declaration provides no information to address these concerns.

What is the Iraqi regime trying to hide by not providing this information?

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS MUNITIONS

In January 1999, the UN Special Commission reported that Iraq failed to provide credible evidence that 550 mustard gas-filled artillery shells and 400 biological weapon-capable aerial bombs had been lost or destroyed.

The Iraqi regime has never adequately accounted for hundreds, possibly thousands, of tons of chemical precursors.

Again, what is the Iraqi regime trying to hide by not providing this information?

EMPTY CHEMICAL MUNITIONS

There is no adequate accounting for nearly 30,000 empty munitions that could be filled with chemical agents.

Where are these munitions?

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV) PROGRAMS

Iraq denies any connection between UAV programs and chemical or biological agent dispersal. Yet, Iraq admitted in 1995 that a MIG–21 remote-piloted vehicle tested in 1991 was to carry a biological weapon spray system.

Iraq already knows how to put these biological agents into bombs and how to disperse biological agent using aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles.

Why do they deny what they have already admitted? Why has the Iraqi regime acquired the range and auto-flight capabilities to spray biological weapons?

MOBILE BIOLOGICAL WEAPON AGENT FACILITIES

The Iraqi declaration provides no information about its mobile biological weapon agent facilities. Instead it insists that these are ''refrigeration vehicles and food testing laboratories.''

What is the Iraqi regime trying to hide about their mobile biological weapon facilities?

SUMMARY

None of these holes and gaps in Iraq's declaration are mere accidents, editing oversights or technical mistakes: they are material omissions.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Let us make it clear that this is not a stunt. It is not an attack on an individual. It is a very legitimate question. JACK MURTHA is a distinguished veteran. He is a good friend. We have joined together on many more defense issues than we have been apart on, and he has got an excellent background in defense, and he has every right to take the position that he has taken. We are all masters of our own opinion and our own position, and he studied this issue, and that is his position.

The reason I think it is important for this House to speak now before we break for a couple of weeks is because the impression has gone out around the world, carried on international news agencies, U.S. news agencies to friends and foes alike. The impression has gone out that Congress is withdrawing its support of the mission in Iraq. And if we look at the Washington Post and look at the front page, that is precisely what we see. If we looked at the headline on CNN and many other of the electronic news media, that is what we see.

But more importantly, it is not just important as to what our allies think or what our adversaries think. The most important people on this stage are the people wearing the uniform of the United States. And people who are reading the media, watching the media, those 140,000 personnel presently stationed in Iraq are obviously getting an impression about the United States Congress and its position with respect to all of the publicity that has emanated not just from this body and statements that have gone out from this body but also from the other body that happened just a couple of days ago and the headline stories that emanated from that.

Now, all of us, and I can just say as the chairman of my committee, we have held lots of hearings, lots of briefings. We held full House briefings for every Member of the House, Democrat and Republican, where they could ask our intelligence officers, with no handlers from the White House present, every single question that they wanted to have answered. We have had full briefings on armor, on troop deployments, on operations. Everybody here is competent to answer this question: Should we terminate our deployment in Iraq?

Now, of all the issues that we have studied over the last year or so that we have been working on, this is certainly one that we all have a background in now. Nobody can complain now that they have been duped and therefore this is not a real question or a solid question or an important question to answer. So we are going to let every Member answer that, and I hope that the message that goes back to our troops in Iraq, and I know that the message that will go back to our troops in Iraq, is that we do not support a precipitous pullout from Iraq, and that will do more to restore their morale than anything else this Congress could do.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

Can I inquire of the gentleman from California how he intends to vote on the resolution that he has introduced that does not provide for the protection of our troops?

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I am going to vote against a precipitous termination of our deployment in Iraq.

Mr. MCGOVERN. You are going to vote against the Hunter amendment.

Thank you for voting against your own amendment.

Mr. HUNTER. But I am going to allow you to vote ''yes.''

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair would advise Members that it is improper to walk in front of a Member speaking in the well.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the troops in this country are going to be surprised to find out that the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee filed a resolution saying that it is the sense of the House of Representatives, apparently as he sees it, that the deployment of the United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately. Apparently, the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee thinks that we should not have an orderly withdrawal of the troops, thinks that we should not provide for their safety and protection on the withdrawal, thinks that we should not do the things that Mr. MURTHA suggested that we do.

It is either that, sir, or they are going to think that this is some sort of a trick, that you filed this so that we would have been looking at something that Mr. MURTHA did not want us to look at. Because if you are concerned about what the message is that the troops are getting in Iraq, you would, in fact, have a full-fledged debate here so that Mr. MURTHA and other Members of both parties could express clearly and succinctly what it is they believe ought to happen in terms of policy.

But that is not what we are seeing here. You should have a chance for Mr. MURTHA to discuss his idea on protecting the troops when there is a redeployment or redeploying to over the horizon so that there will not be a spread of terrorism, of making sure that any redeployment is made with the protection and the safety of the troops. But I do not think that is what is going on here.

You talk about your respect for Mr. MURTHA. You talk about his known knowledge for the military, and yet it is you, sir, who comes down here and says that the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee proposes that the House of Representatives put their statement and their resolve that we should deploy immediately from Iraq and not protect our troops, apparently, because it does not say that, and not provide for their safety, not provide for redeployment somewhere over the horizon so that we will be sure that terrorism does not spread there and we will be ready for any emergency.

If instead you want the troops to get the message that that is not what we want, then why did you not work with your delegation over there to make sure that Mr. MURTHA's resolution could be proposed and debated and explained fully and then this country could have the benefit of a full discussion of where the policy is going, because this administration, apparently, has no clue and has no idea. They politicized the lead-up going into the area, and now you are politicizing how it is we are going to get this country back in order and out of there.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would also advise Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

And let me make this point: that the resolution is written in precisely the way that I think describes the essence of the publicity that has emanated from Washington, D.C. This is a message that has been sent to our troops; and if you look at the e-mails coming in, I think the question is well described, and I think that it manifests what a lot of people now think, especially uniformed people in the Iraq theater, and it is precisely the question before the House that the gentleman will have an absolute right to vote on; and I would hope that this is not Mr. MURTHA's position. He will have a chance to vote ''no'' on it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not understand it to ever be the habit of this institution for a Member on one side taking it upon himself to interpret the meaning of a resolution of a Member on the other side without giving that Member the courtesy and the respect of allowing them to put forward what the meaning and intention of their own resolution is. I think, sir, you are playing games.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me just reiterate to my friend, he said this should not be about Mr. MURTHA, and it is not about Mr. MURTHA. It is about the message that has been sent around the world, as evidenced by e-mails coming back in from our troops now who think that the Congress is pulling the rug out from under the mission.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask Members to respect the gavel and the time yielded.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know a single Democrat who supports the Hunter resolution that would basically provide for the immediate withdrawal without the protection for our troops. This is a counterfeit. This is an insult to this institution. And to not allow us to have a real debate, to not allow us to bring up different proposals, I think, undercuts the process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman from California why he introduced a counterfeit Murtha resolution rather than allowing us to vote on the real Murtha resolution, if he wanted us to vote at all.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me answer my friend.

This is a letter from an army captain in Iraq. He says in this e-mail: ''I am a U.S. Army captain currently serving in Iraq, and I am shocked and appalled by Rep Murtha's call for an immediate withdrawal. Please, please, please convince your colleague to let us finish this critical job. He is correct that the deployments and service and casualties are hard on all of us. He is wrong about what is demoralizing to us. What is demoralizing is a Congress which no longer stands behind our mission.''

That is why we are offering this resolution. That is obviously the message that is going out to thousands of servicemen around the world.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For 24 hours you maligned a great Member of this House, a decorated Vietnam War veteran. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

□ 1715

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, in response to the speech of one decorated veteran of this institution, the Republican chairman of the Committee on Armed Services has taken this position of that Member, and he has written this abbreviated, interpreted version which mischaracterizes the position of Mr. MURTHA. This is signed by Mr. HUNTER, and it has a number on it. Just think of the mischief al-Zarqawi can do with this when he puts it on the Internet. We have a signed document from the Chair of the—chairman of the Committee on Armed Services asking for immediate withdrawal.

Now, I have an e-mail, too. We all get them. This is from the president of the Oregon War Veterans Association, who did disagree with Mr. MURTHA and knows my position against the war. He said, ''I am writing not only to thank you for your service, but also to ask you to be cautious about politicizing the war effort in Iraq. It is our determination to keep our servicemembers safe from injury that may come from pure partisan political sabotage,'' and if a fabricated document fabricating the position of the chairman of the Armed Services Committee with his signature on it which is now winging its way around the world is not pure partisan political sabotage, I do not know what is.

If you have good sense, you will withdraw this resolution. We will even give you unanimous consent to do it, Mr.

HUNTER. But if you will not, maybe you can start doing your job: Hold a few hearings and a little bit of oversight in what is going on in Iraq, and maybe we can even act like the bipartisan Senate and ask that the President report to us on his goals, objectives and progress in Iraq. But none of this has happened in this House. This is the only substantive action you have taken on Iraq since we went in there, and you should be awfully ashamed.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, first, I wish to make it clear on my part that it is impossible to impugn the character of the gentleman from Pennsylvania because we could not do it if we so intended. Like so many of our citizen soldiers, their service did not end with their military career, and they continue to serve our country.

But I would hope that this rule would be adopted because this is a question that we have all had to answer. My constituents have asked it. It is incumbent upon me to respond, and I would think it would be no different today.

But I would hope the consequence of this rule being passed and this resolution being debated with free vote of conscience on either side of the aisle is that should it fail, is that we then strive to find a bipartisan plan for victory in Iraq, and an articulation of our war aims that can motivate the American people to galvanize behind it. For if we do not, whatever happens to this resolution, our resolution to prevail in this cause will be gone, and our cause will be nil, and the sacrifice will be in vain. Vote for adoption of the rule.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am confused. When I came here, I was told that the Republicans had put the Murtha resolution on for debate, and then I saw what they put on. I was just wondering and I have a question where they got this. Did they, by any chance, get it from CBS and Dan Rather?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today's debate should be about one thing, whether or not we believe that this administration and this President are pursuing sound and competent policy in Iraq. Instead, the Republican leadership has orchestrated a pathetic, partisan political ploy in an effort to distract the American people from this administration's failure in Iraq. The Republican leadership is making a mockery of JACK MURTHA's able and selfless service to his country in a blatant abuse of power.

This leadership has rushed a resolution to the floor that bears no resemblance to JACK MURTHA's considered position on Iraq. The war is a matter of life and death for our servicemen and for the people of Iraq, and this Republican leadership has instead decided to make it a political power play. This is a disgusting offense to JACK MURTHA, to every one of our veterans, and, most importantly, to all of our brave men and women serving today.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT), our newest Member.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stood at Arlington National Cemetery attending the funeral of a young Marine from my district. He believed what we are doing is the right thing, and had the courage to lay his life on the line to do it.

A few minutes ago I received a call from Colonel Danny Bubp, Ohio Representative from the 88th District in the House of Representatives. He asked me to send Congress a message: ''Stay the course.'' * * *

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I demand that the words of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Clerk will report the words.

□ 1730

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, my remarks were not directed at any Member of the House, and I did not intend to suggest that they applied to any Member, most especially the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania. I therefore ask for unanimous consent that my words be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

Mr. SNYDER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's words. And I accept, as one Member, her offer to have her words withdrawn. But I encourage all of us here tonight to recognize the seriousness of what we are about and to choose our words carefully. Our side is greatly offended by this process. I suspect that you have a fair number of Members that are not very satisfied with it, either. My suggestion would be that the resolution be withdrawn and we come back and discuss it another day.

However, I have no objection, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman's words will be stricken.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 30 seconds remaining.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, in the heart of the spirit of discussion, I have received many telephone calls and e-mails asking us to show the world that we do support this effort. That is what we are here about. That is the debate that is at hand, whether we support this war or that we do not support this war. My constituents, the world, expect us to stay the course.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the gentleman from Georgia how many more speakers he has on his side.

Mr. GINGREY. I have no more speakers. I reserve the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me close for our side here.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, this Republican resolution is consistent with the dishonest political way the Republican leadership has acted over the past 3½ years. This Congress has not served as a check. It has not served as a coequal branch of government. This Republican Congress is only interested in covering up for this administration. We have lost over 2,000 American men and women in Iraq. Thousands more are wounded. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars in this war effort, our credibility around the world is at an all-time low, and this is the best that you can do for our soldiers, this resolution? This is it? This is our debate on Iraq? This is what the American people get for all of what they have gone through, all the sacrifices they have made?

As for this legislation by the gentleman from California, which hasn't had a hearing and hasn't had a markup, if it comes up, I am going to vote against it. I think all of us are going to vote against it because it does not provide for the safe and the orderly withdrawal of our forces. Nobody on this side has said anything other than that.

Let me close with this: to my Republican friends, JACK MURTHA isn't afraid of you. He has faced down a lot worse than some of the pathetic smears that we have heard from the other side today. And let me be clear to all of you. If you truly oppose this resolution, if you want to honor our soldiers, if you want to do your job and hold this administration accountable, which we are supposed to do, then you should oppose this rule.

If you oppose the rule, we are not going to have to deal with this lousy bill. We will come back and do it right. To vote for this rule is to politicize a war and that is a mistake. All of us whether we are for this war or against this war, whether Republican or Democrat or liberal or conservative, we should not want to politicize this war. To do so is tragic.

Mr. Speaker, by moving ahead with this resolution, we demean the service of our soldiers. We demean the families who have lost loved ones in this war. We demean this institution. We need to do our job. This is not about a game of political gotcha. This is about doing the right thing, making sure we are on the right course, that we can disagree about that, but we can respect each other's opinion without trying to smear one another.

And so I would urge all my colleagues for the sake of collegiality, for the sake of civility in this House, for

the sake of doing the right thing for the people of this country and especially for our troops overseas vote down this rule. Vote down this rule. Let's end this right now, and let's come back and let's do it right and let's get the American people what they deserve: a real, thorough, honest debate and discussion on the war in Iraq.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I close this debate by thanking the various Members of this body from the chairmen who have shepherded these legislative initiatives to the conferees whose hard work has given this House the opportunity to move our legislative agenda forward. While this process may not be perfect, Mr. Speaker, it is at the end of the day a process in which Members can work together through compromise and long hours to complete the work of the American people.

This is good governance; and, Mr. Speaker, good governance is never easy, but it never should be. This is serious work and the American people deserve every ounce of our attention and every ounce of our labor to see their agenda realized. Again, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the misguided Hunter troop withdrawal resolution. How irresponsible this is.

Instead, let me thank Congressman and Marine JACK MURTHA.

Thank you for your patriotism.

Thank you for your honorable discernment of duty . . . to America . . . to our troops . . . to the cause of victory and freedom in Iraq. Your judicious resolution deserves hearing by the American people, our troops and this House.

Yesterday, you stood high on this Hill. Your message reached the American people. And it reached our troops and their commanders. Unlike the Bush Administration, you have a plan for Iraq. Your plan is real. It says:

Within six months, redeploy our troops consistent with their safety.

Create a quick reaction force in the region.

Back that up with an over-the-horizon presence of Marines.

Push the diplomacy button hard to secure and stabilize Iraq.

You don't want America's soldiers to be viewed as the enemy of freedom. For indeed they are its champions.

You spoke the truth when you said our soldiers have been made the victims of freedom in a growing counterinsurgency movement inside Iraq caused by the Bush-Cheney Administration's bungling, misleading, distorting and propagandizing of this war.

You were right in letting the American people know that since Abu Gharib the Bush-Cheney Administration has lost U.S. moral authority in the Middle East. Since Abu Gharib, American casualties have doubled. Since last year, insurgent incidents have increased from about 150 per week to over 700 last year.

Yes, winning means winning the hearts and minds of the people, over there, not just here. Victory means political victory as well as military victory. Our military has done everything asked of them. Our diplomats have been missing in action. Our troops were not led to believe that their lives would be lost in a counterinsurgency movement. Our troops are trained to fight force on force. The challenge America faces in the Islamic and Arab world is being made worse every day by the Bush Administration's miscalculations and misreading of the enemy. Every day, we see the Bush Administration wins us fewer friends.

America will win when the people we are trying to liberate believe we are their friends, not their enemies. 80% of Iraqis are strongly opposed to the presence of coalition troops and nearly half of the Iraqi population believe attacks against American troops are justified. This is not a prescription for victory. The time for the Murtha Plan to begin is now.

Thank you JACK MURTHA for placing your life in the line of fire for our troops and for freedom. Your resolution has a right to be heard and debated as a way forward to freedom.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

Add at the end the following:

(5) A resolution relating to U.S. forces in Iraq.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I think a number of people on this side of the aisle and maybe on the other side of the aisle did not hear what the amendment is. Could it be repeated, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Clerk will re-report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk re-reported the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous——

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has offered an amendment to the resolution. A vote will occur on the amendment to the resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I withdraw my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman may state her inquiry.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. My inquiry is if this amendment is voted on, does this mean that the underlying resolution could not be withdrawn as we would like for it to be so that we can debate in a civil manner the discussion of our troops in Iraq?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House is debating a rule that would enable the debate of a resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if I might restate, if this resolution is voted on and it succeeds, is there then an opportunity to have by unanimous consent the resolution itself withdrawn? Does this block the withdrawal of the resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is uncertain what the gentlewoman is asking. The rule is under consideration.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I appreciate the indulgence of the Speaker. We have now had an amended rule. My question is——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The rule has not yet been amended. An amendment has been proposed.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. We may ultimately have it. My question is, if the rule passes, can we still have the opportunity to have the actual bill withdrawn?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A measure may be withdrawn from consideration at any time before the House has acted thereon by decision or amendment.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the amendment and on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 204, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 606]

YEAS—211

Aderholt	Cole (OK)	Granger
Akin	Conaway	Graves
Alexander	Crenshaw	Green (WI)
Bachus	Cubin	Gutknecht
Baker	Culberson	Harris
Barrett (SC)	Davis (KY)	Hart
Barton (TX)	Davis, Jo Ann	Hastings (WA)
Bass	Davis, Tom	Hayes
Biggert	Deal (GA)	Hayworth
Bilirakis	DeLay	Hefley
Bishop (UT)	Dent	Hensarling
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart, L.	Herger
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hobson
Boehlert	Doolittle	Hoekstra
Boehner	Drake	Hulshof
Bonilla	Dreier	Hunter
Bonner	Duncan	Hyde
Bono	Ehlers	Inglis (SC)
Boozman	Emerson	Issa
Boustany	English (PA)	Istook
Bradley (NH)	Everett	Jenkins
Brady (TX)	Feeney	Johnson (CT)
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Johnson (IL)
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Johnson, Sam
Burgess	Foley	Keller
Burton (IN)	Forbes	Kelly
Buyer	Fortenberry	Kennedy (MN)
Calvert	Foxx	King (IA)
Camp	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Cannon	Frelinghuysen	Kingston
Cantor	Garrett (NJ)	Kirk
Capito	Gerlach	Kline
Carter	Gibbons	Knollenberg
Castle	Gillmor	Kolbe
Chabot	Gingrey	Kuhl (NY)
Chocola	Gohmert	Latham
Coble	Goode	LaTourette
	Goodlatte	Lewis (CA)

Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—204

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—18

Beauprez
Berman
Boswell
Boyd
Cunningham
Flake
Fossella
Gallegly
Hall
Jindal
Kind
LaHood
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Shadegg
Towns

□ 1805

Mr. FORTENBERRY changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 563. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1281) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for science, aeronautics, exploration, exploration capabilities, and the Inspector General, and for other purposes, for fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2006.
Sec. 102. Fiscal year 2007.
Sec. 103. Fiscal year 2008.
Sec. 104. Fiscal year 2009.
Sec. 105. Fiscal year 2010.
Sec. 106. Evaluation criteria for budget request.

SUBTITLE B—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 131. Implementation of a science program that extends human knowledge and understanding of the Earth, sun, solar system, and the universe.
Sec. 132. Biennial reports to Congress on science programs.
Sec. 133. Status report on Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.
Sec. 134. Develop expanded permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit.
Sec. 135. Ground-based analog capabilities.
Sec. 136. Space launch and transportation transition, capabilities, and development.
Sec. 137. Lessons learned and best practices.
Sec. 138. Safety management.
Sec. 139. Creation of a budget structure that aids effective oversight and management.
Sec. 140. Earth observing system.
Sec. 141. NASA healthcare program.
Sec. 142. Assessment of extension of data collection from Ulysses and Voyager spacecraft.
Sec. 143. Program to expand distance learning in rural underserved areas.
Sec. 144. Institutions in NASA'S minority institutions program.
Sec. 145. Aviation safety program.
Sec. 146. Atmospheric, geophysical, and rocket research authorization.
Sec. 147. Orbital debris.
Sec. 148. Continuation of certain educational programs.
Sec. 149. Establishment of the Charles ''Pete'' Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.
Sec. 150. GAO assessment of feasibility of Moon and Mars exploration missions.
Sec. 151. Workforce.
Sec. 152. Major research equipment and facilities.
Sec. 153. Data on specific fields of study.

SUBTITLE C—LIMITATIONS AND SPECIAL AUTHORITY

Sec. 161. Official representational fund.
Sec. 162. Facilities management.

TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Sec. 201. International Space Station completion.
Sec. 202. Research and support capabilities on international Space Station.
Sec. 203. National laboratory status for International Space Station.
Sec. 204. Commercial support of International Space Station operations and utilization.
Sec. 205. Use of the International Space Station and annual report.

TITLE III—NATIONAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Sec. 301. United States human-rated launch capacity assessment.
Sec. 302. Space Shuttle transition.
Sec. 303. Commercial launch vehicles.
Sec. 304. Secondary payload capability.
Sec. 305. Power and propulsion reporting.
Sec. 306. Utilization of NASA field centers and workforce.

TITLE IV—ENABLING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Sec. 401. Commercialization plan.
Sec. 402. Commercial technology transfer program.
Sec. 403. Authority for competitive prize program to encourage development of advanced space and aeronautical technologies.
Sec. 404. Commercial goods and services.

TITLE V—AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 501. Governmental interest in aeronautics.
Sec. 502. National policy for aeronautics research and development.
Sec. 503. High priority aeronautics research and development programs.

Sec. 504. Test facilities.
Sec. 505. Miscellaneous provisions.
TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS.
Sec. 601. Extension of indemnification authority.
Sec. 602. Intellectual property provisions.
Sec. 603. Retrocession of jurisdiction.
Sec. 604. Recovery and disposition authority.
Sec. 605. Requirement for independent cost analysis.
Sec. 606. Electronic access to business opportunities.
Sec. 607. Reports elimination.
Sec. 608. Small business contracting.
Sec. 609. Government accountability office review and report.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) It is the policy of the United States to advance United States scientific, security, and economic interests through a healthy and active space exploration program.

(2) Basic and applied research in space science, Earth science, and aeronautics remain a significant part of the Nation's goals for the use and development of space. Basic research and development is an important component of NASA's program of exploration and discovery.

(3) Maintaining the capability to safely send humans into space is essential to United States national and economic security, United States preeminence in space, and inspiring the next generation of explorers. Thus, a gap in United States human space flight capability is harmful to the national interest.

(4) The exploration, development, and permanent habitation of the Moon will inspire the Nation, spur commerce, imagination, and excitement around the world, and open the possibility of further exploration of Mars. NASA should return to the Moon within the next decade.

(5) The establishment of the capability for consistent access to and stewardship of the region between the Moon and Earth is in the national security and commercial interests of the United States.

(6) Commercial development of space, including exploration and other lawful uses, is in the interest of the United States and the international community at large.

(7) Research and access to capabilities to support a national laboratory facility within the United States segment of the ISS in low-Earth orbit are in the national policy interests of the United States, including maintenance and development of an active and healthy stream of research from ground to space in areas that can uniquely benefit from access to this facility.

(8) NASA should develop vehicles to replace the Shuttle orbiter's capabilities for transporting crew and heavy cargo while utilizing the current program's resources, including human capital, capabilities, and infrastructure. Using these resources can ease the transition to a new space transportation system, maintain an essential industrial base, and minimize technology and safety risks.

(9) The United States must remain the leader in aeronautics and aviation. Any erosion of this preeminence is not in the Nation's economic or security interest. NASA should align its aerospace leadership to ensure United States leadership. A national effort is needed to ensure that NASA's aeronautics programs are leading contributors to the Nation's civil and military aviation needs, as well as to its exploration capabilities.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ISS.—The term ''ISS'' means the International Space Station.

(3) NASA.—The term ''NASA'' means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(4) SHUTTLE-DERIVED VEHICLE.—The term ''shuttle-derived vehicle'' means any new space transportation vehicle, piloted or unpiloted, that—

(A) is capable of supporting crew or cargo missions; and

(B) uses a major component of NASA's Space Transportation System, such as the solid rocket booster, external tank, engine, and orbiter.

(5) IN-SITU RESOURCE UTILIZATION.—The term ''in-situ resource utilization'' means the technology or systems that can convert indigenous or locally-situated substances into useful materials and products.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Subtitle A—Authorizations

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2006.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for fiscal year 2006, $16,556,400,000, as follows:

(1) For science, aeronautics and exploration, $9,661,000,000 for the following programs (including amounts for construction of facilities).

(2) For exploration capabilities, $6,863,000,000, (including amounts for construction of facilities), which shall be used for space operations, and out of which $100,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 202 of this Act.

(3) For the Office of Inspector General, $32,400,000.

SEC. 102. FISCAL YEAR 2007.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for fiscal year 2007, $17,052,900,000, as follows:

(1) $10,549,800,000 for science, aeronautics and exploration (including amounts for construction of facilities).

(2) For exploration capabilities, $6,469,600,000, for the following programs (including amounts for construction of facilities), of which $6,469,600,000 shall be for space operations.

(3) For the Office of Inspector General, $33,500,000.

SEC. 103. FISCAL YEAR 2008.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for fiscal year 2008, $17,470,900,000.

SEC. 104. FISCAL YEAR 2009.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for fiscal year 2009, $17,995,000,000.

SEC. 105. FISCAL YEAR 2010.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, for fiscal year 2010, $18,534,900,000.

SEC. 106. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR BUDGET REQUEST.

It is the sense of the Congress that each budget of the United States submitted to the Congress after the date of enactment of this Act should be evaluated for compliance with the findings and priorities established by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

Subtitle B—General Provisions

SEC. 131. IMPLEMENTATION OF A SCIENCE PROGRAM THAT EXTENDS HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE EARTH, SUN, SOLAR SYSTEM, AND THE UNIVERSE.

The Administrator shall—

(1) conduct a rich and vigorous set of science activities aimed at better comprehension of the universe, solar system, and Earth, and ensure that the various areas within NASA's science portfolio are developed and maintained in a balanced and healthy manner, and, as part of this balanced science research program, provide, to the maximum extent feasible, continued support and funding for the Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission, SIM-Planet Quest, and Future Explorers programs, including determining whether these delayed missions and planned missions can be expedited to meet previous schedules, and may place a greater emphasis on science, including the programs described in this paragraph, throughout the fiscal years for which funds are authorized by this Act (and for this purpose, of the funds authorized by section 101(1) of this Act, no less than $5,341,200,000 shall be for science, and of the funds authorized by section 102(1) of this Act, no less than $5,960,300,000 shall be for science);

(2) plan projected Mars exploration activities in the context of planned lunar robotic precursor missions, ensuring the ability to conduct a broad set of scientific investigations and research around and on the Moon's surface;

(3) upon successful completion of the planned return-to-flight schedule of the Space Shuttle, determine the schedule for a Shuttle servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, unless such a mission would compromise astronaut or safety or the integrity of NASA's other missions;

(4) ensure that, in implementing the provisions of this section, appropriate inter-agency and commercial collaboration opportunities are sought and utilized to the maximum feasible extent;

(5) seek opportunities to diversify the flight opportunities for scientific Earth science instruments and seek innovation in the development of instruments that would enable greater flight opportunities;

(6) develop a long term sustainable relationship with the United States commercial remote sensing industry, and, consistent with applicable policies and law, to the maximum practical extent, rely on their services;

(7) in conjunction with United States industry and universities, develop Earth science applications to enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal governments that use government and commercial remote sensing capabilities and other sources of geospatial information to address their needs;

(8) plan, develop, and implement a near-Earth object survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth asteroids and comets in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects in impacting the Earth; and

(9) ensure that, of the amount expended for aeronautics, a significant portion is directed toward the Vehicle System Program, as much of the basic, long-term, high-risk, and innovative research in aeronautical disciplines is performed within that program.

SEC. 132. BIENNIAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON SCIENCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science setting forth in detail—

(1) the findings and actions taken on NASA's assessment of the balance within its science portfolio and any efforts to adjust that balance among the major program areas, including the areas referred to in section 131;

(2) any activities undertaken by the Administration to conform with the Sun-Earth science and applications direction provided in section 131; and

(3) efforts to enhance near-Earth object detection and observation.

(b) EXTERNAL REVIEW FINDINGS.—The Administrator shall include in each report submitted under this section a summary of findings and recommendations from any external reviews of the Administration's science mission priorities and programs.

SEC. 133. STATUS REPORT ON HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE SERVICING MISSION.

Within 60 days after the landing of the second Space Shuttle mission for return-to-flight certification, the Administrator shall transmit to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science a one-time status report on a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

SEC. 134. DEVELOP EXPANDED PERMANENT HUMAN PRESENCE BEYOND LOW-EARTH ORBIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the programs authorized under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), the Administrator shall establish a program to develop a permanently sustained human presence on the Moon, in tandem with an extensive precursor program, to support security, commerce, and scientific pursuits, and as a stepping-stone to future exploration of Mars. The Administrator is further authorized to develop and conduct international collaborations in pursuit of these goals, as appropriate.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall—

(1) implement an effective exploration technology program that is focused around the key needs to support lunar human and robotic operations;

(2) as part of NASA's annual budget submission, submit to the Congress the detailed mission, schedule, and budget for key lunar mission-enabling technology areas, including areas for possible innovative governmental and commercial activities and partnerships;

(3) as part of NASA's annual budget submission, submit to the Congress a plan for NASA's lunar robotic precursor and technology programs, including current and planned technology investments and scientific research that support the lunar program;

(4) conduct an intensive in-situ resource utilization technology program in order to develop the capability to use space resources to increase independence from Earth, and sustain exploration beyond low-Earth orbit;

(5) conduct a program to assure the health and safety of astronauts during extended space exploration missions which include more effective countermeasures to mitigate deleterious effects of such missions, and the means to provide in-space exploration medical care delivery to crews with little or no real-time support from Earth, relevant issues such as radiation exposure, exercise countermeasures, cardiac health, diagnostic and monitoring devices, and medical imaging;

(6) utilize advanced power and propulsion technologies, including nuclear and electric technologies, to enable or enhance robotic and human exploration missions when feasible; and

(7) develop a robust technology development program to provide surface power for use on the Moon and other locations relevant to NASA space exploration goals which, to the extent feasible, address needs for modular, scalable power sources for a range of applications on the Moon including human and vehicular uses.

SEC. 135. GROUND-BASED ANALOG CAPABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a ground-based analog capability in remote United States locations in order to assist in the development of lunar operations, life support, and in-situ resource utilization experience and capabilities.

(b) LOCATIONS.—The Administrator shall select locations for subsection (a) in places that—

(1) are regularly accessible;

(2) have significant temperature extremes and range; and

(3) have access to energy and natural resources (including geothermal, permafrost, volcanic, and other potential resources).

(c) INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL POPULATIONS; PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall involve local populations, academia, and industrial partners as much as possible to ensure that ground-based benefits and applications are encouraged and developed.

SEC. 136. SPACE LAUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION TRANSITION, CAPABILITIES, AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) POST-ORBITER TRANSITION.—The Administrator shall develop an implementation plan for the transition to a new crew exploration vehicle and heavy-lift launch vehicle that uses the personnel, capabilities, assets, and infrastructure of the Space Shuttle to the fullest extent possible and addresses how NASA will accommodate the docking of the crew exploration vehicle to the ISS.

(b) AUTOMATED RENDEZVOUS AND DOCKING.—The Administrator is directed to pursue aggressively automated rendezvous and docking capabilities that can support ISS and other mission requirements and include these activities, progress reports, and plans in the implementation plan.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL SUBMISSION.—Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall submit a copy of the implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science.

SEC 137. LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide an implementation plan describing NASA's approach for obtaining, implementing, and sharing lessons learned and best practices for its major programs and projects within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The implementation plan shall be updated and maintained to assure that it is current and consistent with the burgeoning culture of learning and safety that is emerging at NASA.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENT.—The implementation plan shall contain as a minimum the lessons learned and best practices requirements for NASA, the organizations or positions responsible for enforcement of the requirements, the reporting structure, and the objective performance measures indicating the effectiveness of the activity.

(c) INCENTIVES.—The Administrator shall provide incentives to encourage sharing and implementation of lessons learned and best practices by employees, projects, and programs; as well as penalties for programs and projects that are determined not to have demonstrated use of those resources.

SEC. 138. SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

Section 6 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 2477) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''There'';

(2) by striking ''to it'' and inserting ''to it, including evaluating NASA's compliance with the return-to-flight and continue-to-fly recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board,'';

(3) by inserting ''and the Congress'' after ''advise the Administrator'';

(4) by striking ''and with respect to the adequacy of proposed or existing safety standards and shall'' and inserting ''with respect to the adequacy of proposed or existing safety standards, and with respect to management and culture. The Panel shall also''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Panel shall submit an annual report to the Administrator and to the Congress. In the first annual report submitted after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, the Panel shall include an evaluation of NASA's safety management culture.

''(c) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Administrator should—

''(1) ensure that NASA employees can raise safety concerns without fear of reprisal;

''(2) continue to follow the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board for safely returning and continuing to fly; and

''(3) continue to inform the Congress from time to time of NASA's progress in meeting those recommendations.''.

SEC. 139. CREATION OF A BUDGET STRUCTURE THAT AIDS EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT.

In developing NASA's budget request for inclusion in the Budget of the United States for fiscal year 2007 and thereafter, the Administrator shall—

(1) include line items for—

(A) science, aeronautics, and exploration;

(B) exploration capabilities; and

(C) the Office of the Inspector General;

(2) enumerate separately, within the science, aeronautics, and exploration account, the requests for—

(A) space science;

(B) Earth science; and

(C) aeronautics;

(3) include, within the exploration capabilities account, the requests for—

(A) the Space Shuttle; and

(B) the ISS; and

(4) enumerate separately the specific request for the independent technical authority within the appropriate account.

SEC. 140. EARTH OBSERVING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall submit a plan to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science to ensure the long-term vitality of the earth observing system at NASA.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan shall—

(1) address such issues as—

(A) out-year budgetary projections;

(B) technical requirements for the system; and

(C) integration into the Global Earth Observing System of Systems; and

(2) evaluate—

(A) the need to proceed with any NASA missions that have been delayed or canceled;

(B) plans for transferring needed capabilities from some canceled or de-scoped missions to the National Polar-orbiting Environmental Satellite System;

(C) the technical base for exploratory earth observing systems, including new satellite architectures and instruments that enable global coverage, all-weather, day and night imaging of the Earth's surface features;

(D) the need to strengthen research and analysis programs; and

(E) the need to strengthen the approach to obtaining important climate observations and data records.

(c) EARTH OBSERVING SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''earth observing system'' means the series of satellites, a science component, and a data system for long-term global observations of the land surface, biosphere, solid Earth, atmosphere, and oceans.

SEC. 141. NASA HEALTHCARE PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall develop policies, procedures, and plans necessary for—

(1) the establishment of a lifetime healthcare program for NASA astronauts and their families; and

(2) the study and analysis of the healthcare data obtained in order to understand the longitudinal health effects of space flight on humans better.

SEC. 142. ASSESSMENT OF EXTENSION OF DATA COLLECTION FROM ULYSSES AND VOYAGER SPACECRAFT.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall carry out an assessment of the costs and benefits of extending, to such date as the Administrator considers appropriate for purposes of the assessment, the date of the termination of data collection from the Ulysses spacecraft and the Voyager spacecraft.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing the assessment required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit a report on the assessment to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science.

SEC. 143. PROGRAM TO EXPAND DISTANCE LEARNING IN RURAL UNDERSERVED AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop or expand programs to extend science and space educational outreach to rural communities and schools through video conferencing, interpretive exhibits, teacher education, classroom presentations, and student field trips.

(b) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to existing programs, including Challenger Learning Centers—

(1) that utilize community-based partnerships in the field;

(2) that build and maintain video conference and exhibit capacity;

(3) that travel directly to rural communities and serve low-income populations; and

(4) with a special emphasis on increasing the number of women and minorities in the science and engineering professions.

SEC. 144. INSTITUTIONS IN NASA'S MINORITY INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM.

The matter appearing under the heading ''SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS'' in title III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and House and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2473b; 103 Stat. 863) is amended by striking ''Historically Black Colleges and Universities and'' and inserting ''Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are part B institutions (as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))), Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a)(5) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)), Tribal Colleges or Universities (as defined in section 316(b)(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3)), Alaskan Native-serving institutions (as defined in section 317(b)(2) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d)(b)(2)), Native Hawaiian-serving institutions (as defined in section 317(b)(4) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(4)), and''.

SEC. 145. AVIATION SAFETY PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall make available upon request satellite imagery of remote terrain to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or the Director of the Five Star Medallion Program, for aviation safety and aerial photography programs to assist and train pilots in navigating challenging topographical features of such terrain.

SEC. 146. ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL, AND ROCKET RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator for atmospheric, geophysical, or rocket research at the Poker Flat Research Range and the Kodiak Launch Complex, not more than $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

SEC. 147. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

The Administrator, in conjunction with the heads of other Federal agencies, shall take steps to develop or acquire technologies that will enable NASA to decrease the risks associated with orbital debris.

SEC. 148. CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

From amounts appropriated to NASA for educational programs, the Administrator shall ensure continuation of the Space Grant Program, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and the NASA Explorer School to motivate and develop the next generation of explorers.

SEC. 149. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARLES "PETE" CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a program to be known as the Charles ''Pete'' Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.

(b) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make an annual award under the program of—

(1) $3,000 to the amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who in the preceding calendar year discovered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth asteroid among the near-Earth asteroids that were discovered during that year by amateur astronomers or groups of amateur astronomers; and

(2) $3,000 to the amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who made the greatest contribution to the Minor Planet Center's mission of cataloging near-Earth asteroids during the preceding year.

(c) QUALIFICATION FOR AWARD.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—These awards shall be made based on the recommendation of the Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

(2) LIMITATION.—No individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time of that individual's discovery or contribution may receive an award under this program.

SEC. 150. GAO ASSESSMENT OF FEASIBILITY OF MOON AND MARS EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

Within 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science an assessment of the feasibility of NASA's planning for exploration of the Moon and Mars, giving special consideration to the long-term cost implications of program architecture and schedules. The Comptroller General shall include in this assessment the short- and long-term impact of the exploration program on other NASA program areas, including aeronautics, space science, earth science and NASA's overall research and technology development budget.

SEC. 151. WORKFORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a human capital strategy to ensure that NASA has a workforce of the appropriate size and with the appropriate skills to carry out the programs of NASA, consistent with the policies and plans developed pursuant to this section. The strategy shall ensure that current personnel are utilized, to the maximum extent feasible, in implementing the vision for space exploration and NASA's other programs. The strategy shall cover the period through fiscal year 2011.

(b) CONTENT.—The strategy shall describe, at a minimum—

(1) any categories of employees NASA intends to reduce, the expected size and timing of those reductions, the methods NASA intends to use to make the reductions, and the reasons NASA no longer needs those employees;

(2) any categories of employees NASA intends to increase, the expected size and timing of those increases, the methods NASA intends to use to recruit the additional employees, and the reasons NASA needs those employees;

(3) the steps NASA will use to retain needed employees; and

(4) the budget assumptions of the strategy, which for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be consistent with the authorizations provided in subtitle A, and any expected additional costs or savings from the strategy by fiscal year.

(c) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the strategy developed under this section to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House of Representatives Committee on Science not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2007 to the Congress. At least 60 days before transmitting the strategy, NASA shall provide a draft of the strategy to its Federal Employee Unions for a 30-day consultation period after which NASA shall respond in writing to any written concerns provided by the Unions.

(d) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—NASA may not initiate any buyout offer after the date of enactment of this Act until 60 days after the strategy required by this subsection has been transmitted to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and House of Representatives Committee on Science in accordance with subsection (c). NASA may not implement any reduction-in-force or other involuntary separations (except for cause) prior to June 1, 2007, except as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) SPECIFIC BUY-OUTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), NASA may make exceptions can be made for specific buy-outs on a case-by-case basis, if NASA provides information to the Committees that justifies those specific buy-outs, including why the relevant employees could not be utilized to fulfill other NASA missions.

(B) EMERGENCY REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE.—NASA may also request an exception for an emergency reduction-in-force of management personnel by transmitting to the Committees—

(i) a detailed rationale for the proposed reduction-in-force;

(ii) an explanation of why the proposed reduction-in-force cannot wait until after the workforce strategy has been transmitted to the Committees in accordance with the requirements of this section; and

(iii) an explanation of why the relevant employees could not be utilized to fulfill other NASA missions.

SEC. 152. MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Science

Foundation may use funds in the major research equipment and facilities construction account for the design and development of projects that—

(1) have been given a very high rating by relevant scientific peer review panels in the relevant discipline;

(2) have substantial cost-sharing with non-Foundation entities; and

(3) have passed a critical design review.

(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD APPROVAL.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to eliminate the need for approval by the National Science Board before such equipment and facilities are eligible for acquisition, construction, commissioning, or upgrading.

SEC. 153. DATA ON SPECIFIC FIELDS OF STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Science Foundation shall collect statistically reliable data through the American Community Survey on the field of degree of college-educated individuals.

(b) ADDITIONAL CENSUS QUESTION.—In order to facilitate the implementation of subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce shall expand the American Community Survey to include a question to elicit information concerning the field of study in which college-educated individuals received their degrees. The Director of the Bureau of the Census shall consult with the Director of the National Science Foundation concerning the wording of the question or questions to be added to the Survey.

Subtitle C—Limitations and Special Authority

SEC. 161. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONAL FUND.

Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 101 may be used, but not to exceed $70,000, for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 162. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT.

NASA shall develop a facilities investment plan through fiscal year 2015 that takes into account uniqueness, mission dependency, and other studies required by this Act.

TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

SEC. 201. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COMPLETION.

(a) ELEMENTS, CAPABILITIES, AND CONFIGURATION CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall ensure that the ISS will be able to—

(1) fulfill international partner agreements and provide a diverse range of research capacity, including a high rate of human biomedical research protocols, countermeasures, applied bio-technologies, technology and exploration research, and other priority areas;

(2) have an ability to support crew size of at least 6 persons;

(3) support crew exploration vehicle docking and automated docking of cargo vehicles or modules launched by either heavy-lift or commercially-developed launch vehicles; and

(4) be operated at an appropriate risk level.

(b) CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The transportation plan to support ISS shall include contingency options to ensure sufficient logistics and on-orbit capabilities to support any potential hiatus between Space Shuttle availability and follow-on crew and cargo systems, and provide sufficient pre-positioning of spares and other supplies needed to accommodate any such hiatus.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and before making any change in the ISS assembly sequence in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall certify in writing to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science NASA's plan to meet the requirements of subsections (a) and (b).

(d) COST LIMITATION FOR THE ISS.—Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Congress information pertaining to the impact of the Columbia accident and the implementation of full cost accounting on the development costs of the International Space Station. The Administrator shall also identify any statutory changes needed to section 202 of the NASA Authorization Act of 2000 to address those impacts.

SEC. 202. RESEARCH AND SUPPORT CAPABILITIES ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(1) within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, provide an assessment of biomedical and life science research planned for implementation aboard the ISS that includes the identification of research which can be performed in ground-based facilities and then, if appropriate, validated in space to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science;

(2) ensure the capacity to support ground-based research leading to spaceflight of scientific research in a variety of disciplines with potential direct national benefits and applications that can advance significantly from the uniqueness of micro-gravity;

(3) restore and protect such potential ISS research activities as molecular crystal growth, animal research, basic fluid physics, combustion research, cellular biotechnology, low temperature physics, and cellular research at a level which will sustain the existing scientific expertise and research capabilities until such time as additional funding or resources from sources other than NASA can be identified to support these activities within the framework of the National Laboratory provided for in section 203 of this Act;

(4) consider the need for a life sciences centrifuge and any associated holding facilities; and

(5) within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a research plan that will demonstrate the process by which NASA will evolve the ISS research portfolio in a manner consistent with the planned growth and evolution of ISS on-orbit and transportation capabilities.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF ON-ORBIT ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES.—The Administrator shall ensure that on-orbit analytical capabilities to support diagnostic human research, as well as on-orbit characterization of molecular crystal growth, cellular research, and other research products and results are developed and maintained, as an alternative to Earth-based analysis requiring the capability of returning research products to Earth.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SCIENTIFIC USES.—The Administrator shall assess further potential possible scientific uses of the ISS for other applications, such as technology development, development of manufacturing processes, Earth observation and characterization, and astronomical observations.

(d) TRANSITION TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE RESEARCH OPERATIONS.—By no later than the date on which the assembly of the ISS is complete (as determined by the Administrator), the Administrator shall initiate steps to transition research operations on the ISS to a greater private–public operating relationship pursuant to section 203 of this Act.

SEC. 203. NATIONAL LABORATORY STATUS FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to accomplish the objectives listed in section 202, the United States segment of the ISS is hereby designated a national laboratory facility. The Administrator, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall develop the national laboratory facility to oversee scientific utilization of an ISS national laboratory within the organizational structure of NASA.

(b) NATIONAL LABORATORY FUNCTIONS.—The Administrator shall seek to use the national laboratory to increase the utilization of the ISS by other national and commercial users and to maximize available NASA funding for research through partnerships, cost-sharing agreements, and arrangements with non-NASA entities.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science for establishment of the ISS national laboratory facility which, at a minimum, shall include—

(1) proposed on-orbit laboratory functions;

(2) proposed ground-based laboratory facilities;

(3) detailed laboratory management structure, concept of operations, and operational feasibility;

(4) detailed plans for integration and conduct of ground and space-based research operations;

(5) description of funding and workforce resource requirements necessary to establish and operate the laboratory;

(6) plans for accommodation of existing international partner research obligations and commitments; and

(7) detailed outline of actions and timeline necessary to implement and initiate operations of the laboratory.

(d) U.S. SEGMENT DEFINED.—In this section the term ''United States Segment of the ISS'' means those elements of the ISS manufactured—

(1) by the United States; or

(2) for the United States by other nations in exchange for funds or launch services.

SEC. 204. COMMERCIAL SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION OPERATIONS AND UTILIZATION.

The Administrator shall purchase commercial services for support of the ISS for cargo and other needs, and for enhancement of the capabilities of the ISS, to the maximum extent possible, in accordance with Federal procurement law.

SEC. 205. USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to ensure diverse and growing utilization of benefits from the ISS; and

(2) to increase commercial operations in low-Earth orbit and beyond that are supported by national and commercial space transportation capabilities.

(b) USE OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.—The Administrator shall conduct broadly focused scientific and exploration research and development activities using the ISS in a manner consistent with the provisions of this title, and advance the Nation's exploration of the Moon and beyond, using the ISS as a test-bed and outpost for operations, engineering, and scientific research.

(c) REPORTS.—No later than March 31 of each year the Administrator shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science on the use of the ISS for these purposes, with implementation milestones and associated results.

TITLE III—NATIONAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

SEC. 301. UNITED STATES HUMAN-RATED LAUNCH CAPACITY ASSESSMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall, within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, provide to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science, a full description of the transportation requirements needed to support the space launch and transportation transition implementation plan required by section 136 of this Act, as well as for the ISS, including—

(1) the manner in which the capabilities of any proposed human-rated crew and launch vehicles meet the requirements of the implementation plan under section 136 of this Act;

(2) a retention plan of skilled personnel from the legacy Shuttle program which will sustain the level of safety for that program through the final flight and transition plan that will ensure that any NASA programs can utilize the human capital resources of the Shuttle program, to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) the implications for and impact on the Nation's aerospace industrial base;

(4) the manner in which the proposed vehicles contribute to a national mixed fleet launch and flight capacity;

(5) the nature and timing of the transition from the Space Shuttle to the workforce, the proposed vehicles, and any related infrastructure;

(6) support for ISS crew transportation, ISS utilization, and lunar exploration architecture;

(7) for any human rated vehicle, a crew escape system, as well as substantial protection against orbital debris strikes that offers a high level of safety;

(8) development risk areas;

(9) the schedule and cost;

(10) the relationship between crew and cargo capabilities; and

(11) the ability to reduce risk through the use of currently qualified hardware.

SEC. 302. SPACE SHUTTLE TRANSITION.

(a) POLICY STATEMENT.—It is the policy of the United States to possess the capability for assured human access to space. The Administrator shall act to ensure that the United States retains that capacity on a continuous basis. The Administrator shall conduct the transition from the Space Shuttle orbiter to a replacement capacity in a manner that efficiently uses the personnel, capabilities, and infrastructure that are currently available to the extent feasible.

(b) PROGRESS REPORT.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science on the progress and the estimated amount of time before the next generation human-rated NASA spacecraft will demonstrate crewed, orbital spaceflight.

(c) POLICY COMPLIANCE REPORT.—If, 1 year before the final flight of the Space Shuttle orbiter, the United States has not demonstrated a replacement human space flight system, the Administrator shall certify that the United States cannot uphold the policy outlined in subsection (a) and shall provide a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science describing—

(1) United States strategic risks associated with the hiatus or gap;

(2) the estimated length of time during which the United States will not have independent human access to space;

(3) what steps will be taken to shorten that length of time; and

(4) what other means will be used to allow human access to space during that time.

(d) TRANSITION PLAN REPORT.—After providing the information required by section 301 to the Committees, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science containing a detailed and comprehensive Space Shuttle transition plan that includes any necessary recertification, including requirements, assumptions, and milestones, in order to utilize the Space Shuttle orbiter beyond calendar year 2010.

(e) CONTRACT TERMINATIONS; VENDOR REPLACEMENTS.—The Administrator may not terminate any contracts nor replace any vendors associated with the Space Shuttle until the Administrator transmits the report required by subsection (b) to the Committees.

SEC. 303. COMMERCIAL LAUNCH VEHICLES.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should use current and emerging commercial launch vehicles to fulfill appropriate mission needs, including the support of low-Earth orbit and lunar exploration operations.

SEC. 304. SECONDARY PAYLOAD CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to help develop a cadre of experienced engineers and to provide more routine and affordable access to space, the Administrator shall provide the capabilities to support secondary payloads on United States launch vehicles, including free flyers, for satellites or scientific payloads weighing less than 500 kilograms.

(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Administrator shall initiate a feasibility study for establishing a National Free Flyer Launch Center as a means of consolidating and integrating secondary launch capabilities, launch opportunities, and payloads.

(c) ASSESSMENT.—The feasibility study required in this section shall include an assessment of the potential utilization of existing launch and launch support facilities and capabilities in the states of Montana and New Mexico and their respective contiguous states, and the state of Alaska, and shall include an assessment of the feasibility of integrating the potential National Free Flyer Launch Center within the operations and facilities of an existing non-profit organization such as the Inland Northwest Space Alliance in Missoula, Montana, or similar entity.

SEC. 305. POWER AND PROPULSION REPORTING.

The Administrator shall, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, provide to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science, a full description of plans to develop and utilize nuclear power and nuclear propulsion capabilities to achieve agency goals and any requirements in this Act, and address how those plans meet the intent of the Vision for Space Exploration and the President's Space Transportation Policy Directive.

SEC. 306. UTILIZATION OF NASA FIELD CENTERS AND WORKFORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In budgeting for and carrying out elements of this title, the Administrator shall make the most effective use of existing research, development, testing, and space exploration expertise and facilities resident within NASA field centers.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIELD CENTERS.—The Administrator shall take appropriate action to balance responsibilities between the field centers for leading the development of systems relevant to the Vision for Space Exploration, including systems identified in this title or any architecture studies performed by NASA.

TITLE IV—ENABLING COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

SEC. 401. COMMERCIALIZATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Associate Administrator for Space Transportation of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Director of the Office of Space Commercialization of the Department of Commerce, and any other relevant agencies, shall develop a commercialization plan to support the human missions to the Moon and Mars, to support Low-Earth Orbit activities and Earth science mission and applications, and to transfer science research and technology to society. The plan shall identify opportunities for the private sector to participate in the future missions and activities, including opportunities for partnership between NASA and the private sector in the development of technologies and services, shall emphasize the utilization by NASA of advancements made by the private sector in space launch and orbital hardware, and shall include opportunities for innovative collaborations between NASA and the private sector under existing authorities of NASA for reimbursable and non-reimbursable agreements under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a copy of the plan to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science.

SEC. 402. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall execute a commercial technology transfer program with the goal of facilitating the exchange services, products, and intellectual property between NASA and the private sector. This program shall be maintained in a manner that provides measurable benefits for the agency, the domestic economy, and research communities.

(b) PROGRAM STRUCTURE.—In carrying out the program described in paragraph (a), the Administrator shall maintain the funding and program structure of NASA's existing technology transfer and commercialization organizations through the end of fiscal year 2006.

SEC. 403. AUTHORITY FOR COMPETITIVE PRIZE PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED SPACE AND AERONAUTICAL TECHNOLOGIES.

Title III of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 316. PROGRAM ON COMPETITIVE AWARD OF PRIZES TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED SPACE AND AERONAUTICAL TECHNOLOGIES.

"(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may carry out a program to award prizes to stimulate innovation in basic and applied research, technology development, and prototype demonstration that have the potential for application to the performance of the space and aeronautical activities of the Administration.

"(2) USE OF PRIZE AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the program, the Administrator shall seek to develop and support technologies and areas identified in section 134 of this Act or other areas that the Administrator determines to be providing impetus to NASA's overall exploration and science architecture and plans, such as private efforts to detect near Earth objects and, where practicable, utilize the prize winner's technologies in fulfilling NASA's missions. The Administrator shall widely advertise any competitions conducted under the program and must include advertising to research universities.

''(3) COORDINATION.—The program shall be implemented in compliance with section 138 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005.

''(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—Recipients of prizes under the program under this section shall be selected through one or more competitions conducted by the Administrator.

''(2) ADVERTISING.—The Administrator shall widely advertise any competitions conducted under the program.

''(c) REGISTRATION; ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—

''(1) REGISTRATION.—Each potential recipient of a prize in a competition under the program under this section shall register for the competition.

''(2) ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—In registering for a competition under paragraph (1), a potential recipient of a prize shall assume any and all risks, and waive claims against the United States Government and its related entities, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from participation in the competition, whether such injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise, except in the case of willful misconduct.

''(3) RELATED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'related entity' includes a contractor or subcontractor at any tier, a supplier, user, customer, cooperating party, grantee, investigator, or detailee.

''(d) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—The total amount of cash prizes available for award in competitions under the program under this section in any fiscal year may not exceed $50,000,000.

''(2) APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR LARGE PRIZES.—No competition under the program may result in the award of more than $1,000,000 in cash prizes without the approval of the Administrator or a designee of the Administrator.

''(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may utilize the authority in this section in conjunction with or in addition to the utilization of any other authority of the Administrator to acquire, support, or stimulate basic and applied research, technology development, or prototype demonstration projects.

''(f) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated for the program authorized by this section shall remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 404. COMMERCIAL GOODS AND SERVICES.

It is the sense of the Congress that NASA should purchase commercially available space goods and services to the fullest extent feasible in support of the human missions beyond Earth and should encourage commercial use and development of space to the greatest extent practicable.

TITLE V—AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 501. GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN AERONAUTICS.

Congress reaffirms the national commitment to aeronautics research made in the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. Aeronautical research and development remains a core mission of NASA. NASA is the lead agency for civil aeronautics research. NASA shall conduct a robust program of aeronautics research that includes fundamental basic research as well as research in the fields of vehicle systems and of safety and security.

SEC. 502. NATIONAL POLICY FOR AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop through NASA and other relevant entities, a national aeronautics policy to guide the aeronautics programs of the United States through the year 2020. The development of this policy shall utilize external studies that have been conducted on the state of United States aeronautics and aviation research and have suggested policies to ensure continued competitiveness.

(b) CONTENT.—At a minimum the national aeronautics policy shall describe—

(1) national goals for aeronautics research;

(2) the priority areas of research for aeronautics through fiscal year 2011;

(3) the basis of which and the process by which priorities for ensuing fiscal years will be selected; and

(4) respective roles and responsibilities of various Federal agencies in aeronautics research.

(c) NASA INPUT.—In providing input to and executing the National Aeronautics Policy, the Administrator, shall consider the following issues:

(1) The established governmental interest in conducting research and development programs for improvement of the usefulness, performance, speed, safety, and efficiency of aeronautical and vehicles, as described in section 102(c)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and reaffirmed in section 501.

(2) The established governmental interest in conducting research and development programs that contribute to preservation of the role of the United States as a global leader in aeronautical technologies and in the application thereof in section 102(c)(5) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and reaffirmed in section 501.

(3) The appropriate balance between long-term, high risk research and shorter, more incremental research, and the expected impact on the United States economy and public good.

(4) The appropriate balance between in-house research and procurement with industry and academia.

(5) The extent to which NASA should address military and commercial aviation needs.

(6) How NASA will coordinate its aeronautics program with other Federal agencies.

(7) Opportunities for partnerships with the private sector.

(d) SCHEDULE.—

(1) No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit the national aeronautics policy to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House Committee on Science, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(2) No later than 60 days after the transmittal of the policy, the Administrator shall submit NASA's response to the policy, to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House Committee on Science, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

SEC. 503. HIGH PRIORITY AERONAUTICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In its role as lead agency for civil aeronautics research and development, NASA shall develop programs and projects in accordance with the National Aeronautics Policy described in section 502, as well program areas listed in subsection (b). These programs must be driven by scientific merit.

(b) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—In executing an aeronautics research and development program, the Administrator shall, at a minimum, within the budgetary and programmatic resources provided, conduct programs in the following areas:

(1) FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH.—The Administrator shall establish a program of long-term fundamental research in aeronautical sciences and technologies that is not tied to specific development projects. The Administrator shall set aside no less than 5 percent of the aeronautics budget for this program. As part of this program, the Administrator is encouraged to make merit-reviewed grants to institutions of higher learning, including such institutions located in states that participate in the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

(2) VEHICLE SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY.—In order to maintain United States economic competitiveness and protect the environment, the Administrator shall establish programs in each of the following technology areas:

(A) ENVIRONMENTAL AIRCRAFT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall establish an initiative with the objective of developing and demonstrating in a relevant environment, technologies to enable the following commercial aircraft performance characteristics:

(i) NOISE.—Noise levels on takeoff and on airport approach and landing that do not exceed ambient noise levels in the absence of flight operations in the vicinity of airports from which such commercial aircraft would normally operate;

(ii) ENERGY CONSUMPTION.—Twenty-five percent reduction in the energy required for medium to long range flights, compared to aircraft in commercial service as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) EMISSIONS.—Nitrogen oxides on takeoff and landing that are significantly reduced, without adversely affecting hydrocarbons and smoke, relative to aircraft in commercial service as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall establish an initiative with the objective of developing and demonstrating in a relevant environment within airframe and propulsion technologies to enable efficient, economical overland flight of supersonic civil transport aircraft with no significant impact on the environment.

(C) ROTORCRAFT AND OTHER RUNWAY-INDEPENDENT AIR VEHICLES.—The Administrator shall establish a rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles initiative with the objective of developing and demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment.

(D) HYPERSONICS RESEARCH.—The Administrator shall establish a hypersonics research program whose objective shall be to explore the science and technology of hypersonic flight using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles. Emphasis in the program shall be given to advancing and demonstrating turbine engine technology in the transition to hypersonic range Mach 3 to Mach 5.

(E) REVOLUTIONARY AERONAUTICAL CONCEPTS.—The Administrator shall establish a research program which covers a unique range of subsonic, fixed wing vehicles and propulsion concepts. This research is intended to push technology barriers beyond current subsonic technology. Propulsion concepts include advanced materials, morphing engines, hybrid engines, and fuel cells.

(F) MORE ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT INITIATIVE.—The Administrator shall establish a program for innovative and focused research and development such as fuel cell technologies.

(3) AIRSPACE SYSTEMS RESEARCH.—The Airspace Systems Research program shall pursue research and development to enable revolutionary improvements to and modernization of the National Airspace system, as well

as to enable the introduction of new systems for vehicles that can take advantage of an improved, modern air transportation system. In pursuing research and development in this area, the Administrator shall align the projects of the Airspace Systems Research program so that they directly support the objectives of the Joint Planning and Development Office's Next Generation air Transportation System Integrated Plan.

(4) AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY RESEARCH.—The Aviation Safety and Security Research program shall pursue research and development activities that directly address the safety and security needs of the National Airspace System and the aircraft that fly in it.

SEC. 504. TEST FACILITIES.

(a) Prior to completion of the National Aeronautics Policy described in section 502 and transmittal of such policy pursuant to subsection (d) of that section, the Administrator may not close, suspend, or terminate contracts for the operation of major aeronautical test facilities, including wind tunnels, unless the Administrator—

(1) certifies in writing that such closure will not have an adverse impact on NASA's ability to execute the National Policy and achieve the goals described in that Policy; and

(2) provides notification to and receives concurrence from the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House Committee on Science, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation 60 days in advance of such action.

SEC. 505. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator shall encourage the development of a skilled and diverse aeronautics research workforce using appropriate available tools such as grants, scholarships for service, and fellowships.

(b) ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Administrator shall align NASA's aeronautics program with priorities established by the Joint Planning and Development Office and by the National Aeronautics Policy described in section 502 of this Act.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 601. EXTENSION OF INDEMNIFICATION AUTHORITY.

Section 309 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2458c) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2002'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007'', and by striking ''September 30, 2005'' and inserting ''December 31, 2009''.

SEC. 602. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROVISIONS.

Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2457) is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT RIGHTS, ETC.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (5) or (6) of section 203(c) of this Act (42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(5) or (6)), the Administrator may—

''(A) grant or agree to grant in advance to a participating party, patent licenses or assignments, or options thereto, in any invention made in whole or in part by an Administration employee under the agreement; or

''(B) subject to section 209 of title 35, grant a license to an invention which is Federally owned, for which a patent application was filed before the signing of the agreement, and directly within the scope of the work under the agreement, for reasonable compensation when appropriate.

''(2) EXCLUSIVITY.—The Administrator shall ensure, through such agreement, that the participating party has the option to choose an exclusive license for a pre-negotiated field of use for any such invention under the agreement or, if there is more than 1 participating party, that the participating parties are offered the option to hold licensing rights that collectively encompass the rights that would be held under such an exclusive license by one party.

''(3) CONDITIONS.—In consideration for the Government's contribution under the agreement, grants under this subsection shall be subject to the following explicit conditions:

''(A) A nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license from the participating party to the Administration to practice the invention or have the invention practiced throughout the world by or on behalf of the Government. In the exercise of such license, the Government shall not publicly disclose trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential within the meaning of section 552 (b)(4) of title 5, United States Code, or which would be considered as such if it had been obtained from a non-Federal party.

''(B) If the Administration assigns title or grants an exclusive license to such an invention, the Government shall retain the right—

''(i) to require the participating party to grant to a responsible applicant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license to use the invention in the applicant's licensed field of use, on terms that are reasonable under the circumstances; or

''(ii) if the participating party fails to grant such a license, to grant the license itself.

''(C) The Government may exercise its right retained under subparagraph (B) only in exceptional circumstances and only if the Government determines that—

''(i) the action is necessary to meet health or safety needs that are not reasonably satisfied by the participating party;

''(ii) the action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations, and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the participating party; or

''(iii) the action is necessary to comply with an agreement containing provisions described in section 12(c)(4)(B) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(c)(4)(B)).

''(4) APPEAL AND REVIEW OF DETERMINATION.—A determination under paragraph (3)(C) is subject to administrative appeal and judicial review under section 203(b) of title 35, United States Code.''.

SEC. 603. RETROCESSION OF JURISDICTION.

Title III of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended by section 602 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 317. RETROCESSION OF JURISDICTION.

''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may, whenever the Administrator considers it desirable, relinquish to a State all or part of the legislative jurisdiction of the United States over lands or interests under the Administrator's control in that State. Relinquishment of legislative jurisdiction under this section may be accomplished (1) by filing with the Governor of the State concerned a notice of relinquishment to take effect upon acceptance thereof, or (2) as the laws of the State may otherwise provide.''.

SEC. 604. RECOVERY AND DISPOSITION AUTHORITY.

Title III of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended by section 603 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 318. RECOVERY AND DISPOSITION AUTHORITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) CONTROL OF REMAINS.—Subject to paragraph (2), when there is an accident or mishap resulting in the death of a crewmember of a NASA human space flight vehicle, the Administrator may take control over the remains of the crewmember and order autopsies and other scientific or medical tests.

''(2) TREATMENT.—Each crewmember shall provide the Administrator with his or her preferences regarding the treatment accorded to his or her remains and the Administrator shall, to the extent possible, respect those stated preferences.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CREWMEMBER.—The term 'crewmember' means an astronaut or other person assigned to a NASA human space flight vehicle.

''(2) NASA HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT VEHICLE.—The term 'NASA human space flight vehicle' means a space vehicle, as defined in section 308(f)(1), that—

''(A) is intended to transport 1 or more persons;

''(B) designed to operate in outer space; and

''(C) is either owned by NASA, or owned by a NASA contractor or cooperating party and operated as part of a NASA mission or a joint mission with NASA.''.

SEC. 605. REQUIREMENT FOR INDEPENDENT COST ANALYSIS.

Section 301 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2459g) amended—

(1) by striking ''Phase B'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''implementation'';

(2) by striking ''Chief Financial Officer'' each place it appears in subsection (a) and inserting ''Administrator'';

(3) by inserting ''and consider'' in subsection (a) after ''shall conduct''; and

(4) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) IMPLEMENTATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'implementation' means all activity in the life cycle of a program or project after preliminary design, independent assessment of the preliminary design, and approval to proceed into implementation, including critical design, development, certification, launch, operations, disposal of assets, and, for technology programs, development, testing, analysis and communication of the results to the customers.''.

SEC. 606. ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

Title III of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended by section 604 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 319. ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may implement a pilot program providing for reduction in the waiting period between publication of notice of a proposed contract action and release of the solicitation for procurements conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

''(b) APPLICABILITY.—The program implemented under subsection (a) shall apply to non-commercial acquisitions—

''(1) with a total value in excess of $100,000 but not more than $5,000,000, including options;

''(2) that do not involve bundling of contract requirements as defined in section 3(o) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(o)); and

''(3) for which a notice is required by section 8(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)).

''(c) NOTICE.—

''(1) Notice of acquisitions subject to the program authorized by this section shall be made accessible through the single Government-wide point of entry designated in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, consistent with section 30(c)(4) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 426(c)(4)).

''(2) Providing access to notice in accordance with paragraph (1) satisfies the publication requirements of section 8(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)).

''(d) SOLICITATION.—Solicitations subject to the program authorized by this section shall be made accessible through the Government-wide point of entry, consistent with requirements set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, except for adjustments to the wait periods as provided in subsection (e).

''(e) WAIT PERIOD.—

''(1) Whenever a notice required by section 8(e)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(1)(A)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)) is made accessible in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the wait period set forth in section 8(e)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(A)) and section 18(a)(3)(A) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(A)), shall be reduced by 5 days. If the solicitation applying to that notice is accessible electronically in accordance with subsection (d) simultaneously with issuance of the notice, the wait period set forth in section 8(e)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(A)) and section 18(a)(3)(A) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(A)) shall not apply and the period specified in section 8(e)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act and section 18(a)(3)(B) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act for submission of bids or proposals shall begin to run from the date the solicitation is electronically accessible.

''(2) When a notice and solicitation are made accessible simultaneously and the wait period is waived pursuant to paragraph (1), the deadline for the submission of bids or proposals shall be not less than 5 days greater than the minimum deadline set forth in section 8(e)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(B)) and section 18(a)(3)(B) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(B)).

''(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed as modifying regulatory requirements set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, except with respect to—

''(A) the applicable wait period between publication of notice of a proposed contract action and release of the solicitation; and

''(B) the deadline for submission of bids or proposals for procurements conducted in accordance with the terms of this pilot program.

''(2) This section shall not apply to the extent the President determines it is inconsistent with any international agreement to which the United States is a party.

''(g) STUDY.—Within 18 months after the effective date of the program, NASA, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget, shall evaluate the impact of the pilot program and submit to Congress a report that—

''(1) sets forth in detail the results of the test, including the impact on competition and small business participation; and

''(2) addresses whether the pilot program should be made permanent, continued as a test program, or allowed to expire.

''(h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall publish proposed revisions to the NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement necessary to implement this section in the Federal Register not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005. The Administrator shall—

''(1) make the proposed regulations available for public comment for a period of not less than 60 days; and

''(2) publish final regulations in the Federal Register not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of that Act.

''(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program authorized by this section shall take effect on the date specified in the final regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (h)(2).

''(2) LIMITATION.—The date so specified shall be no less than 30 days after the date on which the final regulation is published.

''(j) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to conduct the pilot program under subsection (a) and to award contracts under such program shall expire 2 years after the effective date established in the final regulations published in the Federal Register under subsection (h)(2).''.

SEC. 607. REPORTS ELIMINATION.

(a) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) Section 201 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2451 note).

(2) Section 304(d) of the Federal Aviation Administration Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1992 (49 U.S.C. 47508 note).

(b) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 315 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2459j) is amended by striking subsection (a) and redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e).

(2) Section 315(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2487a(c)) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) Section 323 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 is amended by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 608. SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING.

(a) PLAN.—In consultation with the Small Business Administration, the Administrator shall develop a plan to maximize the number and amount of contracts awarded to small business concerns (within the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) and to meet established contracting goals for such concerns.

(b) PRIORITY.—The Administrator shall establish, as a priority, meeting the contracting goals developed in conjunction with the Small Business Administration to maximize the amount of prime contracts, as measured in dollars, awarded in each fiscal year by NASA to small business concerns (within the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

SEC. 609. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of NASA's policies, processes, and procedures in the planning and management of applications research and development implemented in calendar years 2001 to 2005 within the Applied Sciences Directorate and former Earth Science Applications Program. A formal and transparent peer review process that instills public and stakeholder confidence in NASA's sponsored applications research and development programs is important and the process by which this program defines requirements, scopes programs, selects peer reviewers, manages the research competition, and selects proposals is of concern. The review shall include—

(1) the program planning and analysis process used to formulate applied science research and development requirements, priorities, and solicitation schedules, including changes to the process within the period under review, and the effects of such planning on the quality and clarity of applied sciences research announcements;

(2) the peer review process including—

(A) membership selection, determination of qualifications and use of NASA and non-NASA reviewers;

(B) management of conflicts of interest, including reviewers funded by the program with a significant consulting or contractual relationship with NASA, and individuals who both review proposals and participate in the submission of proposals under the same solicitation announcement;

(C) compensation of non-NASA proposal reviewers;

(3) the process for assigning or allocating applied research to NASA researchers and to non-NASA researchers; and

(4) alternative models for NASA planning and management of applied science and applications research, including an evaluation of—

(A) the National Institutes of Health's intramural and extramural research program structure, peer review process, management of conflicts of interests, compensation of reviewers, and the effects of compensation on reviewer efficiency and quality;

(B) the Department of Agriculture's research programs and structure, peer review process, management of conflicts of interest, compensation of reviewers, and the effects of compensation on reviewer efficiency and quality; and

(C) the ''best practices'' of both in the planning, selection, and management of applied sciences research and development.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science describing the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations for NASA best practices.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of the report, NASA shall provide the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House of Representatives Committee on Science a plan describing the implementation of those recommendations.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. BOEHLERT

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. BOEHLERT of New York moves to strike all after the enacting clause of S. 1281 and insert in lieu thereof the text of H.R. 3070 as passed by the House, as follows:

S. 1281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND REPORTS
Sec. 101. Responsibilities, policies, and plans.
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SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 14, 2004, the President unveiled the Vision for Space Exploration to guide United States policy on human space exploration.

(2) The President's vision of returning humans to the Moon and working toward a sustainable human presence there and then venturing further into the solar system provides a sustainable rationale for the United States human space flight program.

(3) As we enter the Second Space Age, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should continue to support robust programs in space science, aeronautics, and earth science as it moves forward with plans to send Americans to the Moon, Mars, and worlds beyond.

(4) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's programs can advance the frontiers of science, expanding understanding of our planet and of the universe, and contribute to American prosperity.

(5) The United States should honor its international commitments to the International Space Station program.

(6) The United States must remain the leader in aeronautics and aviation. Any erosion of this preeminence is not in the Nation's economic or security interests. Past Federal investments in aeronautics research and development have benefited the economy and national security of the United States and improved the quality of life of its citizens.

(7) Long-term progress in aeronautics and space requires continued Federal investment in fundamental research, test facilities, and maintenance of a skilled civil service workforce at NASA's Centers.

(8) An important part of NASA's mission is education and outreach.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ISS.—The term ''ISS'' means the International Space Station.

(3) NASA.—The term ''NASA'' means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

TITLE I—GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND REPORTS

SEC. 101. RESPONSIBILITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS.

(a) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall ensure that NASA carries out a balanced set of programs that shall include, at a minimum, programs in—

(A) human space flight, in accordance with subsection (b);

(B) aeronautics research and development; and

(C) scientific research, which shall include, at a minimum—

(i) robotic missions to study planets, and to deepen understanding of astronomy, astrophysics, and other areas of science that can be productively studied from space;

(ii) earth science research and research on the Sun-Earth connection through the development and operation of research satellites and other means;

(iii) support of university research in space science, earth science and microgravity science.

(iv) research on microgravity, including research that is not directly related to human exploration.

(2) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the programs of NASA, the Administrator shall—

(A) consult and coordinate to the extent appropriate with other relevant Federal agencies, including through the National Science and Technology Council;

(B) work closely with the private sector, including by—

(i) encouraging the work of entrepreneurs who are seeking to develop new means to launch satellites, crew, or cargo;

(ii) contracting with the private sector for crew and cargo services to the extent practicable; and

(iii) using commercially available products (including software) and services to the extent practicable to support all NASA activities; and

(C) involve other nations to the extent appropriate.

(b) VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.—The Administrator shall manage human space flight programs to strive to achieve the following goals:

(1) Returning Americans to the Moon no later than 2020.

(2) Launching the Crew Exploration Vehicle as close to 2010 as possible.

(3) Increasing knowledge of the impacts of long duration stays in space on the human body using the most appropriate facilities available.

(4) Enabling humans to land on and return from Mars and other destinations on a timetable that is technically and fiscally possible.

(c) AERONAUTICS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President of the United States, through the Administrator, and in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall develop a national aeronautics policy to guide the aeronautics programs of NASA through 2020.

(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, the national aeronautics policy shall describe for NASA—

(A) the priority areas of research for aeronautics through fiscal year 2011;

(B) the basis on which and the process by which priorities for ensuing fiscal years will be selected;

(C) the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the aeronautics program through fiscal year 2011; and

(D) the budget assumptions on which the national aeronautics policy is based, which for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be the authorized level for aeronautics provided in title II of this Act.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the national aeronautics policy, the President shall consider the following issues, which shall be discussed in the transmittal under paragraph (5):

(A) The extent to which NASA should focus on long-term, high-risk research or more incremental research, and the expected impact on the United States aircraft and airline industries of that decision.

(B) The extent to which NASA should address military and commercial needs.

(C) How NASA will coordinate its aeronautics program with other Federal agencies.

(D) The extent to which NASA will fund university research, and the expected impact of that funding on the supply of United States workers for the aeronautics industry.

(E) The extent to which the priority areas of research listed pursuant to paragraph (2)(A) should include the activities authorized by title IV of this Act, the discussion of which shall include a priority ranking of all of the activities authorized in title IV and an explanation for that ranking.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In the development of the national aeronautics policy, the Administrator shall consult widely with academic and industry experts and with other Federal agencies. The Administrator may enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to help develop the national aeronautics policy.

(5) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the national aeronautics policy to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2007 to the Congress. The Administrator shall make available to those committees any study done by a nongovernmental entity that was used in the development of the national aeronautics policy.

(d) SCIENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a policy to guide the science programs of NASA through 2016.

(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, the policy shall describe—

(A) the missions NASA will initiate, design, develop, launch, or operate in space science and earth science through fiscal year 2016, including launch dates;

(B) a priority ranking of all of the missions listed under subparagraph (A), and the rationale for the ranking;

(C) the budget assumptions on which the policy is based, which for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be consistent with the authorizations provided in title II of this Act; and

(D) the facilities and personnel needed to carry out the policy through fiscal year 2016.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the science policy under this subsection, the Administrator shall consider the following issues, which shall be discussed in the transmittal under paragraph (6):

(A) What the most important scientific questions in space science and earth science are.

(B) The relationship between NASA's space and earth science activities and those of other Federal agencies.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In developing the policy under this subsection, the Administrator shall draw on decadal surveys and other reports in planetary science, astronomy, solar and space physics, earth science, and any other relevant fields developed by the National Academy of Sciences. The Administrator shall also consult widely with academic and industry experts and with other Federal agencies.

(5) HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE.—The policy developed under this subsection shall address plans for a human mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope consistent with section 302 of this Act.

(6) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the policy developed under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2007 to the Congress. The Administrator shall make available to those committees any study done by a nongovernmental entity that was used in the development of the policy.

(e) FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a plan for managing NASA's facilities through fiscal year 2015. The plan shall be consistent with the policies and plans developed pursuant to this section.

(2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, the plan shall describe—

(A) any new facilities NASA intends to acquire, whether through construction, purchase, or lease, and the expected dates for doing so;

(B) any facilities NASA intends to significantly modify, and the expected dates for doing so;

(C) any facilities NASA intends to close, and the expected dates for doing so;

(D) any transaction NASA intends to conduct to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer the ownership of a facility, and the expected dates for doing so;

(E) how each of the actions described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) will enhance the ability of NASA to carry out its programs;

(F) the expected costs or savings expected from each of the actions described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D);

(G) the priority order of the actions described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D);

(H) the budget assumptions of the plan, which for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be consistent with the authorizations provided in title II of this Act; and

(I) how facilities were evaluated in developing the plan.

(3) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2008 to the Congress.

(f) WORKFORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a human capital strategy to ensure that NASA has a workforce of the appropriate size and with the appropriate skills to carry out the programs of NASA, consistent with the policies and plans developed pursuant to this section. The strategy shall cover the period through fiscal year 2011.

(2) CONTENT.—The strategy shall describe, at a minimum—

(A) any categories of employees NASA intends to reduce, the expected size and timing of those reductions, the methods NASA intends to use to make the reductions, and the reasons NASA no longer needs those employees;

(B) any categories of employees NASA intends to increase, the expected size and timing of those increases, the methods NASA intends to use to recruit the additional employees, and the reasons NASA needs those employees;

(C) the steps NASA will use to retain needed employees; and

(D) the budget assumptions of the strategy, which for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be consistent with the authorizations provided in title II of this Act, and any expected additional costs or savings from the strategy by fiscal year.

(3) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the strategy developed under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2007 to the Congress. At least 60 days before transmitting the strategy, NASA shall provide a draft of the strategy to its Federal Employee Unions for a 30-day consultation period after which NASA shall respond in writing to any written concerns provided by the Unions.

(4) LIMITATION.—NASA may not initiate any buyout offer until 60 days after the strategy required by this subsection has been transmitted to the Congress in accordance with paragraph (3). NASA may not implement any Reduction in Force or other involuntary separations (except for cause) prior to February 16, 2007.

(g) CENTER MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct a study to determine whether any of NASA's centers should be operated by or with the private sector by converting a center to a Federally Funded Research and Development Center or through any other mechanism.

(2) CONTENT.—The study shall, at a minimum—

(A) make a recommendation for the operation of each center and provide reasons for that recommendation; and

(B) describe the advantages and disadvantages of each mode of operation considered in the study.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study, the Administrator shall take into consideration the experiences of other relevant Federal agencies in operating laboratories and centers and any reports that have reviewed the mode of operation of those laboratories and centers, as well as any reports that have reviewed NASA's centers.

(4) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the study conducted under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than May 31, 2006.

(h) BUDGETS.—The proposed budget for NASA submitted by the President for each fiscal year shall be accompanied by documents showing—

(1) the budget for each element of the human space flight program;

(2) the budget for aeronautics;

(3) the budget for space science;

(4) the budget for earth science;

(5) the budget for microgravity science;

(6) the budget for education;

(7) the budget for technology transfer programs;

(8) the budget for the Integrated Financial Management Program, by individual element;

(9) the budget for the Independent Technical Authority, both total and by center;

(10) the budget for public relations, by program;

(11) the comparable figures for at least the 2 previous fiscal years for each item in the proposed budget;

(12) the amount of unobligated funds and unexpended funds, by appropriations account—

(A) that remained at the end of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the budget is being presented that were carried over into the fiscal year in which the budget is being presented;

(B) that are estimated will remain at the end of the fiscal year in which the budget is being presented that are proposed to be carried over into the fiscal year for which the budget is being presented; and

(C) that are estimated will remain at the end of the fiscal year for which the budget is being presented; and

(13) the budget for safety, by program.

(i) GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—NASA shall make available, upon request from the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, information on Corporate and Center General and Administrative Costs and Service Pool costs, including—

(1) the total amount of funds being allocated for those purposes for any fiscal year for which the President has submitted an annual budget request to Congress;

(2) the amount of funds being allocated for those purposes for each center, for headquarters, and for each directorate; and

(3) the major activities included in each cost category.

(j) NASA TEST FACILITIES.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall commission an independent review of the Nation's long-term strategic needs for test facilities and shall submit the review to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. The review shall include an evaluation of the facility needs described pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C).

(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator shall not close or mothball any aeronautical test facilities identified in the 2003 independent assessment by the RAND Corporation, entitled ''Wind Tunnel and Propulsion Test Facilities: An Assessment of NASA's Capabilities to Serve National Needs'' as being part of the minimum set of those facilities necessary to retain and manage to serve national needs, as well as any other non-aeronautical NASA test facilities that were in use as of January 1, 2004, until the review conducted under paragraph (1) has been transmitted to the Congress.

SEC. 102. REPORTS.

(a) IMMEDIATE ISSUES.—Not later than September 30, 2005, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on each of the following items:

(1) The research agenda for the ISS and its proposed final configuration.

(2) The number of flights the Space Shuttle will make before its retirement, the purpose of those flights, and the expected date of the final flight.

(3) A description of the means, other than the Space Shuttle, that may be used to ferry crew and cargo to and from the ISS.

(4) A plan for the operation of the ISS in the event that the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 is not amended.

(5) A description of the launch vehicle for the Crew Exploration Vehicle.

(6) A description of any heavy lift vehicle NASA intends to develop, the intended uses of that vehicle, and whether the decision to develop that vehicle has undergone an interagency review.

(7) A description of the intended purpose of lunar missions and the architecture for those missions.

(8) The program goals for Project Prometheus.

(9) A plan for managing the cost increase for the James Webb Space Telescope.

(b) CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE.—The Administrator shall not enter into a development contract for the Crew Exploration Vehicle until at least 30 days after the Administrator has transmitted to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the expected cost of the Crew Exploration Vehicle through fiscal year 2020, based on the specifications for that development contract;

(2) the expected budgets for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2020 for human space flight, aeronautics, space science, and earth science—

(A) first assuming inflationary growth for the budget of NASA as a whole and including costs for the Crew Exploration Vehicle as projected under paragraph (1); and

(B) then assuming inflationary growth for the budget of NASA as a whole and including at least two cost estimates for the Crew Exploration Vehicle that are higher than those projected under paragraph (1), based on NASA's past experience with cost increases for similar programs, along with a description of the reasons for selecting the cost estimates used for the calculations under this subparagraph and the probability that the cost of the Crew Exploration Vehicle will reach those estimated amounts; and

(3) the extent to which the Crew Exploration Vehicle will allow for the escape of the crew in the event of an emergency.

(c) SPACE COMMUNICATIONS STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Administrator shall develop a plan for updating NASA's space communications architecture for both low-Earth orbital operations and deep space exploration so that it is capable of meeting NASA's needs over the next 20 years. The plan shall also include life-cycle cost estimates, milestones, estimated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding profiles. The plan shall also include an estimate of the amounts of any reimbursements NASA is likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. The plan shall include a description of the following:

(A) Projected Deep Space Network requirements for the next decade, including those in support of human space exploration missions.

(B) Upgrades needed to support Deep Space Network requirements.

(C) Cost estimates for the maintenance of existing Deep Space Network capabilities.

(D) Cost estimates and schedules for the upgrades described in subparagraph (B).

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—The Administrator shall consult with other relevant Federal agencies in developing the plan under this subsection.

(3) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than February 17, 2007.

(d) PUBLIC RELATIONS.—Not later than December 31, 2005, the Administrator shall transmit a plan to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, describing the activities that will be undertaken as part of the national awareness campaign required by the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives accompanying the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006, and the expected cost of those activities. NASA may undertake activities as part of the national awareness campaign prior to the transmittal of the plan required by this subsection, but not until 15 days after notifying the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of any activity. The plan required by this subsection shall include the estimated costs of any activities undertaken pursuant to notice under the preceding sentence.

(e) JOINT DARK ENERGY MISSION.—The Administrator and the Director of the Department of Energy Office of Science shall jointly transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than the date on which the President submits the proposed budget for the Federal Government for fiscal year 2007, a report on plans for a Joint Dark Energy Mission. The report shall include the amount of funds each agency intends to expend on the Joint Dark Energy Mission for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and any specific milestones for the development and launch of the Mission.

(f) SHUTTLE EMPLOYEE TRANSITION.—The Administrator shall consult with other appropriate Federal agencies and with NASA contractors and employees to develop a transition plan for Federal and contractor personnel engaged in the Space Shuttle program. The plan shall include actions to assist Federal and contractor personnel to take advantage of training, retraining, job placement, and relocation programs, and any other actions that NASA will take to assist the employees. The plan shall also describe how the Administrator will ensure that NASA and its contractors will have an appropriate complement of employees to allow for the safest possible use of the Space Shuttle through its final flight. The Administrator shall transmit the plan to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than February 1, 2006.

(g) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall conduct a study to determine—

(A) if any research and development programs of NASA are unnecessarily duplicating aspects of programs of other Federal agencies; and

(B) if any research and development programs of NASA are neglecting any topics of national interest that are related to the mission of NASA.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2006, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the results of the study under paragraph (1);

(B) lists the research and development programs of Federal agencies other than NASA that were reviewed as part of the study, which shall include any program supporting research and development in an area related to the programs of NASA, and the most recent budget figures for those programs of other agencies;

(C) recommends any changes to the research and development programs of NASA that should be made to eliminate unnecessary duplication or address topics of national interest; and

(D) describes mechanisms the Office of Science and Technology Policy will use to ensure adequate coordination between NASA and Federal agencies that operate related programs.

(h) OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a quarterly report on the NASA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, which shall include a description of the outreach activities of the Office and the impact of such activities on the participation of small businesses, including small businesses owned by women and minorities, in NASA contracts.

SEC. 103. BASELINES AND COST CONTROLS.

(a) CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—NASA shall not enter into a contract for the development phase of a major program unless the Administrator determines that—

(A) the technical, cost, and schedule risks of the program are clearly identified and the program has developed a plan to manage those risks; and

(B) the program complies with all relevant policies, regulations, and directives of NASA.

(2) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit a report describing the basis for the determination required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate at least 30 days before entering into a contract for development under a major program.

(3) NONDELEGATION.—The Administrator may not delegate the determination requirement under this subsection, except in cases in which the Administrator has a conflict of interest.

(b) MAJOR PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than February 15 of each year following the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on each major program for which NASA proposes to expend funds in the subsequent fiscal year. Reports under this section shall be known as Major Program Annual Reports.

(2) BASELINE REPORT.—The first Major Program Annual Report for each major program shall include a Baseline Report that shall, at a minimum, include—

(A) the purposes of the program and key technical characteristics necessary to fulfill those purposes;

(B) an estimate of the life-cycle cost for the program, with a detailed breakout of the development cost, program reserves, and an estimate of the annual costs until the development is completed;

(C) the schedule for the development, including key program milestones;

(D) the plan for mitigating technical, schedule, and cost risks prepared in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A); and

(E) the name of the person responsible for making notifications under subsection (c), who shall be an individual whose primary responsibility is overseeing the program.

(3) INFORMATION UPDATES.—For major programs with respect to which a Baseline Report has been previously submitted, each subsequent Major Program Annual Report shall describe any changes to the information that had been provided in the Baseline Report, and the reasons for those changes.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The individual identified under subsection (b)(2)(D) shall immediately notify the Administrator any time that individual has reasonable cause to believe that, for the major program for which he or she is responsible—

(A) the development cost of the program is likely to exceed the estimate provided in the Baseline Report of the program by 15 percent or more; or

(B) a milestone of the program is likely to be delayed by 6 months or more from the date provided for it in the Baseline Report of the program.

(2) REASONS.—Not later than 7 days after the notification required under paragraph (1), the individual identified under subsection (b)(2)(D) shall transmit to the Administrator a written notification explaining the reasons for the change in the cost or milestone of the program for which notification was provided under paragraph (1).

(3) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 days after the Administrator receives a written notification under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall transmit the notification to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(d) FIFTEEN PERCENT THRESHOLD.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a written notification under subsection (c)(2), the Administrator shall determine whether the development cost of the program is likely to exceed the estimate provided in the Baseline Report of the program by 15 percent or more, or whether a milestone is likely to be delayed by 6 months or more. If the determination is affirmative, the Administrator shall—

(1) transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than 14 days after making the determination, a report that includes—

(A) a description of the increase in cost or delay in schedule and a detailed explanation for the increase or delay;

(B) a description of actions taken or proposed to be taken in response to the cost increase or delay; and

(C) a description of any impacts the cost increase or schedule delay will have on any other program within NASA; and

(2) if the Administrator intends to continue with the program, promptly initiate an analysis of the program, which shall include, at a minimum—

(A) the projected cost and schedule for completing the program if current requirements of the program are not modified;

(B) the projected cost and the schedule for completing the program after instituting the actions described under paragraph (1)(B); and

(C) a description of, and the projected cost and schedule for, a broad range of alternatives to the program.

NASA shall complete an analysis initiated under paragraph (2) not later than 6 months after the Administrator makes a determination under this subsection. The Administrator shall transmit the analysis to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 30 days after its completion.

(e) THIRTY PERCENT THRESHOLD.—If the Administrator determines under subsection (d) that the development cost of a program will exceed the estimate provided in the Baseline Report of the program by more than the lower of 30 percent or $1,000,000,000, then, beginning 18 months after the date the Administrator transmits a report under subsection (d)(1), the Administrator shall not expend any additional funds on the program, other than termination costs, unless the Congress has subsequently authorized continuation of the program by law. An appropriation for the program enacted subsequent to a report being transmitted shall be considered an authorization for purposes of this subsection. If the program is continued, the Administrator shall submit a new Baseline Report for the program no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act under which Congress has authorized continuation of the program.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term ''development'' means the phase of a program following the formulation phase and beginning with the approval to proceed to implementation, as defined in NASA's Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005;

(2) the term ''development cost'' means the total of all costs, including construction of facilities and civil servant costs, from the period beginning with the approval to proceed to implementation through the achievement of operational readiness, without regard to funding source or management control, for the life of the program;

(3) the term ''life-cycle cost'' means the total of the direct, indirect, recurring, and nonrecurring costs, including the construction of facilities and civil servant costs, and other related expenses incurred or estimated to be incurred in the design, development, verification, production, operation, maintenance, support, and retirement of a program over its planned lifespan, without regard to funding source or management control; and

(4) the term ''major program'' means an activity approved to proceed to implementation that has an estimated life-cycle cost of more than $150,000,000.

SEC. 104. PRIZE AUTHORITY.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451, et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 313 the following new section:

''PRIZE AUTHORITY

''SEC. 314. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administration may carry out a program to competitively award cash prizes to stimulate innovation in basic and applied research, technology development, and prototype demonstration that have the potential for application to the performance of the space and aeronautical activities of the Administration. The Administration may carry out a

program to award prizes only in conformity with this section.

''(b) TOPICS.—In selecting topics for prize competitions, the Administrator shall consult widely both within and outside the Federal Government, and may empanel advisory committees.

''(c) ADVERTISING.—The Administrator shall widely advertise prize competitions to encourage participation.

''(d) REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION.—For each prize competition, the Administrator shall publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the subject of the competition, the rules for being eligible to participate in the competition, the amount of the prize, and the basis on which a winner will be selected.

''(e) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to win a prize under this section, an individual or entity—

''(1) shall have registered to participate in the competition pursuant to any rules promulgated by the Administrator under subsection (d);

''(2) shall have complied with all the requirements under this section;

''(3) in the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether participating singly or in a group, shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; and

''(4) shall not be a Federal entity or Federal employee acting within the scope of their employment.

''(f) LIABILITY.—(1) Registered participants must agree to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the United States Government and its related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from their participation in a competition, whether such injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term 'related entity' means a contractor or subcontractor at any tier, and a supplier, user, customer, cooperating party, grantee, investigator, or detailee.

''(2) Participants must obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility in amounts determined by the Administrator, from claims by—

''(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage, or loss resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation in a competition, with the Federal Government named as an additional insured under the registered participant's insurance policy and registered participants agreeing to indemnify the Federal Government against third party claims for damages arising from or related to competition activities; and

''(B) the United States Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from such an activity.

''(g) JUDGES.—For each competition, the Administration, either directly or through a contract under subsection (h), shall assemble a panel of qualified judges to select the winner or winners of the prize competition on the basis described pursuant to subsection (d). Judges for each competition shall include individuals from outside the Administration, including from the private sector. A judge may not—

''(1) have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of any entity that is a registered participant in a competition; or

''(2) have a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is a registered participant.

''(h) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITION.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with a private, nonprofit entity to administer the prize competition, subject to the provisions of this section.

''(i) FUNDING.—(1) The Administrator may accept funds from other Federal agencies and from the private sector for cash prizes under this section. The Administrator may not give any special consideration to any private sector entity in return for a donation.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for prize awards under this section shall remain available until expended, and may be transferred, reprogrammed, or expended for other purposes only after the expiration of 10 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which the funds were originally appropriated. No provision in this section permits obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1341).

''(3) No prize may be announced under subsection (d) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the prize have been appropriated or committed in writing by a private source. The Administrator may increase the amount of a prize after an initial announcement is made under subsection (d) if—

(A) notice of the increase is provided in the same manner as the initial notice of the prize; and

(B) the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the increase have been appropriated or committed in writing by a private source.

''(4) No prize competition under this section may offer a prize in an amount greater than $10,000,000 unless 30 days have elapsed after written notice has been provided to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

''(j) USE OF NASA NAME AND INSIGNIA.—A registered participant in a competition under this section may use the Administration's name, initials, or insignia only after prior review and written approval by the Administration.

''(k) COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING LAW.—The Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offering or providing a prize under this section, be responsible for compliance by registered participants in a prize competition with Federal law, including licensing, export control, and nonproliferation laws, and related regulations.''.

SEC. 105. FOREIGN LAUNCH VEHICLES.

(a) ACCORD WITH SPACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY.—NASA shall not launch a mission on a foreign launch vehicle except in accordance with the Space Transportation Policy announced by the President on December 21, 2004.

(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—NASA shall not launch a mission on a foreign launch vehicle unless NASA commenced the interagency coordination required by the Space Transportation Policy announced by the President on December 21, 2004, at least 90 days before entering into a development contract for the mission.

(c) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply to any mission for which development has begun prior to the date of enactment of this Act, including the James Webb Space Telescope.

SEC. 106. SAFETY MANAGEMENT.

Section 6 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 2477) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''There is hereby'';

(2) by striking ''plans referred to it'' and inserting ''plans referred to it, including evaluating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's compliance with the return-to-flight and continue-to-fly recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board,'';

(3) by inserting ''and the Congress'' after ''advise the Administrator'';

(4) by striking ''and with respect to the adequacy of proposed or existing safety standards and shall'' and inserting '', with respect to the adequacy of proposed or existing safety standards, and with respect to management and culture. The Panel shall also''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Panel shall submit an annual report to the Administrator and to the Congress. In the first annual report submitted after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, the Panel shall include an evaluation of the Administration's safety management culture. Each annual report shall include an evaluation of the Administration's compliance with the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.''.

SEC. 107. LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an implementation plan describing NASA's approach for obtaining, implementing, and sharing lessons learned and best practices for its major programs and projects not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The implementation plan shall be updated and maintained to ensure that it is current and consistent with the burgeoning culture of learning and safety that is emerging at NASA.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENT.—The implementation plan shall contain at a minimum the lessons learned and best practices requirements for NASA, the organizations or positions responsible for enforcement of the requirements, the reporting structure, and the objective performance measures indicating the effectiveness of the activity.

(c) INCENTIVES.—The Administrator shall provide incentives to encourage sharing and implementation of lessons learned and best practices by employees, projects, and programs, as well as penalties for programs and projects that are determined not to have demonstrated use of those resources.

SEC. 108. COMMERCIALIZATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with other relevant agencies, shall develop a commercialization plan to support the human missions to the Moon and Mars, to support Low-Earth Orbit activities and Earth science missions and applications, and to transfer science research and technology to society. The plan shall identify opportunities for the private sector to participate in the future missions and activities, including opportunities for partnership between NASA and the private sector in conducting research and the development of technologies and services. The plan shall include provisions for developing and funding sustained university and industry partnerships to conduct commercial research and technology development, to proactively translate results of space research to Earth benefits, to advance United States economic interests, and to support the vision for exploration.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a copy of the plan to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 109. STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USE OF GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct a feasibility study on the use of ground source heat pumps in future NASA facilities or substantial renovation of existing NASA facilities involving the installation of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the study to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall examine—

(1) the life-cycle costs, including maintenance costs, of the operation of such heat pumps compared to generally available heating, cooling, and water heating equipment;

(2) barriers to installation, such as availability and suitability of terrain; and

(3) such other issues as the Administrator considers appropriate.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''ground source heat pump'' means an electric-powered system that uses the Earth's relatively constant temperature to provide heating, cooling, or hot water.

SEC. 110. SPACE SHUTTLE RETURN TO FLIGHT.

It is the sense of Congress that, in keeping with the President's Vision for Space Exploration, the Space Shuttle should return to flight as soon as the Administrator determines that a flight can be accomplished with an acceptable level of safety.

SEC. 111. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate a plan describing steps to be taken by NASA to protect the employment status of NASA employees who raise or have raised concerns about a potentially catastrophic risk to health or safety.

TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 201. STRUCTURE OF BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS.

Section 313 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2459f) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 313. BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS.

''Appropriations for the Administration for fiscal year 2007 and thereafter shall be made in four accounts, 'Science, Aeronautics, and Education', 'Exploration Systems', 'Space Operations', and an account for amounts appropriated for the necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General. Appropriations shall remain available for two fiscal years, unless otherwise specified in law. Each account shall include the planned full costs of Administration activities.''.

SEC. 202. FISCAL YEAR 2006.

There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA for fiscal year 2006 $16,965,650,000, as follows:

(1) For Science, Aeronautics and Education (including amounts for construction of facilities), $6,870,250,000 of which—

(A) $962,000,000 shall be for Aeronautics;

(B) $150,000,000 shall be for a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission;

(C) $24,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program; and

(D) $8,900,000 for the Science and Technology Scholarship Program.

(2) For Exploration Systems (including amounts for construction of facilities), $3,844,100,000.

(3) For Space Operations (including amounts for construction of facilities), $6,218,900,000.

(4) For the Office of Inspector General, $32,400,000.

SEC. 203. FISCAL YEAR 2007.

There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA for fiscal year 2007 $17,726,800,000, as follows:

(1) For Science, Aeronautics and Education (including amounts for construction of facilities), $7,331,600,000 of which—

(A) $990,000,000 shall be for Aeronautics; and

(B) $24,000,000 shall be for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

(2) For Exploration Systems (including amounts for construction of facilities), $4,514,000,000.

(3) For Space Operations (including amounts for construction of facilities), $5,847,700,000.

(4) For the Office of Inspector General, $33,500,000.

SEC. 204. ISS RESEARCH.

The Administrator shall allocate at least 15 percent of the funds budgeted for ISS research to research that is not directly related to supporting the human exploration program.

SEC. 205. TEST FACILITIES.

(a) CHARGES.—The Administrator shall establish a policy of charging users of NASA's test facilities for the costs associated with their tests at a level that is competitive with alternative test facilities. As a general principle, NASA shall not seek to recover the full costs of the operation of those facilities from the users. The Administrator shall not implement a policy of seeking full cost recovery for a facility until at least 30 days after transmitting a notice to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) FUNDING ACCOUNT.—The Administrator shall establish a funding account that shall be used for all test facilities. The account shall be sufficient to maintain the viability of test facilities during periods of low utilization.

SEC. 206. PROPORTIONALITY.

If the total amount appropriated for NASA pursuant to section 202 or 203 is less than the amount authorized under such section, the amounts authorized under each of the accounts specified in such section shall be reduced proportionately.

SEC. 207. LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no amount appropriated pursuant to this Act may be used for any program in excess of the amount actually authorized for the particular program by section 202 or 203, unless a period of 30 days has passed after the receipt, by the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, of notice given by the Administrator containing a full and complete statement of the action proposed to be taken and the facts and circumstances relied upon in support of such a proposed action. NASA shall keep the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate fully and currently informed with respect to all activities and responsibilities within the jurisdiction of those Committees.

SEC. 208. NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.

If any funds authorized by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall concurrently be provided to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 209. COST OVERRUNS.

When reprogramming funds to cover unexpected cost growth within a program, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, protect funds intended for fundamental and applied Research and Analysis.

SEC. 210. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONAL FUND.

Amounts appropriated pursuant to this Act may be used, but not to exceed a total of $35,000 in any fiscal year, for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COST CAP.

Section 202 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2451 note) is repealed.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 301. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Performance of each discipline in the Science account of NASA shall be reviewed and assessed by the National Academy of Sciences at 5-year intervals.

(b) TIMING.—Beginning with the first fiscal year following the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall select at least one discipline for review under this section. The Administrator shall select disciplines so that all disciplines will have received their first review within six fiscal years of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORTS.—Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning with the first fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) setting forth in detail the results of any external review under subsection (a);

(2) setting forth in detail actions taken by NASA in response to any external review; and

(3) including a summary of findings and recommendations from any other relevant external reviews of NASA's science mission priorities and programs.

SEC. 302. STATUS REPORT ON HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE SERVICING MISSION.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Hubble Space Telescope is an extraordinary instrument that has provided, and should continue to provide, answers to profound scientific questions. In accordance with the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences study titled ''Assessment of Options for Extending the Life of the Hubble Space Telescope'', all appropriate efforts should be expended to complete the Space Shuttle servicing mission. Upon successful completion of the planned return-to-flight schedule of the Space Shuttle, the Administrator shall determine the schedule for a Space Shuttle servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, unless such a mission would compromise astronaut safety. Not later than 60 days after the landing of the second Space Shuttle mission for return-to-flight certification, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a status report on plans for a Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.

SEC. 303. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF LANDSAT-NPOESS INTEGRATED MISSION.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—In view of the importance of ensuring continuity of Landsat data and in view of the challenges facing the National Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite System program, the Administrator shall seek an independent assessment of the

costs as well as the technical, cost, and schedule risks associated with incorporating the Landsat instrument on the first National Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite System spacecraft versus undertaking a dedicated Landsat data ''gap-filler'' mission followed by the incorporation of the Landsat instrument on the second National Polar-Orbiting Environmental Satellite System spacecraft. The assessment shall also include an evaluation of the budgetary requirements of each of the options under consideration.

(b) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit the independent assessment to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out annual termination reviews within each of the Science disciplines to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions which are beyond their primary goals. In addition:

(1) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall carry out such an assessment for the following missions: FAST, TIMED, Cluster, Wind, Geotail, Polar, TRACE, Ulysses, and Voyager.

(2) For those missions that have an operational component, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall be consulted and the potential benefits of instruments on missions which are beyond their primary goals taken into account.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing the assessments required by subsection (a)(1), the Administrator shall transmit a report on the assessment to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 305. MICROGRAVITY RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of microgravity research planned for implementation aboard the ISS that includes the identification of research which can be performed in ground-based facilities and then validated in space;

(2) ensure the capacity to support ground-based research leading to space-based basic and applied scientific research in a variety of disciplines with potential direct national benefits and applications that can advance significantly from the uniqueness of microgravity and the space environment; and

(3) carry out, to the maximum extent practicable basic, applied, and commercial ISS research activities such as molecular crystal growth, animal research, basic fluid physics, combustion research, cellular biotechnology, low temperature physics, and cellular research at a level which will sustain the existing scientific expertise and research capabilities.

(b) ON-ORBIT CAPABILITIES.—The Administrator shall ensure that the on-orbit analytical capabilities of the ISS are sufficient to support any diagnostic human research and on-orbit characterization of molecular crystal growth, cellular research, and other research that NASA believes is necessary to conduct, but for which NASA lacks the capacity to return the materials that need to be analyzed to Earth.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SCIENTIFIC USES.—The Administrator shall assess further potential scientific uses of the ISS for other applications, such as technology development, development of manufacturing processes, Earth observation and characterization, and astronomical observations.

SEC. 306. COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) JOINT WORKING GROUP.—The Administrator and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall appoint a Joint Working Group, which shall review and monitor missions of the two agencies to ensure maximum coordination in the design, operation, and transition of missions. The Joint Working Group shall also prepare the transition plans required by subsection (c).

(b) COORDINATION REPORT.—Not later than February 15 of each year, the Administrator and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall jointly transmit a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how the earth science programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA will be coordinated during the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the report is transmitted.

(c) COORDINATION OF TRANSITION PLANNING AND REPORTING.—The Administrator, in conjunction with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall evaluate all NASA missions for their potential operational capabilities and shall prepare transition plans for all existing and future Earth observing systems found to have potential operational capabilities and all National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration operational space-based systems.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Administrator shall not transfer any NASA earth science mission or Earth observing system to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration until the transition plan required under subsection (c) has been approved by the Administrator and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and until financial resources have been identified to support the transition or transfer in the President's budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Subtitle B—Remote Sensing

SEC. 311. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle—

(1) the term ''geospatial information'' means knowledge of the nature and distribution of physical and cultural features on the landscape based on analysis of data from airborne or spaceborne platforms or other types and sources of data;

(2) the term ''high resolution'' means resolution better than five meters; and

(3) the term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

SEC. 312. PILOT PROJECTS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SECTOR APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

(b) PREFERRED PROJECTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall give preference to projects that—

(1) make use of commercial data sets, including high resolution commercial satellite imagery and derived satellite data products, existing public data sets where commercial data sets are not available or applicable, or the fusion of such data sets;

(2) integrate multiple sources of geospatial information, such as geographic information system data, satellite-provided positioning data, and remotely sensed data, in innovative ways;

(3) include funds or in-kind contributions from non-Federal sources;

(4) involve the participation of commercial entities that process raw or lightly processed data, often merging that data with other geospatial information, to create data products that have significant value added to the original data; and

(5) taken together demonstrate as diverse a set of public sector applications as possible.

(c) OPPORTUNITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall seek opportunities to assist—

(1) in the development of commercial applications potentially available from the remote sensing industry; and

(2) State, local, regional, and tribal agencies in applying remote sensing and other geospatial information technologies for growth management.

(d) DURATION.—Assistance for a pilot project under subsection (a) shall be provided for a period not to exceed 3 years.

(e) REPORT.—Each recipient of a grant under subsection (a) shall transmit a report to the Administrator on the results of the pilot project within 180 days of the completion of that project.

(f) WORKSHOP.—Each recipient of a grant under subsection (a) shall, not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot project, conduct at least one workshop for potential users to disseminate the lessons learned from the pilot project as widely as feasible.

(g) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue regulations establishing application, selection, and implementation procedures for pilot projects, and guidelines for reports and workshops required by this section.

SEC. 313. PROGRAM EVALUATION.

(a) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Administrator shall establish an advisory committee, consisting of individuals with appropriate expertise in State, local, regional, and tribal agencies, the university research community, and the remote sensing and other geospatial information industry, to monitor the program established under section 312. The advisory committee shall consult with the Federal Geographic Data Committee and other appropriate industry representatives and organizations. Notwithstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the advisory committee established under this subsection shall remain in effect until the termination of the program under section 312.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.—Not later than December 31, 2009, the Administrator shall transmit to the Congress an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program established under section 312 in exploring and promoting the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and tribal agency needs. Such evaluation shall have been conducted by an independent entity.

SEC. 314. DATA AVAILABILITY.

The Administrator shall ensure that the results of each of the pilot projects completed under section 312 shall be retrievable through an electronic, Internet-accessible database.

SEC. 315. EDUCATION.

The Administrator shall establish an educational outreach program to increase awareness at institutions of higher education and State, local, regional, and tribal

agencies of the potential applications of remote sensing and other geospatial information.

Subtitle C—George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey

SEC. 321. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR. NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and credible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, nearly 65,000,000 years ago.

(2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in the future.

(3) Several such near-Earth objects have only been discovered within days of the objects' closest approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such large objects indicate that many large near-Earth objects remain undiscovered.

(4) The efforts taken to date by NASA for detecting and characterizing the hazards of near-Earth objects are not sufficient to fully determine the threat posed by such objects to cause widespread destruction and loss of life.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section the term ''near-Earth object'' means an asteroid or comet with a perihelion distance of less that 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun.

(d) NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.—

(1) SURVEY PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall plan, develop, and implement a Near-Earth Object Survey program to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 100 meters in diameter in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the Earth. It shall be the goal of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically predicted populations of near-Earth objects) within 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) AMENDMENTS.—Section 102 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h);

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

''(g) The Congress declares that the general welfare and security of the United States require that the unique competence of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration be directed to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and characterizing near-Earth asteroids and comets in order to provide warning and mitigation of the potential hazard of such near-Earth objects to the Earth.''; and

(C) in subsection (h), as so redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking ''and (f)'' and inserting ''(f), and (g)''.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to the Congress, not later than February 28 of each of the next 5 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, a report that provides the following:

(A) A summary of all activities taken pursuant to paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year.

(B) A summary of expenditures for all activities pursuant to paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year.

(4) INITIAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit to Congress not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act an initial report that provides the following:

(A) An analysis of possible alternatives that NASA may employ to carry out the Survey program, including ground-based and space-based alternatives with technical descriptions.

(B) A recommended option and proposed budget to carry out the Survey program pursuant to the recommended option.

(C) An analysis of possible alternatives that NASA could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

SEC. 401. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this title, the term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term by section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

Subtitle A—National Policy for Aeronautics Research and Development

SEC. 411. POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to reaffirm the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and its identification of aeronautical research and development as a core mission of NASA. Further, it shall be the policy of the United States to promote aeronautical research and development that will expand the capacity, ensure the safety, and increase the efficiency of the Nation's air transportation system, promote the security of the Nation, protect the environment, and retain the leadership of the United States in global aviation.

Subtitle B—NASA Aeronautics Breakthrough Research Initiatives

SEC. 421. ENVIRONMENTAL AIRCRAFT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—The Administrator may establish an initiative with the objective of developing, and demonstrating in a relevant environment, within 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, technologies to enable the following commercial aircraft performance characteristics:

(1) NOISE.—Noise levels on takeoff and on airport approach and landing that do not exceed ambient noise levels in the absence of flight operations in the vicinity of airports from which such commercial aircraft would normally operate.

(2) ENERGY CONSUMPTION.—Twenty-five percent reduction in the energy required for medium to long range flights, compared to aircraft in commercial service as of the date of enactment of this Act. This reduction may be achieved by a combination of improvements to—

(A) specific fuel consumption;

(B) lift-to-drag ratio; and

(C) structural weight fraction.

(3) EMISSIONS.—Nitrogen oxides on take-off and landing that are reduced by 50 percent relative to aircraft in commercial service as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement for the National Research Council to conduct a study to identify and quantify new markets that would be created, as well as existing markets that would be expanded, by the incorporation of the technologies developed pursuant to this section into future commercial aircraft. The study shall identify whether any of the performance characteristics specified in subsection (a) would need to be made more stringent in order to create new markets or expand existing markets. The National Research Council shall seek input from at least the aircraft manufacturing industry, academia, and the airlines in carrying out the study.

(2) REPORT.—A report containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) shall be provided to Congress not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 422. CIVIL SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

The Administrator may establish an initiative with the objective of developing, and demonstrating in a relevant environment, within 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act, technologies to enable overland flight of supersonic civil transport aircraft with at least the following performance characteristics:

(1) Mach number of at least 1.4.

(2) Range of at least 4,000 nautical miles.

(3) Payload of at least 24 passengers.

(4) Noise levels on takeoff and on airport approach and landing that meet community noise standards in place at airports from which such commercial supersonic aircraft would normally operate at the time the aircraft would enter commercial service.

(5) Shaped sonic boom signatures sufficiently low to permit overland flight over populated areas.

(6) Nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, and water vapor emissions consistent with regulations likely to be in effect at the time of this aircraft's introduction.

SEC. 423. ROTORCRAFT AND OTHER RUNWAY-INDEPENDENT AIR VEHICLES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

The Administrator may establish a rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles initiative with the objective of developing and demonstrating in a relevant environment, within 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, technologies to enable significantly safer, quieter, and more environmentally compatible operation from a wider range of airports under a wider range of weather conditions than is the case for rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles in service as of the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Other NASA Aeronautics Research and Development Activities

SEC. 431. FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY BASE PROGRAM.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—In order to ensure that the Nation maintains needed capabilities in fundamental areas of aeronautical research, the Administrator shall establish a program of long-term fundamental research in aeronautical sciences and technologies that is not tied to specific development projects.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Research Council for an assessment of the Nation's future requirements for fundamental aeronautics research and whether the Nation will have a skilled research workforce and research facilities commensurate with those requirements. The assessment shall include an identification of any projected gaps, and recommendations for what steps should be taken by the Federal Government to eliminate those gaps.

(c) REPORT.—The Administrator shall transmit the assessment, along with NASA's response to the assessment, to Congress not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 432. AIRSPACE SYSTEMS RESEARCH.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—The Airspace Systems Research program shall pursue research and development to enable revolutionary improvements to and modernization of the National Airspace System, as well as to enable the introduction of new systems for vehicles that can take advantage of an improved, modern air transportation system.

(b) ALIGNMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall align the projects of the

Airspace Systems Research program so that they directly support the objectives of the Joint Planning and Development Office's Next Generation Air Transportation System Integrated Plan.

SEC. 433. AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY RESEARCH.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—The Aviation Safety and Security Research program shall pursue research and development activities that directly address the safety and security needs of the National Airspace System and the aircraft that fly in it. The program shall develop prevention, intervention, and mitigation technologies aimed at causal, contributory, or circumstantial factors of aviation accidents.

(b) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a 5-year prioritized plan for the research to be conducted within the Aviation Safety and Security Research program. The plan shall be aligned with the objectives of the Joint Planning and Development Office's Next Generation Air Transportation System Integrated Plan.

SEC. 434. ZERO-EMISSIONS AIRCRAFT RESEARCH.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—The Administrator may establish a zero-emissions aircraft research program whose objective shall be to develop and test concepts to enable a hydrogen fuel cell-powered aircraft that would have no hydrocarbon or nitrogen oxide emissions into the environment.

(b) APPROACH.—The Administrator may establish a program of competitively awarded grants available to teams of researchers that may include the participation of individuals from universities, industry, and government for the conduct of this research.

SEC. 435. MARS AIRCRAFT RESEARCH.

(a) OBJECTIVE.—The Administrator may establish a Mars Aircraft project whose objective shall be to develop and test concepts for an uncrewed aircraft that could operate for sustained periods in the atmosphere of Mars.

(b) APPROACH.—The Administrator may establish a program of competitively awarded grants available to teams of researchers that may include the participation of individuals from universities, industry, and government for the conduct of this research.

SEC. 436. HYPERSONICS RESEARCH.

The Administrator may establish a hypersonics research program whose objective shall be to explore the science and technology of hypersonic flight using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles.

SEC. 437. NASA AERONAUTICS SCHOLARSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a program of scholarships for full-time graduate students who are United States citizens and are enrolled in, or have been accepted by and have indicated their intention to enroll in, accredited Masters degree programs in aeronautical engineering at institutions of higher education. Each such scholarship shall cover the costs of room, board, tuition, and fees, and may be provided for a maximum of 2 years.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall publish regulations governing the scholarship program under this section.

(c) COOPERATIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.—Students who have been awarded a scholarship under this section shall have the opportunity for paid employment at one of the NASA Centers engaged in aeronautics research and development during the summer prior to the first year of the student's Masters program, and between the first and second year, if applicable.

SEC. 438. AVIATION WEATHER RESEARCH.

The Administrator may carry out a program of collaborative research with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on convective weather events, with the goal of significantly improving the reliability of 2-hour to 6-hour aviation weather forecasts.

SEC. 439. ASSESSMENT OF WAKE TURBULENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator may enter into an arrangement with the National Research Council for an assessment of Federal wake turbulence research and development programs. The assessment shall address at least the following questions:

(1) Are the Federal research and development goals and objectives well defined?

(2) Are there any deficiencies in the Federal research and development goals and objectives?

(3) What roles should be played by each of the relevant Federal agencies, such as NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in wake turbulence research and development?

(b) REPORT.—A report containing the results of the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be provided to Congress not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 440. UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may award grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to establish one or more centers for the purpose described in subsection (b).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the centers is to conduct basic and applied research on the impact of new technologies and procedures, particularly those related to aeronautical navigation and control.

(c) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education (or a consortium of such institutions) seeking funding under this section shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require, including, at a minimum, a 5-year research plan.

(d) AWARD DURATION.—An award made by the Administrator under this section shall be for a period of 5 years and may be renewed on the basis of—

(1) satisfactory performance in meeting the goals of the research plan proposed by the Center in its application under subsection (c); and

(2) other requirements as specified by the Administrator.

TITLE V—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

SEC. 501. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COMPLETION.

(a) ELEMENTS, CAPABILITIES, AND CONFIGURATION CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall ensure that the ISS will be able to—

(1) be used for a diverse range of microgravity research, including fundamental, applied, and commercial research;

(2) have an ability to support crew size of at least 6 persons, unless the Administrator transmits a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate prior to awarding a development contract for the Crew Exploration Vehicle, explaining why such a requirement should not be met and the impact of not meeting the requirement on the ISS research agenda and operations;

(3) support Crew Exploration Vehicle docking and automated docking of cargo vehicles or modules launched by either heavy-lift or commercially-developed launch vehicles; and

(4) be operated at an appropriate risk level.

(b) CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The transportation plan to support ISS shall include contingency options to ensure sufficient logistics and on-orbit capabilities to support any potential period during which the Space Shuttle or its follow-on crew and cargo systems is unavailable, and require sufficient surge delivery capability or prepositioning of spares and other supplies needed to accommodate any such hiatus.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and before making any change in the ISS assembly sequence in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall certify in writing to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate NASA's plan to meet the requirements of subsections (a) and (b).

(d) CENTRIFUGE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the installation of the centrifuge on the ISS.

SEC. 502. HUMAN EXPLORATION PRIORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(1) construct an architecture and implementation plan for NASA's human exploration program that is not critically dependent on the achievement of milestones by fixed dates; and

(2) determine the relative priority of each of the potential elements of NASA's implementation plan for its human exploration program in case funding shortfalls or cost growth necessitate the adjustment of NASA's implementation plan.

(b) PRIORITIES.—Development of a Crew Exploration Vehicle with a robust crew escape system, development of a launch system for the Crew Exploration Vehicle, and definition of an overall architecture and prioritized implementation plan shall be the highest priorities of the human exploration program over the period governed by this Act.

SEC. 503. GAO ASSESSMENT.

Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the milestones and estimated costs of the plans submitted under section 102(a)(7).

TITLE VI—OTHER PROGRAM AREAS

Subtitle A—Space and Flight Support

SEC. 601. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

The Administrator, in conjunction with the heads of other Federal agencies, shall take steps to develop or acquire technologies that will enable NASA to decrease the risks associated with orbital debris.

SEC. 602. SECONDARY PAYLOAD CAPABILITY.

The Administrator is encouraged to provide the capabilities to support secondary payloads on United States launch vehicles, including freeflyers, for satellites or scientific payloads.

Subtitle B—Education

SEC. 611. INSTITUTIONS IN NASA'S MINORITY INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM.

The matter appearing under the heading ''NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS'' in title III of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (42 U.S.C. 2473b; 103 Stat. 863) is amended by striking ''Historically Black Colleges and Universities and'' and inserting ''Historically Black Colleges and Universities that are part B institutions (as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))), Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 502(a)(5) of that Act (20 U.S.C.

1101a(a)(5))), Tribal Colleges or Universities (as defined in section 316(b)(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3))), Alaskan Native-serving institutions (as defined in section 317(b)(2) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d)(b)(2))), Native Hawaiian-serving institutions (as defined in section 317(b)(4) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(4))), and''.

SEC. 612. PROGRAM TO EXPAND DISTANCE LEARNING IN RURAL UNDERSERVED AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop or expand programs to extend science and space educational outreach to rural communities and schools through video conferencing, interpretive exhibits, teacher education, classroom presentations, and student field trips.

(b) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to existing programs—

(1) that utilize community-based partnerships in the field;

(2) that build and maintain video conference and exhibit capacity;

(3) that travel directly to rural communities and serve low-income populations; and

(4) with a special emphasis on increasing the number of women and minorities in the science and engineering professions.

SEC. 613. CHARLES "PETE" CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARDS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term ''amateur astronomer'' means an individual whose employer does not provide any funding, payment, or compensation to the individual for the observation of asteroids and other celestial bodies, and does not include any individual employed as a professional astronomer;

(2) the term ''Minor Planet Center'' means the Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory;

(3) the term ''near-Earth asteroid'' means an asteroid with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun; and

(4) the term ''Program'' means the Charles ''Pete'' Conrad Astronomy Awards Program established under subsection (c).

(c) PETE CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARD PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish the Charles ''Pete'' Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.

(2) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make awards under the Program based on the recommendations of the Minor Planet Center.

(3) AWARD CATEGORIES.—The Administrator shall make one annual award, unless there are no eligible discoveries or contributions, for each of the following categories:

(A) The amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who in the preceding calendar year discovered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth asteroid among the near-Earth asteroids that were discovered during that year by amateur astronomers or groups of amateur astronomers.

(B) The amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who made the greatest contribution to the Minor Planet Center's mission of cataloguing near-Earth asteroids during the preceding year.

(4) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the Program shall be in the amount of $3,000.

(5) GUIDELINES.—(A) No individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time of his discovery or contribution may receive an award under this section.

(B) The decisions of the Administrator in making awards under this section are final.

SEC. 614. REVIEW OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a review and evaluation of NASA's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education program. The review and evaluation shall be documented in a report to the Administrator and shall include such recommendations as the National Research Council determines will improve the effectiveness of the program.

(b) REVIEW.—The review and evaluation under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the overall program in meeting its defined goals and objectives;

(2) an assessment of the quality and educational effectiveness of the major components of the program, including an evaluation of the adequacy of assessment metrics and data collection requirements available for determining the effectiveness of individual projects;

(3) an evaluation of the funding priorities in the program, including a review of the funding level and funding trend for each major component of the program and an assessment of whether the resources made available are consistent with meeting identified goals and priorities; and

(4) a determination of the extent and the effectiveness of coordination and collaboration between NASA and other Federal agencies that sponsor science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 615. EQUAL ACCESS TO NASA'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

The Administrator shall strive to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to NASA's Education programs. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the efforts by the Administrator to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students under this section, and the results of such efforts. As part of the report, the Administrator shall provide data on minority participation in NASA's education programs, at a minimum in the following categories: elementary and secondary education, undergraduate education, and graduate education.

SEC. 616. MUSEUMS.

The Administrator may provide grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with museums and planetariums to enable them to enhance programs related to space exploration, aeronautics, space science, earth science, or microgravity.

SEC. 617. REVIEW OF MUST PROGRAM.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to Congress on the legal status of the Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology program. If the report concludes that the program is in compliance with the laws of the United States, NASA shall implement the program, as planned in the July 5, 2005 National Research Announcement.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

SEC. 701. RETROCESSION OF JURISDICTION.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end of title III the following new section:

''RETROCESSION OF JURISDICTION

''SEC. 316. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may relinquish to a State all or part of the legislative jurisdiction of the United States over lands or interests under the control of the Administrator in that State.

''(b) For purposes of this section, the term 'State' means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.''.

SEC. 702. EXTENSION OF INDEMNIFICATION.

Section 309 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2458c) is amended in subsection (f)(1) by striking ''December 31, 2002'' through ''September 30, 2005'' and inserting, ''December 31, 2010, except that the Administrator may extend the termination date to a date not later than September 30, 2015, if the Administrator has entered into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to determine the impact on private parties and the Federal Government of eliminating this section''.

SEC. 703. NASA SCHOLARSHIPS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 9809 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2) by striking ''Act.'' and inserting ''Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).'';

(2) in subsection (c) by striking ''require.'' and inserting ''require to carry out this section.'';

(3) in subsection (f)(1) by striking the last sentence; and

(4) in subsection (g)(2) by striking ''Treasurer of the'' and all that follows through ''by 3'' and inserting ''Treasurer of the United States''.

(b) REPEAL.—The Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act is amended by striking section 703 (42 U.S.C. 2473e).

SEC. 704. INDEPENDENT COST ANALYSIS.

Section 301 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2459g) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Phase B'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''implementation'';

(2) by striking ''Chief Financial Officer'' each place it appears in subsection (a) and inserting ''Administrator'';

(3) by inserting ''and consider'' in subsection (a) after ''shall conduct''; and

(4) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) IMPLEMENTATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'implementation' means all activity in the life cycle of a project after preliminary design, independent assessment of the preliminary design, and approval to proceed into implementation, including critical design, development, certification, launch, operations, disposal of assets, and, for technology programs, development, testing, analysis and communication of the results.''.

SEC. 705. LIMITATIONS ON OFF-SHORE PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

(a) CONVERSIONS TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in subsection (c), an activity or function of the Administration that is converted to contractor performance under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–

76 may not be performed by the contractor or any subcontractor at a location outside the United States.

(b) CONTRACTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES.—(1) Except as provided in subsection (c), a contract for the procurement of goods or services that is entered into by the Administrator may not be performed outside the United States unless it is to meet a requirement of the Administration for goods or services specifically at a location outside the United States.

(2) The President may waive the prohibition in paragraph (1) in the case of any contract for which the President determines in writing that it is necessary in the national security interests of the United States for goods or services under the contract to be performed outside the United States.

(3) The Administrator may waive the prohibition in paragraph (1) in the case of any contract for which the Administrator determines in writing that essential goods or services under the contract are only available from a source outside the United States.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsections (a) and (b)(1) shall not apply to the extent that the activity or function under the contract was previously performed by Federal Government employees outside the United States.

(d) CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—The provisions of this section shall not apply to the extent that they are inconsistent with obligations of the United States under international agreements.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress, not later than 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a report on the contracts performed overseas and amount of purchases by NASA from foreign entities in that fiscal year. Such report shall separately indicate the dollar value of contracts for which the provisions of this section were waived and the dollar value of items for which the Buy American Act was waived pursuant to obligations of the United States under international agreements.

SEC. 706. LONG DURATION FLIGHT.

No provision of this or any other Act shall be construed to prohibit NASA from accommodating the exercise of religion by astronauts engaged in long duration space flight missions.

TITLE VIII—INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS

SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title—

(1) the term ''Commission'' means a Commission established under this title; and

(2) the term ''incident'' means either an accident or a deliberate act.

Subtitle A—International Space Station Independent Safety Commission

SEC. 811. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an independent, nonpartisan Commission within the executive branch to discover and assess any vulnerabilities of the International Space Station that could lead to its destruction, compromise the health of its crew, or necessitate its premature abandonment.

(b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall issue an executive order establishing a Commission within 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 812. TASKS OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission established under section 811 shall, to the extent possible, undertake the following tasks:

(1) Catalog threats to and vulnerabilities of the ISS, including design flaws, natural phenomena, computer software or hardware flaws, sabotage or terrorist attack, number of crewmembers, and inability to adequately deliver replacement parts and supplies, and management or procedural deficiencies.

(2) Make recommendations for corrective actions.

(3) Provide any additional findings or recommendations related to ISS safety.

(4) Prepare a report to Congress, the President, and the public.

SEC. 813. SUNSET.

The Commission established under this subtitle shall transmit its final report not later than 1 year after the date on which the full Commission membership is appointed.

Subtitle B—Human Space Flight Independent Investigation Commission

SEC. 821. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an independent, nonpartisan Commission within the executive branch to investigate any incident that results in the loss of—

(1) a Space Shuttle;

(2) the International Space Station or its operational viability;

(3) any other United States space vehicle carrying humans that is owned by the Federal Government or that is being used pursuant to a contract with the Federal Government; or

(4) a crew member or passenger of any space vehicle described in this subsection.

(b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall issue an executive order establishing a Commission within 7 days after an incident specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 822. TASKS OF THE COMMISSION.

A Commission established pursuant to this subtitle shall, to the extent possible, undertake the following tasks:

(1) Investigate the incident.

(2) Determine the cause of the incident.

(3) Identify all contributing factors to the cause of the incident.

(4) Make recommendations for corrective actions.

(5) Provide any additional findings or recommendations deemed by the Commission to be important, whether or not they are related to the specific incident under investigation.

(6) Prepare a report to Congress, the President, and the public.

Subtitle C—Organization and Operation of Commissions

SEC. 831. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSIONS.

(a) NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS.—A Commission established pursuant to this title shall consist of 15 members.

(b) SELECTION.—The members of a Commission shall be chosen in the following manner:

(1) The President shall appoint the members, and shall designate the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission from among its members.

(2) Four of the 15 members appointed by the President shall be selected by the President in the following manner:

(A) The majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each provide to the President a list of candidates for membership on the Commission.

(B) The President shall select one of the candidates from each of the 4 lists for membership on the Commission.

(3) In the case of a Commission established under subtitle A, the President shall select one candidate from a list of candidates for membership on the Commission provided by the President of the collective-bargaining organization including the largest number of NASA engineers.

(4) No officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Commission.

(5) No member of the Commission shall have, or have pending, a contractual relationship with NASA.

(6) The President shall not appoint any individual as a member of a Commission under this section who has a current or former relationship with the Administrator that the President determines would constitute a conflict of interest.

(7) To the extent practicable, the President shall ensure that the members of the Commission include some individuals with experience relative to human carrying spacecraft, as well as some individuals with investigative experience and some individuals with legal experience.

(8) To the extent practicable, the President shall seek diversity in the membership of the Commission.

(9) The President may waive the prohibitions in paragraphs (5) and (6) with respect to the selection of not more than two members of a Commission established under subtitle A.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members of a Commission established under subtitle A shall be appointed no later than 60 days after issuance of the executive order establishing the Commission. All members of a Commission established under subtitle B shall be appointed no later than 30 days after the incident.

(d) INITIAL MEETING.—A Commission shall meet and begin operations as soon as practicable.

(e) QUORUM; VACANCIES.—After its initial meeting, a Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chairman or a majority of its members. Eight members of a Commission shall constitute a quorum. Any vacancy in a Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

SEC. 832. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—A Commission or, on the authority of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this title—

(1) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, administer such oaths; and

(2) require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents,

as the Commission or such designated subcommittee or designated member may determine advisable.

(b) CONTRACTING.—A Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this title.

(c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may secure directly from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Government, information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics for the purposes of this title. Each department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by the Chairman, the chairman of any subcommittee created by a majority of the Commission, or any member designated by a majority of the Commission.

(2) RECEIPT, HANDLING, STORAGE, AND DISSEMINATION.—Information shall only be received, handled, stored, and disseminated by

members of the Commission and its staff consistent with all applicable statutes, regulations, and Executive orders.

(d) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to a Commission on a reimbursable basis administrative support and other services for the performance of the Commission's tasks.

(2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In addition to the assistance prescribed in paragraph (1), departments and agencies of the United States may provide to the Commission such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services as they may determine advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(3) NASA ENGINEERING AND SAFETY CENTER.—The NASA Engineering and Safety Center shall provide data and technical support as requested by a Commission.

SEC. 833. PUBLIC MEETINGS, INFORMATION, AND HEARINGS.

(a) PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RELEASE OF PUBLIC VERSIONS OF REPORTS.—A Commission shall—

(1) hold public hearings and meetings to the extent appropriate; and

(2) release public versions of the reports required under this Act.

(b) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Any public hearings of a Commission shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of information provided to or developed for or by the Commission as required by any applicable statute, regulation, or Executive order.

SEC. 834. STAFF OF COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—The Chairman, in consultation with Vice Chairman, in accordance with rules agreed upon by a Commission, may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions.

(b) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee, except for an employee of NASA, may be detailed to a Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(c) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—A Commission may procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code. Any consultant or expert whose services are procured under this subsection shall disclose any contract or association it has with NASA or any NASA contractor.

SEC. 835. COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.

(a) COMPENSATION.—Each member of a Commission may be compensated at not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which that member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Commission.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of a Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 836. SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF.

The appropriate Federal agencies or departments shall cooperate with a Commission in expeditiously providing to the Commission members and staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements. No person shall be provided with access to classified information under this title without the appropriate security clearances.

SEC. 837. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMINATION.

(a) INTERIM REPORTS.—A Commission may submit to the President and Congress interim reports containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective actions as have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—A Commission shall submit to the President and Congress, and make concurrently available to the public, a final report containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective actions as have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members. Such report shall include any minority views or opinions not reflected in the majority report.

(c) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission, and all the authorities of this title with respect to that Commission, shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the final report is submitted under subsection (b).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMINATION.—A Commission may use the 60-day period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning its reports and disseminating the final report.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House insist on its amendment to S. 1281, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York? The Chair hears none, and without objection, appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BOEHLERT, CALVERT, HALL, SMITH of Texas, GORDON, UDALL of COLORADO, and HONDA.

Provided, that Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas is appointed in lieu of Mr. HONDA for consideration of sections 111 and 615 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference.

From the Committee on Government Reform, for consideration of sections 153 and 606 of the Senate bill, and section 703 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, TURNER, and WAXMAN.

For consideration of the Senate bill and House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DELAY.

BETTY DICK RESIDENCE PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 584) to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. Objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

PREDISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4324) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster mitigation program, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. Objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FURTHER ENHANCED BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to consider a motion to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4133) to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur therein, and that the motion be debatable for not to exceed 20 minutes, equally divided between myself and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 2, line 12, strike ''8,500,000,000'' and insert ''18,500,000,000''.

On page 2, after line 12, insert:

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY SPENDING.

The amendment made under section 2 is designated as emergency spending, as provided under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY.)

□ 1815

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4133, a bill that would temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program.

This bill was introduced by our friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) in response to the terrible destruction that has resulted from Hurricane Katrina. The original version of this bill increased the borrowing authority of the National Flood Insurance Program from $3.5 billion to $8.5 billion. However, the extra $5 billion would have only allowed FEMA to make claims and payments through next week.

The Senate amended the bill to increase the borrowing authority to $18.5 billion and designate the funds as emergency spending. That amended version is now before us for consideration.

FEMA has run out of money to pay claims arising from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and has directed the insurance companies to stop paying the estimated 225,000 Katrina and Rita policyholders who have already filed a claim. These homeowners who have a contract with the NFIP to cover flood events could initiate legal action against FEMA and the U.S. Government if we do not act now.

I remain committed to seeing the National Flood Insurance Program implement the reforms begun last year when we passed the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Act, and I look forward to working during the coming months to ensure greater accountability of the flood insurance program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, along with the chairman, I have a sense of deja vu. A couple of years ago we agreed, the chairman and I and members of our committee, to support the efforts of our former colleague from Nebraska, Mr. Bereuter, our current colleague from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), to reform the flood insurance program. We made substantial progress. We did not get everything we wanted; there was some resistance.

Then came Katrina, and suddenly the point we were making about the need both to compensate people but also to be environmentally and fiscally responsible in what we promised became somewhat relevant. Our committee had a good mark-up earlier this week and passed out a bill, not a perfect bill from any one standpoint, but which would continue the process of reforms along with the money. And then the Senate, as it did last time, showed a certain reluctance to go along with the reforms. They sent us a bill which is simply the additional money.

The additional money is needed and the additional money is to compensate people who have already been flooded, so there is no necessary connection between that and going forward. I, therefore, did not object to the request, and I hope we will vote the money that has been asked to compensate the people already hurt.

But it is also important that we reform the program. I appreciate the commitment which the gentleman from Ohio has freely given the House, that we are both going to work hard to try to bring the reform package up early next year.

So we will acknowledge the importance of getting the money in the hands of the people who need it, and I will be yielding to some of my colleagues from the area; but we do want to note that we will go forward with the money now, but we have not lost our interest in further reforming the program; and we will be back on the floor I hope, and I know the gentleman from Ohio will be working diligently on that in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank my good friend and ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for his support on this. This is critically important for the folks down in the gulf region that they get compensated under their insurance program that they paid premiums into FEMA for. This is an obligation by the Federal Government to make sure that those people are paid. FEMA is out of money as I speak. We need to get this done. I would ask the House's cooperation in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to impose on the House's time except we are killing time anyway while you try to figure out what you are going to do with that foolish resolution of yours.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), who has been at the center of the effort to deal with this tragedy. I will say as the ranking member on our side on the committee, he has been constantly in touch with us and has advised us and impressed us on the importance of action, and I am very grateful for his willingness to work with us in the midst of all the stress that has accrued to his district.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) for the work that he has done on the bill and for the entire committee and all who have had a hand in it.

Like the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), I would liked to have seen this bill involve the reforms we have talked about to make it easier for people to make claims once they have them. We have had the unprecedented flooding in our area, which is the reason why this bill is needed. FEMA is out of money for the very clear reason that we have had flooding that nobody could have possibly anticipated. We have claims far beyond what anyone had imagined. There have been 220,000 homes, just homes in our area, that have been affected by flooding; 108,000 of these have been rental units, and the rest are single residences. It is unheard of.

Sixty thousand of these will probably have to be gotten rid of because they cannot be cleaned up and put back into commerce. We have had the insurance companies take the position that every instance of damage was caused by flooding as opposed to the wind-driven rain that would cover them under their homeowners insurance, consequently creating more pressure to pay on the flood insurance than ever before.

For these two reasons, I would urge that we adopt this provision because it is much needed by the people back home both because we have had an unprecedented level of loss in flooding and because insurance companies have pushed all the emphasis down on the flood insurance program and made it very difficult for people to recover otherwise.

I urge the House to adopt this because we need it so much in our area.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) for his leadership on issues regarding the National Flood Insurance Program.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday of this week, the House passed by voice vote H.R. 4133, the National Flood Insurance Program Further Enhanced Borrowing Act of 2005. This important piece of legislation will empower residents of the gulf coast by increasing the National Flood Insurance Program's ability to borrow $5 billion in additional funds from the United States Treasury to cover claims resulting from the recent devastating hurricanes of Katrina and Rita.

Today, the Senate amended and passed H.R. 4133, raising the amount the NFIP can borrow from the Treasury from $8.5 billion to $18.5 billion, an increase that will remain in place until our return after the December recess.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a necessary stop-gap measure to ensure the solvency of the National Flood Insurance Program. For this hurricane season alone, FEMA estimates that more than 225,000 Katrina and Rita claims will be filed with a total cost exceeding $22 billion. This total for one hurricane season, Mr. Speaker, will surpass the total amount paid by the National Flood Insurance Program since its inception in 1965.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a section of Philadelphia, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that has sustained two floods

during the last year. In each of those occasions, FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program administrators have been there, paid the claims that they are obligated to pay. The residents of the gulf coast area and region deserve no less.

FEMA is quickly running out of money. The flood insurance program must be able to handle the claims resulting from the catastrophic losses. Historically, whenever the National Flood Insurance Program has borrowed from the Treasury, it has been paid back in full. We need to act to enable this stop-gap measure to cover claims from the gulf coast. We should not think of this as a new obligation. Instead, it is a necessary step to keep a legal promise that Congress has made to homeowners and business owners when Congress passed the National Flood Insurance Act.

We have a moral obligation to honor our commitments, Mr. Speaker, and to provide the coverage we promised to provide, to help victims. They need help to rebuild their homes and their lives. I ask my colleagues for their support and seek adoption of the Senate language in this bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise troubled, I must say, by this legislation. I appreciate the chairman's commitment to reform and also the ranking member. They have been steering, I think, a good course with Financial Services, and I am encouraged by their words that we are going to go ahead and attempt to continue the process of reforming the flood insurance program.

But today in signing off on $22 billion that cannot be supported simply by the premiums by the individuals that are covered right now, I personally think is a tremendous lost opportunity.

We heard a lot of rhetoric the last couple of days. People come to the floor talking about how to save taxpayer dollars, but we have not undertaken to make reforms that would protect taxpayers in the first place.

Our colleague from Mississippi has been focusing on the problem with flood insurance not being available to a whole range of people. No expectation they should have it. People behind levees are not required to have flood insurance. We have not dealt with subsidized insurance for areas that are vacation homes, second homes.

I am concerned that there is never really a good time to be able for us to seize this opportunity. While I say I am heartened by what I have heard from the ranking member and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), and certainly they steered a difficult course last time in being able to make some of these incremental achievements, but if there was ever a time that the attention of this Congress should be on the dangers of the way that the program works now and the people that are in harm's way, the opportunity to not just save money but save lives by these reforms.

Nonetheless, I look forward to working with the ranking member and the Chair, and I will do anything in my power, but I would hope the House does not ever again allow something like this to come forward and miss such an opportunity.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman I agree with him this is a lost opportunity, but like the book ''I Lost It At The Movies,'' we lost it at the Senate. So we are doing the best we can.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), who has worked harder in the aftermath of this than I have ever seen any Member work in trying to deal with the desperate situation imposed on the people he represents.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, one of the greatest legal scams in American history is being perpetrated on the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, honest Americans who purchased insurance policies to protect their families in time of a hurricane. They paid their premiums for decades. They are being told one by one ''we are not going to pay your claim.''

See, in a typical insurance policy known as a ''wind policy,'' you would think it would protect you from the 140- to 160-knot breezes of Hurricane Katrina; but somehow buried in that policy is small language that says they are not going to pay for wind-driven water.

Now, for most of us, you would think of wind-driven water as maybe the water driven under the stoop of your door in a rain storm, or if you have an older house like I had, under the windows, maybe get some curtains wet or the sheet rock under that window.

So if the wind blew a tree into your house, you could file a claim. If the wind blew a car into your house, you could file a claim. But if the wind generates a 30-foot wall of water, well, then the American insurance industry en mass is telling those people in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and the Alabama gulf coast, You're out of luck. We took your money. You're a chump.

Our Nation has a flood insurance policy separate from that where the credibility of this Nation is at stake. I have already told you what I have thought the private sector is doing to my people. But this is us. We also collected people's money in good faith that when there was a flood of their homes that would be paid. We had an unprecedented natural disaster.

Now, two things can happen. We can go the way of the private sector which is doing everything they can to scam my constituents, and please use that word, or we can honor our claims. Because a person or a nation is only as good as its word. Our Nation gave our word that we would pay these claims if substantiated. Those claims have been substantiated. Let us set a precedent that hopefully the insurance industry will follow and pay our claims.

□ 1830

I want to commend Chairman OXLEY. I want to commend Ranking Member FRANK for bringing this to the floor in a timely manner. I very much want to commend the other body for plussing this up so that we can fulfill our obligation as a Nation for those people who had flood insurance policies, that we will pay those claims in a timely manner.

At the same time I want to go on record as saying that I think there ought to be a national registry of child molesters and, at the moment, insurance industry executives because I think Americans ought to know if they live near one.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for my remaining 30 seconds, I want to send a message to FEMA.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) has called to our attention a delay on the part of FEMA in telling people what elevations are required for new construction or replacement construction in the flooded areas. Until they have those elevations, they cannot proceed with the construction, and the gentleman told me we have been told there is a delay of perhaps up to 2 years. That is clearly unacceptable. So had we been able to bring a substitute bill to the floor, we were going to address that issue.

I hope FEMA will listen. I think I speak for both sides. I know the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) agreed with this when we raised it in committee that FEMA will promptly do the elevations necessary so that construction can proceed.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1957

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 7 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 571, EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 109–312) on the resolution (H. Res. 572) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 571) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately and providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 308) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3058, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 572 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 572

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 571) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

Sec. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 308 is hereby adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, given that the subject of this issue deals with the solemn subject of war, my question is, would I be in order to ask for unanimous consent that each Member of the House be allowed up to 5 minutes to speak his or her conscience on this war-related resolution?

□ 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Chair has recognized the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for 1 hour. He controls the time. He may yield for a unanimous consent request if he so chooses.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 572 provides for the consideration of House Resolution 571, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of the United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately. Section 2 of the rule provides that upon adoption of the rule House Concurrent Resolution 308 is hereby adopted.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, this House, the people's House, stands at a crossroads. In one direction lies the forced retreat and dishonor for our troops who have placed their lives on the line for the defense of this country; and in the other direction, Mr. Speaker, we can stand together as one Nation, as one Congress, in celebration of those who have made an unparalleled commitment to their country.

For this Member of Congress who represents the eleventh district of Georgia, I know which direction I will choose. I know which course I will take. I will stand here tonight with our servicemen and -women who spend their days and nights fighting in the desert of Iraq to secure the freedom of a new democracy. Their Nation called them to arms. Their Nation called upon them for help in time of war. And, Mr. Speaker, they answered that call. They departed their country. They left their homes, their families to fight a war on foreign soil against an enemy that despises everything they and everything their country stands for.

They went to fight a tyrant by the name of Saddam Hussein who had murdered his own people, sought to conquer the Middle East for his own empire, and would have sought the destruction of the West and the values that we hold so dear. This tyrant was and is an enemy of liberty, and he had to be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, nightly on the floor of this House, some Members imply that the President misled our Nation, and they demand an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, ceding victory to the enemy. And now we have to answer the call of those who would besmirch their mission, who would besmirch their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I stand prepared, along with my colleagues, to debate this rule and the underlying resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the speed with which the majority has sought to challenge the frank and honest appraisal of the war in Iraq offered yesterday by my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), proves that what he said resonated with the American people.

Over 60 percent of our Nation no longer believes that we are headed in the right direction in Iraq. When Mr. MURTHA spoke yesterday, he spoke for the majority of our country. Concerns such as those voiced by Mr. MURTHA are not a sign of weakness, nor are they the product of a failure of resolve or willingness to cower before adversity as many administration apologists have suggested.

Rather, they follow from a logical assessment of one of the most respected military affairs in international relations experts that we have in all of these United States, and that is exactly what has this congressional leadership and this White House so concerned.

That is why they have gone out of their way in the last 24 hours to attack the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). It amounts to nothing more than another swift boat attack on an American hero.

After all, attacking those who have the temerity to challenge this White House is what Republicans in Congress do best. But they have chosen a formidable target in JACK MURTHA.

Unlike our President, our Vice President, our Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State or the vast, vast majority of the Members in this House, JACK MURTHA knows combat. At the age of 34, he did not have to go and fight in Vietnam, but he did. He is a decorated veteran and an American hero at a time when many others were shirking any possibility of going to Vietnam.

He knows our troops and he cares for them deeply and he has regularly visited them in the hospitals. There he has seen their wounds. He has stood by them during their time of need and listened to their hopes and fears. He has been to Iraq and seen the state of the nation with his own eyes. He is a true patriot and wants only the success of the United States and the Iraqi people, and that is why he spoke with such passion yesterday.

Representative MURTHA spoke for the American people when he said that the time has come for a change in direction, and everyone in this Chamber knows that because JACK MURTHA is one of the most widely respected Members in this House. No matter the attack that this majority chooses to employ against those who would question them, the reality on the ground is obvious to all who wish to see it.

America's continued military occupation of that nation will not bring stability. Our forces are drawing fire, not suppressing it; and their presence on foreign soil is serving as a catalyst for all of those who wish to do us and Iraq harm. Insurgent attacks are on the rise, and more American and Iraqi lives are lost every single day. We can no longer continue on this failing path, unwavering with no end in sight.

We can no longer ask Americans and Iraqis to give up their lives for a goal which we are making less sustainable by the hour. We must chart a new course.

Mr. MURTHA's redeployment plan comes from an experienced statesman and soldier who has and will continue to do whatever he thinks is best for this Nation.

I implore my colleagues across this aisle to realize that continued Republican attacks which seek to dismiss and to discredit the valuable critiques

of knowledgeable legislators, as well as the heartfelt will of the American people, will succeed in silencing neither. Nor will they change the reality on the ground in Iraq.

More Republican assaults will not hide the gross management and corruption which has plagued the administration's attempt to prosecute the war, and they will not mollify America's growing concerns over flawed intelligence, broken trust, subverted values, and shameful acts of torture, all forced by the hand of an administration that answers in half-truths and obfuscations.

These cynical and all-too-typical Republican attempts to silence dissension, stifle debate, and discredit those who would dare to hold them accountable will only serve to elevate the power of the message that Mr. MURTHA is delivering to this government and to the American people and to our troops. The Republicans today by attacking him succeed only in betraying themselves.

The dramatic nature of their panicked response has clearly demonstrated how incredibly valued Mr. MURTHA's judgement is to military experts at the Pentagon, to Members of Congress, and to the American intelligence community.

And the strangest thing that I shall ever see is the people who believed that they were rewriting Mr. MURTHA's resolution. Mr. MURTHA, with a reasoned withdrawal, had nothing even remotely like the resolution we are debating this evening, which is the Republican resolution written by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) which calls for the immediate withdrawal of the troops in Iraq.

I believe they have got some explaining to do.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and in strong opposition to the underlying resolution.

I too am a Vietnam veteran. I flew 116 combat missions in B–52s in Vietnam, and I was deeply troubled to hear my colleague from Pennsylvania, a fellow Vietnam veteran, yesterday call for the immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. It brought to my mind the outrage that I and so many of my fellow veterans felt so many years ago as a young Air Force officer in Vietnam when we would hear the politicians in Washington undermining the war effort for political purposes.

For the past few weeks, much of the criticism of the war in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, has been nothing more than an attempt to undermine our Commander in Chief. Unfortunately, this comes at the expense of our troops in the field. How do you think this call to immediately withdraw will affect our brave soldiers fighting on the ground overseas and their families at home awaiting their return?

I will just say it is demoralizing and insulting to them. It emboldens the terrorists.

We should not misrepresent the mission in Iraq. Our troops are not occupiers. They are liberators. They are there serving the cause of freedom and freedom is not free. It is costly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and opposition to the underlying resolution.

I am a Vietnam veteran. I flew 116 combat missions in B–52's in Vietnam. I was deeply troubled to hear my colleague from Pennsylvania, a fellow Vietnam veteran, yesterday call for our immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

It brought to mind the outrage I, and so many of my fellow veterans, felt so many years ago, as a young Air Force Officer in Vietnam, when we would hear the politicians in Washington undermining the war effort for political purposes.

For the past few weeks, much of the criticism of the war in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, has been nothing more than an attempt to undermine our Commander in Chief.

Unfortunately, this comes at the expense of our troops in the field.

How do you think this call to immediately withdraw will affect our brave soldiers fighting on the ground overseas and their families at home awaiting their return? It is demoralizing and insulting to them.

And what do you think such comments like those made yesterday do for our terrorist enemies in Iraq? It emboldens them and puts our troops at greater risk, Mr. Speaker.

How dare some of my colleagues on the left misrepresent our mission in Iraq. They call our troops occupiers rather than liberators, and it seems they're more interested in demonizing Bush than defeating terrorists and defending freedom.

History has some lessons to teach us. One is written in words on the mall. It says "freedom is not free."

While we respect those who disagree with us and who may even protest, we should always remember that our freedoms were not won with poster paint. They were won by the blood of patriots.

Winning and protecting freedom is costly. That's what our troops are doing in Iraq.

As a combat veteran who served in an unpopular conflict during another painful time in our history, I can tell you that our troops will always remember which politicians supported them, and which undermined their efforts.

Walking away from Iraq before the job is done would be surrendering Iraq to terrorism and an incredible insult to the many brave men and women who have sacrificed so much.

If the war against terrorism is lost, it will not be lost by our magnificent troops on the battlefield. It will be lost right here at home in the halls of Congress by politicians who lose their resolve.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

In the rush to the floor, the resolution before us, any country lawyer across the country could say it is flawed in the way it is written. It makes no reference whatsoever to the redeployment. It is a sad mistake when you rush to judgment to get something to the floor.

One thing that really concerns me a great deal is our friend, our colleague, the recipient of the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts from Vietnam, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) being attacked as he has.

I remember in 1978 Congressman Sonny Montgomery who led a group of us to Vietnam to bring back remains of those who had died in combat. I remember the reverence with which the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) treated those 14 coffins of his former colleagues who were killed in action in Vietnam.

I have seen in the 29 years I have been in Congress his supporting our troops, supporting under the Constitution our duty to raise and maintain those wonderful young people who protect our freedoms. He has a resolution. He introduced it. He represents the people of Pennsylvania.

I admire his assessment of the war. We disagree on the outcome. I have a proposal myself. I sent a letter to the President on October 20 setting forth, the only person that has set a formula, for three Iraqi brigades of level number one, one American brigade may be redeployed.

It is interesting to note that there has been no hearing on this resolution, no hearing on similar issues that are of utmost importance to our country. Now, though mistakes have been made, and they have, such as allowing the looting and disbanding the Iraqi Army rather than giving them a pick and shovel and a small paycheck, and as a result many of them became insurgents against the Americans, no one here as spoken of the success that is needed in Iraq.

If we are not successful, if the Iraqi military is not successful, Iraq will be a snake pit for terrorists, every bit as bad as the Taliban had in Afghanistan, and lo and behold the problems it may raise in stability for Jordan and Saudi Arabia. It is important that we have success.

But it is also important that we have fair and full debate. It is important that we have hearings in the Committee on Armed Services on issues such as this, which we have not had. Hearings yes, but not on the war issues as we need them discussed in a full hearing with proper witnesses as we can ask questions of them.

At least, Mr. Speaker, let me say that we have wonderful young people in uniform representing us in Iraq and Afghanistan and across the globe. I am so proud of them. I am so proud of what they do in bringing the fight to a successful conclusion.

And the issue of redeployment, whether I agree with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) or not, and I do not, because my formula

I think is the best and I have had positive results in my home State with positive unsolicited newspaper articles saying that it was a good and reasonable method of redeployment, we must do our best to have success there and proper redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

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Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule, H. Res. 572, and we have talked a lot about exit strategy, about withdrawal. If I can say one thing tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to say do not believe all the crap that you see on the TV. Do not believe all the crap that you hear in the news.

I have had an opportunity to go to Iraq. I have seen the soldiers. I have seen the leaders. I have seen the people, and I look at the faces out here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and the faces that I see, the biggest majority, are not the faces like myself, gray-haired and receding hairline.

They are 18- and 19- and 20-year-old heroes a couple of years older than my oldest son; soldiers that are getting on Blackhawks with faces painted and M–16s getting ready to go on a mission at 120 knots above the tree level, 18- and 19- and 20-year-old heroes; soldiers that are kicking in doors with NVGs, and scared to death, but they are rooting out terrorists, 18- and 19- and 20-year-old heroes; guys that are humping rucks. They are tired, and they are cold, and they miss their mama and their wife and their family and everything they know and everything they love, 18- and 19- and 20-year-old heroes.

When I was sworn in as a United States Congressman, I raised my right hand, put my left hand on the Bible and said I would support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I will support and defend this country. I will support and defend my soldiers. As long as I am a United States Congressman, I will not cut and run on the people of Iraq. I will not cut and run on the soldiers fighting the battle. I will not cut and run on the United States of America.

Let us not talk about an exit strategy. Let us talk about freedom. Let us talk about democracy. Let us talk about victory.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on behalf of the 42 members of the Congressional Black Caucus. By doing so, we wish to make clear positions the Congressional Black Caucus has consistently taken from before the time the war in Iraq commenced and to put those positions in the RECORD. Our votes tonight will not be misinterpreted or mischaracterized.

As early as July 27, 2005, the top United States commander in Iraq stated that a transition of U.S. troops from Iraq could begin as early as this spring. Iraq's interim Prime Minister echoed General Casey's sentiments and added that ''the time has arrived to plan a coordinated transition from American to Iraqi military control throughout the country.''

The members of the Congressional Black Caucus reaffirm our Statement of Principles as to War against Iraq, issued in October 2002, which I would place in the RECORD at this point.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AS TO WAR AGAINST IRAQ, OCTOBER 2002

We oppose a unilateral, first-strike action by the United States without a clearly demonstrated and imminent threat of attack on the United States.

Only Congress has the authority to declare war.

Every conceivable diplomatic option must be exhausted.

A unilateral first strike would undermine the moral authority of the United States, destabilize the Middle East region and undermine the ability of our Nation to address unmet domestic priorities.

Further, any post-strike plan for maintaining stability in the region would be costly and require a long-term commitment.

Mr. Speaker, we reaffirm our Further Statement of Principles as to President's Request for Appropriations for Efforts in Iraq issued in September 2003, which I ask to insert into the RECORD at this point.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FURTHER STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AS TO PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR EFFORTS IN IRAQ, SEPTEMBER 2003

In October 2002, before the President made the decision to proceed to war, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) issued a ''Statement of Principles as to the War Against Iraq.''

In light of the President's request for $87 billion to pursue continuing operations in Iraq, the CBC believes that it is desirable to issue these Further Principles that will guide our evaluation of the President's request for additional funding:

1. We reaffirm our Statement of Principles issued in October 2002 (copy attached).

2. Despite the President's failure to follow our original Statement of Principles in his decisions leading to the war, we express our full resolve to support and protect our troops and their families.

3. The Administration should provide an accounting of all funds expended to date that were previously appropriated by the Congress, including details about all contracts for work in or related to Iraq.

4. The President should provide sufficient details about how the proposed funding will be spent to enable Congress and its Committees to evaluate separately funding proposed for the protection and maintenance of our troops and funding proposed for rebuilding Iraq. Congress should vote on these funding proposals separately.

5. The President should provide full details about how the efforts will be paid for, including a full accounting of Iraqi resources (recovered and anticipated) and how the President proposes to use those resources to reduce or reimburse the U.S. obligation.

6. The President should provide full details about the future obligations of the United States (personnel, funding and decision making) and about how responsibility and authority for these obligations will be shared with the United Nations and/or other nations going forward.

7. The Administration should provide to Congress full details of information relied on by the President in his decision to go to war.

8. The President should provide details of the criteria he will expect to be met before bringing U.S. troops home and of his exit strategy.

The members of the Congressional Black Caucus further urge President Bush to end the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq expeditiously by submitting to Congress a detailed plan to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq and redeploy those forces at the earliest practicable date;

To accelerate the training of Iraqi security forces to prepare them to accept full responsibility for maintaining internal security in Iraq and transfer responsibility for internal security to the Iraqi Government;

To incorporate the United Nations and other international organizations in the transition and reconstruction process;

To pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomatic and economic means;

To assure that there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq;

And to ensure full support of our military families and our veterans, particularly with respect to service benefits and health care.

Our vote tonight, our votes, 42 of us, will not be misinterpreted and not be mischaracterized. This is our position. We have submitted it for the RECORD. That is what we stand on, and that is what we say to this House and to the President of the United States of America.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), the distinguished vice chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

Sometimes subtleties are lost, especially when we are dealing with very difficult, critical issues, such as war and peace, and unfortunately, the message has gone out quite clearly to the world press, as recorded throughout the world today by the media, that there is a serious diminution in support for the mission that the United States of America is engaged in in Iraq here in Congress.

So I think that this resolution today is very important to eliminate any confusion that may exist by virtue of a very clear message that has spread around the world today of a serious diminution of the mission of our troops, and that this resolution will clear up that confusion.

Let us say very clearly with this resolution, with the overwhelming defeat of the message of diminution of support, that we stand with the troops and that we stand with the mission of the troops; of being in Iraq until there is a

stable, democratic government there. That is critical for the security not only of the Iraqi people, but of all of the neighborhood in that area and of the United States.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, bringing this resolution to the floor this evening, it is not about the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. It is about the Republicans playing politics and questioning the patriotism of one of Congress' most decorated veterans.

The Republicans are doing what they do best, creating a smoke screen to hide the fact that this administration has misled our country into war.

This resolution was rushed to the floor in the Republicans' hopes of dividing Democrats, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, what it has proven to be is a device to divide Americans.

I will not stand here and let Republicans question the patriotism of Mr. MURTHA or any Democrat.

In America, it is not unpatriotic to question a war in which almost 2,100 Americans have lost their lives and some 25,000 Americans have been gravely injured.

When a mother who has lost her son camps out in Crawford, Texas, wanting only to speak to the President, she was called unpatriotic. When a POW GOP Senator offered an amendment to ban the use of torture, he was called unpatriotic. Now, when one of the most decorated veterans in America questions the planning and the direction of this war, what is he called? Unpatriotic.

I do not believe the Republican Caucus is unpatriotic, but I do believe this evening they are pathetic. Our country demands answers about how to win this war and to get our troops home safely.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what we have before us tonight is not an attack on any one Member. It is not about politics, but it is about whether or not you support our troops who are in harm's way.

When I was in Iraq, I will never forget a nurse coming up to me in a hospital that had been pretty darn damaged and neglected by Saddam Hussein, and she said, please do not leave. I thought she was talking about me not leaving the hospital, and I said to her, I have to go. She said, no, I do not mean you; I want your troops to stay until our country is safe, until our country is secure. I will never forget that woman.

That message has been relayed time and time again from the troops who come home, who say we cannot leave prematurely. We do have an exit strategy. It is when the Iraqi people can control their own country. When the Iraqi people stand up, we will stand down. That nurse I will never disappoint.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I spent 3 years making the case against the war in Iraq, working with other Members leading a nationwide opposition to the war, developing an exit strategy once we got in, working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on plans to withdraw from Iraq, to bring our troops home, but I will vote against this resolution because it is a fraud.

What more does anyone need to know but that the sponsor himself has called for defeat of his own proposition? If his real intention is to bring the troops home right now, why would he vote against his own resolution?

Wake up, America. The American people are fed up with politicians who say one thing and do another. Everyone of conscience and intelligence knows the magnitude of withdrawing 150,000 troops requires a plan.

The American people deserve a real debate on Iraq. Where are the WMDs? Where is Osama bin Laden? What did Iraq have to do with 9/11?

This Congress, which is a coequal branch of government, which has the war power, has the oversight responsibility and has a moral obligation to find out why almost everything of significance we were told about the war turned out to be false. Instead, those who raise questions have their military service or their honor impugned.

They took JOHN KERRY on a swift boat. We are not going to let them take JACK MURTHA on a swift boat, nor are the American people. We have to stand up and expose the fakery when we see it.

ANALYSIS OF JOINT RESOLUTION ON IRAQ BY DENNIS J. KUCINICH

The following is an analysis of the resolution which took America to war in Iraq.

October 2, 2002. Whereas in 1990 in response to Iraq's war of aggression against an illegal occupation of Kuwait, the United States forged a coalition of nations to liberate Kuwait and its people in order to defend the national security of the United States and enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq;

Key issue: In the Persian Gulf war there was an international coalition. World support was for protecting Kuwait. There is no world support for invading Iraq.

Whereas after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, Iraq entered into a United Nations sponsored cease-fire agreement pursuant to which Iraq unequivocally agreed, among other things, to eliminate its nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs and the means to deliver and develop them, and to end its support for international terrorism;

Whereas the efforts of international weapons inspectors, United States intelligence agencies, and Iraqi defectors led to the discovery that Iraq had large stockpiles of chemical weapons and a large scale biological weapons program, and that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program that was much closer to producing a nuclear weapon than intelligence reporting had previously indicated;

Key issue: UN inspection teams identified and destroyed nearly all such weapons. A lead inspector, Scott Ritter, said that he believes that nearly all other weapons not found were destroyed in the Gulf War. Furthermore, according to a published report in the Washington Post, the Central Intelligence Agency has no up to date accurate report on Iraq's WMD capabilities.

Whereas Iraq, in direct and flagrant violation of the cease-fire, attempted to thwart the efforts of weapons inspectors to identify and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction stockpiles and development capabilities, which finally resulted in the withdrawal of inspectors from Iraq on October 31, 1998;

Key issues: Iraqi deceptions always failed. The inspectors always figured out what Iraq was doing. It was the United States that withdrew from the inspections in 1998. And the United States then launched a cruise missile attack against Iraq 48 hours after the inspectors left. In advance of a military strike, the U.S. continues to thwart (the Administration's word) weapons inspections.

Whereas in 1998 Congress concluded that Iraq's continuing weapons of mass destruction programs threatened vital United States interests and international peace and security, declared Iraq to be in ''material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations'' and urged the President ''to take appropriate action, in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws of the United States, to bring Iraq into compliance with its international obligations'' (Public Law 105–235);

Whereas Iraq both poses a continuing threat to the national security of the United States and international peace and security in the Persian Gulf region and remains in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations by, among other things, continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations;

Key issues: There is no proof that Iraq represents an imminent or immediate threat to the United States. A ''continuing'' threat does not constitute a sufficient cause for war. The Administration has refused to provide the Congress with credible intelligence that proves that Iraq is a serious threat to the United States and is continuing to possess and develop chemical and biological and nuclear weapons. Furthermore there is no credible intelligence connecting Iraq to Al Qaida and 9/11.

Whereas Iraq persists in violating resolutions of the United Nations Security Council by continuing to engage in brutal repression of its civilian population thereby threatening international peace and security in the region, by refusing to release, repatriate, or account for non-Iraqi citizens wrongfully detained by Iraq, including an American serviceman, and by failing to return property wrongfully seized by Iraq from Kuwait;

Key issues: This language is so broad that it would allow the President to order an attack against Iraq even when there is no material threat to the United States. Since this resolution authorizes the use of force for all Iraq related violations of the UN Security Council directives, and since the resolution cites Iraq's imprisonment of non-Iraqi prisoners, this resolution would authorize the President to attack Iraq in order to liberate Kuwaiti citizens who may or may not be in Iraqi prisons, even if Iraq met compliance with all requests to destroy any weapons of

mass destruction. Though in 2002 at the Arab Summit, Iraq and Kuwait agreed to bilateral negotiations to work out all claims relating to stolen property and prisoners of war. This use-of-force resolution enables the President to commit U.S. troops to recover Kuwaiti property.

Whereas the current Iraqi regime has demonstrated its capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction against other nations and its own people;

Whereas the current Iraqi regime has demonstrated its continuing hostility toward, and willingness to attack, the United States, including by attempting in 1993 to assassinate former President Bush and by firing on many thousands of occasions on United States and Coalition Armed Forces engaged in enforcing the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council;

Key issue: The Iraqi regime has never attacked nor does it have the capability to attack the United States. The ''no fly'' zone was not the result of a UN Security Council directive. It was illegally imposed by the United States, Great Britain and France and is not specifically sanctioned by any Security Council resolution.

Whereas members of al Qaida, an organization bearing responsibility for attacks on the United States, its citizens, and interests, including the attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, are known to be in Iraq;

Key issue: There is no credible intelligence that connects Iraq to the events of 9/11 or to participation in those events by assisting Al Qaida.

Whereas Iraq continues to aid and harbor other international terrorist organizations, including organizations that threaten the lives and safety of American citizens;

Key issue: Any connection between Iraq support of terrorist groups in Middle East, is an argument for focusing great resources on resolving the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. It is not sufficient reason for the U.S. to launch a unilateral preemptive strike against Iraq.

Whereas the attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001 underscored the gravity of the threat posed by the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by international terrorist organizations;

Key issue: There is no connection between Iraq and the events of 9/11.

Whereas Iraq's demonstrated capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction, the risk that the current Iraqi regime will either employ those weapons to launch a surprise attack against the United States or its Armed Forces or provide them to international terrorists who would do so, and the extreme magnitude of harm that would result to the United States and its citizens from such an attack, combine to justify action by the United States to defend itself;

Key issue: There is no credible evidence that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction. If Iraq has successfully concealed the production of such weapons since 1998, there is no credible evidence that Iraq has the capability to reach the United States with such weapons. In the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq had a demonstrated capability of biological and chemical weapons, but did not have the willingness to use them against the United States Armed Forces. Congress has not been provided with any credible information, which proves that Iraq has provided international terrorists with weapons of mass destruction.

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 authorizes the use of all necessary means to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent relevant resolutions and to compel Iraq to cease certain activities that threaten international peace and security, including the development of weapons of mass destruction and refusal or obstruction of United Nations weapons inspections in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 687, repression of its civilian population in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 688, and threatening its neighbors or United Nations operations in Iraq in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 949;

Key issue: The UN Charter forbids all member nations, including the United States, from unilaterally enforcing UN resolutions.

Whereas Congress in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1) has authorized the President ''to use United States Armed Forces pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 (1990) in order to achieve implementation of Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 669, 670, 674, and 677'';

Key issue: The UN Charter forbids all member nations, including the United States, from unilaterally enforcing UN resolutions with military force.

Whereas in December 1991, Congress expressed its sense that it ''supports the use of all necessary means to achieve the goals of United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 as being consistent with the Authorization of Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102–1), '' that Iraq's repression of its civilian population violates United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 and ''constitutes a continuing threat to the peace, security, and stability of the Persian Gulf region,'' and that Congress, ''supports the use of all necessary means to achieve the goals of United Nations Security Council Resolution 688'';

Key issue: This clause demonstrates the proper chronology of the international process, and contrasts the current march to war. In 1991, the UN Security Council passed a resolution asking for enforcement of its resolution. Member countries authorized their troops to participate in a UN-led coalition to enforce the UN resolutions. Now the President is asking Congress to authorize a unilateral first strike before the UN Security Council has asked its member states to enforce UN resolutions.

Whereas the Iraq Liberation Act (Public Law 105–338) expressed the sense of Congress that it should be the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove from power the current Iraqi regime and promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime;

Key issue: This ''Sense of Congress'' resolution was not binding. Furthermore, while Congress supported democratic means of removing Saddam Hussein it clearly did not endorse the use of force contemplated in this resolution, nor did it endorse assassination as a policy.

Whereas on September 12, 2002, President Bush committed the United States to ''work with the United Nations Security Council to meet our common challenge'' posed by Iraq and to ''work for the necessary resolutions,'' while also making clear that ''the Security Council resolutions will be enforced, and the just demands of peace and security will be met, or action will be unavoidable'';

Whereas the United States is determined to prosecute the war on terrorism and Iraq's ongoing support for international terrorist groups combined with its development of weapons of mass destruction in direct violation of its obligations under the 1991 ceasefire and other United Nations Security Council resolutions make clear that it is in the national security interests of the United States and in furtherance of the war on terrorism that all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions be enforced, including through the use of force if necessary;

Key issue: Unilateral action against Iraq will cost the United States the support of the world community, adversely affecting the war on terrorism. No credible intelligence exists which connects Iraq to the events of 9/11 or to those terrorists who perpetrated 9/11. Under international law, the United States does not have the authority to unilaterally order military action to enforce UN Security Council resolutions.

Whereas Congress has taken steps to pursue vigorously the war on terrorism through the provision of authorities and funding requested by the President to take the necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001 or harbored such persons or organizations;

Key issue: The Administration has not provided Congress with any proof that Iraq is in any way connected to the events of 9/11.

Whereas the President and Congress are determined to continue to take all appropriate actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such persons or organizations;

Key issue: The Administration has not provided Congress with any proof that Iraq is in any way connected to the events of 9/11. Furthermore, there is no credible evidence that Iraq has harbored those who were responsible for planning, authorizing or committing the attacks of 9/11.

Whereas the President has authority under the Constitution to take action in order to deter and prevent acts of international terrorism against the United States, as Congress recognized in the joint resolution on Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40); and

Key issue: This resolution was specific to 9/11. It was limited to a response to 9/11.

Whereas it is in the national security of the United States to restore international peace and security to the Persian Gulf region;

Key issue: If by the ''national security interests'' of the United States, the Administration means oil, it ought to communicate such to the Congress. A unilateral attack on Iraq by the United States will cause instability and chaos in the region and sow the seeds of future conflicts all other the world.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the ''*Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq*''.

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

The Congress of the United States supports the efforts by the President to—

(a) strictly enforce through the United Nations Security Council all relevant Security Council resolutions applicable to Iraq and encourages him in those efforts; and

(b) obtain prompt and decisive action by the Security Council to ensure that Iraq abandons its strategy of delay, evasion and noncompliance and promptly and strictly complies with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Key issue: Congress can and should support this clause. However Section 3 (which follows) undermines the effectiveness of this

section. Any peaceful settlement requires Iraq compliance. The totality of this resolution indicates the Administration will wage war against Iraq no matter what. This undermines negotiations.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to—

(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and

(2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding Iraq.

Key issue: This clause is substantially similar to the authorization that the President originally sought.

It gives authority to the President to act prior to and even without a UN resolution, and it authorizes the President to use U.S. troops to enforce UN resolutions even without UN request for it. This is a violation of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which reserves the ability to authorize force for that purpose to the Security Council, alone.

Under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, ''The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace . . . and shall make recommendations to maintain or restore international peace and security.'' (Article 39). Only the Security Council can decide that military force would be necessary, ''The Security Council may decide what measures . . . are to be employed to give effect to its decisions (Article 41) . . . [and] it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.'' (Article 43). Furthermore, the resolution authorizes use of force illegally, since the UN Security Council has not requested it. According to the UN Charter, members of the UN, such as the US, are required to ''make available to the Security Council, *on its call* and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces . . .'' (Article 43, emphasis added). The UN Security Council has not called upon its members to use military force against Iraq at the current time.

Furthermore, changes to the language of the previous use-of-force resolution, drafted by the White House and objected to by many members of Congress, are cosmetic:

In section (1), the word ''continuing'' was added to ''the threat posed by Iraq''.

In section (2), the word ''relevant'' is added to ''United Nations Security Council Resolutions'' and the words ''regarding ''Iraq'' were added to the end.

While these changes are represented as a compromise or a new material development, the effects of this resolution are largely the same as the previous White House proposal.

The UN resolutions, which could be cited by the President to justify sending U.S. troops to Iraq, go far beyond addressing weapons of mass destruction. These could include, at the President's discretion, such ''relevant'' resolutions ''regarding Iraq'' including resolutions to enforce human rights and the recovery of Kuwaiti property.

PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION.—

In connection with the exercise of the authority granted in subsection (a) to use force the President shall, prior to such exercise or as soon there after as may be feasible, but no later than 48 hours after exercising such authority, make available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate his determination that—

(1) reliance by the United States on further diplomatic or other peaceful means alone either (A) will not adequately protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq or (B) is not likely to lead to enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq, and

(2) acting pursuant to this resolution is consistent with the United States and other countries continuing to take the necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorists attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(c) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5 (b) of the War Powers Resolution.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this resolution supersedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) The President shall, at least once every 60 days, submit to the Congress a report on matters relevant to this joint resolution, including actions taken pursuant to the exercise of authority granted in section 2 and the status of planning for efforts that are expected to be required after such actions are completed, including those actions described in section 7 of Public Law 105–338 (the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998).

(b) To the extent that the submission of any report described in subsection (a) coincides with the submission of any other report on matters relevant to this joint resolution otherwise required to be submitted to Congress pursuant to the reporting requirements of Public Law 93–148 (the War Powers Resolution), all such reports may be submitted as a single consolidated report to the Congress.

(c) To the extent that the information required by section 3 of Public Law 102–1 is included in the report required by this section, such report shall be considered as meeting the requirements of section 3 of Public Law 102–1.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the goal of this Nation has been the same, to topple the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and to bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

Our coalition forces were successful in bringing down Saddam, and today he is facing the justice of the Iraqi people in a country that is beginning to understand and to live under the rule of law, not the rule of a barbaric and brutal dictator.

Today the people of Iraq have elected an interim government that drafted a Constitution, subsequently approved by the Iraqi people, and on December 15 they will again go to the polls to elect a permanent Parliament. None of this could have been achieved without the sacrifice of the brave men and women who serve in our armed services.

While we have been working to establish a democratic government, we have also been working to reestablish the Iraqi Army and security forces, and when the Iraqi forces are ready, our troops will come home, their mission accomplished.

The question before the Congress today is shall we pull our troops out now before their mission is complete. Let us examine just for a second the consequences of such action.

If our forces leave now, we would empower terrorists such as Zarqawi to spread violence against innocent civilians, unchecked. Iraq could then devolve into anarchy and become a base of terror operations. That is the question, and that is the risk, and I believe we must fight the terrorists at the heart of their power, not in the streets of America.

Mr. Speaker, many of the same Members who voted in 2002 to support this effort now say that the President misled them. If they actually believe such an outrageous allegation, why did the President not just simply plant weapons of mass destruction in Iraq while he was at it? This whole train of thought is absolutely nuts. They just looked at the same intelligence, and they cannot simply rewrite history.

Mr. Speaker, with our assistance Iraq is making remarkable progress, and when our American forces do come home, they will come home as heroes, and our Nation will be more secure. I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I represent over 40,000 patriotic Americans who have served in Iraq. Over 200 Army soldiers have given their lives there. I revere them, their service and their sacrifice, and that is exactly why I believe a vote on war is the single most solemn responsibility we ever have as a Member of Congress.

□ 2030

Yet tonight the House leadership, on a partisan basis, has given each Member of Congress on average 7.8 seconds. That is right, 7.8 seconds to speak his or her conscience on whether or not we should keep or remove our troops from Iraq.

This process, especially without a single hearing, a single witness, on a resolution just introduced a few hours ago, does a disservice to the enormity of the issue of war and peace before us, to the integrity of this House, and to the sacrifice of our servicemen and -women now in harm's way.

In 1991, when this House debated whether to go to war in Iraq, and I was in that debate, Speaker Foley gave each Member of the House 5 minutes, and the country was mesmerized by the voices of conscience on each side. What was the result? When the vote was cast, the country was united and the troops I represented knew their Nation was behind them.

But this partisan process tonight does a disservice to our troops. It divides our Nation, and it divides this

Congress. If we are going to debate the issue, the solemn issue of war and peace, let us do it the right way. Vote ''no'' on this resolution and let every Member of the House have the right to voice his or her conscience.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), a proud veteran.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time.

I want to be honest with a lot of people in this House. My father served this Nation for 34 years. He has been friends with JACK MURTHA for 20 years. Our families have known each other for over 20 years.

JACK MURTHA's resolution calls for a redeployment. Jack Murtha's Web site talks about redeployment. DUNCAN HUNTER's resolution talks about immediate withdrawal. They are two separate issues. Both men do not impugn each other's character.

The media may have taken Mr. MURTHA's idea and spun it into immediate withdrawal, and that message may not be the message that our troops need to hear from this Congress. We need to be straight, and we need to be honest with each other.

Leading up to this, there have been individuals who have come down here and have been insightful. We have got some tough guys in the House who want to say that this President manipulated prewar intelligence. Sandy Berger said, Saddam Hussein will use his weapons of mass destruction and he will use them again probably 10 times. Madeleine Albright said, He jeopardizes stability in the region with weapons of mass destruction. The WMD Commission said they found no evidence of manipulation, and the 9/11 Commission said they found no evidence of manipulation. Those are facts.

JACK MURTHA is a great man and a patriot. DUNCAN HUNTER wants to send a message to our troops that says we are not saying we have to immediately withdraw. We need to come back after Thanksgiving, we need to think about it and go through what our strategy is in Iraq to best protect our boys and girls and to bring peace and stability to the region. And it needs to be thoughtful.

But tough guys coming down here saying that this President manipulated evidence is a bald-faced deception.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in the last week, two Vietnam veterans, one Democrat, one Republican, one in the House, one in the Senate, came to the same conclusion: the present course is not succeeding and is not working. Both have different solutions and different recommendations. Senator HAGEL has his. Congressman MURTHA has his. Senator MCCAIN has his. Congressman SKELTON has his. But what all of them have in common is that the present course is not succeeding. Doing more of the same and expecting a different result is failing our troops and failing our country.

These policies and the policies the President has are not succeeding. But the reason each of these men has come forward with a recommendation is because all we are offered is more of the same. It is a policy void of leading us to a strategy of success and victory and departure. This is not a discussion about relitigating the past. It is a debate about how we succeed and exit, not about how we got in, but how we get out with victory.

Now, I would think that after a series of the last 2½ years, what we can be criticized for here in this House is not for raising questions but for not having raised questions. We have given the administration an appropriated $450 billion, everything they have asked for. They have gotten everything from this Congress. Our role is to appropriate. We have appropriated. What we have not done is ask the questions, and we deserve criticism for not having had oversight, not having asked questions. That is where the fault lies in this House, because we did not ask the questions.

What do we have? We appropriated $450 billion, 2,000 troops in Iraq, 200 or more in Afghanistan, 15,000 fellow citizens wounded, and we have a single Iraqi battalion to show for it?

We have a job to ask the questions in oversight. We abdicated our response. This is a course tonight to begin to ask and to begin debate because for 2½ years this Congress was silent in its role and the American people have asked us and demanded of us to speak up to the responsibility in our sworn oath and responsibilities.

Whether it is Kevlar vests; whether it is Humvees; whether it is the Secretary of Defense, who originally said only 75,000 troops were needed; whether it was the Deputy Secretary of Defense, who said this would be 7 days and a short war, our men and women deserve a policy of success and victory and exit so they can come home to their families. And tonight we are having, finally, some debate, but we also need an overture of our responsibility and some oversight of what goes on. After $450 billion, 2,000 American lives, we have a responsibility.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am here in the role of a parent. I am very proud that my oldest son served in the field artillery of the Army National Guard for a year in Iraq. He saw the progress of building a civil society in Iraq to protect American families. I am also grateful my second son is a doctor in the Navy, graduated from medical school this year. My third son graduated from signal school this year, just got back from serving a month in Egypt, again promoting democracy and freedom. My fourth son has indicated that next year he will be enlisting in the marines.

My four sons understand September 11 was the beginning of a war, a global war against terrorism. I am very proud of their participation. We understand that we must face the enemy overseas, or we will be facing them here on the streets of America.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me this time. I appreciate the opportunity to address this House and the opportunity for us all to sit and listen to this debate.

I hear a couple of different numbers, 25,000 wounded but 15,000 wounded coming from the same side of the aisle. I am wondering if that is indicative of some of the other statistics that we have heard.

But I ask this question: Why have I not heard any objections to our operations in Afghanistan? Twenty-five million people liberated and freed and standing on free soil, voting for their own freedom and their own national destiny, a cost of 200 American lives. Nobody set a value on that. How many is too many in Afghanistan?

Twenty-five million Iraqis free, voting on free soil for the first time in their real lives, and what does this mean to America? It means that we have erased some of the habitat that breeds terror. Do we not understand this greater mission here is to eradicate that habitat so Arab people can breathe free and that free people do not go to war against free people? Could we look at this broader mission of 50 million people freed? 2,200 American lives, tens of thousands of other lives. We have not been attacked in this country since that date for a lot of good reasons.

You cannot separate the mission from the troops. You cannot sit here and say, I support the troops. Mr. President, we ought to bring the troops home. I do not support their mission. You cannot ask somebody to put their life on the line for your freedom and not support their mission, but tell them that you support the troops.

Further more, I sat in Kuwait City and watched on television as Moqtada al-Sadr said, ''They will go home the same way they did from Vietnam, Lebanon, and Mogadishu.''

We must stay the course.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule for the consideration of House Resolution 571.

But first I want to state for the record that I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I do not believe that this resolution is about him or anyone else in this Chamber. This resolution is about our troops, our mission, and our commitment to finishing the job in Iraq. It is about communicating to the world where the Members of this Chamber stand on immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

A number of my colleagues and I visited Iraq several times and met with the women who had run for office in elections there. These women, Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, risked their lives to help build a better Iraq. One woman lost her son and her bodyguard to assassins. Another was kidnapped and finally returned after a ransom was paid for her. Still others told harrowing stories about the pressures brought upon them simply because they were exercising the kind of rights that we take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing that these brave women told us repeatedly was this: do not leave us. Do not leave us until we have a stable government. Do not leave us like you did before in 1990 after the gulf war, and do not leave us until we have the security that a stable government will provide.

Let us honor this commitment. Let us honor our troops. Let us be clear of our intentions. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and reject the underlying resolution.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, please let us tonight think about what we have accomplished, not in terms of what we have up in front of us, but what we have accomplished so far.

Did the Members know that 47 countries have reestablished embassies in Iraq? Did the Members know that 3,100 schools have been renovated? Did the Members know that Iraq's higher education structure consists of 20 universities, 46 institutes or colleges, and four research centers, all operating? Did the Members know that 25 Iraq students departed for the United States in January to reestablish the Fulbright program? Did the Members know that the Iraqi Navy is operational? Did the Members know that the Iraqi Air Force consists of three operational squadrons? Did the Members know that Iraq has a counterterrorist unit and a commando battalion?

Did the Members know that the Iraqi police service has over 55,000 fully trained and equipped police officers? Did the Members know that there are five police academies in Iraq that produce over 3,500 new officers every 8 weeks? Did the Members know that Iraq has an independent media that consists of 75 radio stations, 180 newspapers, 10 television stations? Did the Members know that two candidates in the Iraq presidential election had a televised debate recently?

We have accomplished a great deal. We are on the road to success.

I, like every other American, I am sure everybody in this room, want every American home tomorrow. I want them home and safe. I voted for the resolution to put these people in harm's way; and, therefore, like everybody here who did the same thing, I know that you feel as I do, a knife goes through your heart every time you see something on television, every time you read a report of another American being killed in Iraq. I want them home.

□ 2045

I want them home as soon as that mission is completed, the mission we sent them on, and a mission that I do not want extended by 1 hour or 1 minute because of what we may do here.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, it is not a secret to anybody in this body, I am not on the best terms with the President and the White House. Certainly I do not get invited over there any more than my colleagues on the other side of the aisle because I have been in opposition to many of his plans and proposals. However, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to do this, and I beg them to do this: Please do not let your hatred for the President of the United States get in the way of what I know is your basic love for this country.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, today my heart has ached more than it has in 12 years in being in the United States Congress. It has ached not because of this debate, because we should be having this debate, but not at this time of day, it should happen after the recess, but because the gentleman from Pennsylvania who I think is a great American, and it has hurt my heart that he has been under attack unfairly.

Surely anyone who has ever worn the uniform for this Nation should be able to express themselves. And if you have not worn the uniform, you should be able to express yourself. Our Armed Forces are in Iraq and Afghanistan tonight fighting for freedom.

Let me share with Members what James Webb, Secretary of Navy under Ronald Reagan and Vietnam veteran, wrote me when I joined my colleagues on the other side and the Republican side in voting for the House Resolution 55, bipartisan, he wrote me this letter, and I will read three sentences. ''When American citizens are being asked to war, it is their most basic right that the strategic issues be explained in clearly understandable terms. And if the endpoint cannot be clearly explained, there is, in fact, no really strategy.''

That is what Mr. MURTHA is asking for. That is what Senator FEINGOLD is asking for. That is what WALTER JONES and RON PAUL and DENNIS KUCINICH and Neil Abercrombie are asking: Tell us what the strategy is.

I close with this. It is so ironic that we are having this debate tonight because on April 9, 1999, Governor Bush criticized President Clinton for not having a strategy. This is his quote in the Houston Chronicle: ''Victory means exit strategy, and it is important for the President to explain to us what the exit strategy is.'' That is all we are asking for.

My last quote is from the New York Times on June 6, 1999. ''I think it is also important for the President to lay out a timetable as to how long they will be involved and when they will be withdrawn.'' That is Governor Bush asking President Clinton. Tonight we are asking President Bush the same thing he asked President Clinton.

God, please bless our men and women in uniform; and please, God, bless America.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman from North Carolina that this resolution is not an attack on any Member of this body. This resolution is about an attack on those Islamic Fascist terrorists who would destroy the men and women who are defending this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, calling for the immediate withdrawal or even a phased, detailed plan for withdrawal from Iraq is a recipe for absolute disaster. It is the wrong message for our soldiers and marines who are truly doing the work of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Frankly, I am concerned, as we all should be, that such talk will only embolden the terrorists and demoralize our warfighters, those who literally put their lives on the line each and every day. Domestic politics should not trump our promises to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan that we would be loyal to their aspirations for freedom, that we would see them through the difficult steps of constituting new governments and laying the groundwork for free elections.

Our only exit strategy from Iraq should be victory. Anything less than that virtually guarantees the next battleground may be closer to home. We need to support our troops, these young troops. We cannot cut their feet out from underneath them. They need our support, and they need it tonight.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, JACK MURTHA is a decorated Vietnam war veteran. He is a United

States Marine, retired colonel. This debate is not about the Iraq war, it is about silencing the opinion of a respected veteran marine and Member of Congress.

I supported the Iraq war resolution and voted for every defense appropriation for that effort, and I am voting against this resolution. But we know with each casualty from Iraq that something is wrong. Our men and women in uniform are fighting heroically, and I honor them and their families for their sacrifice.

It is civilian leadership and this administration and the Department of Defense that did not prepare to fight this war with either material or enough troops. I may not totally agree with my colleague from Pennsylvania, but I know him as a respected, decorated war veteran and a Member of Congress, and he has earned that right to be able to give his opinion without having a resolution attack him or have the Members attack him personally.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of two wars, I know that our military men and women fighting overseas watch what we do right here all the time. They see this on TV, they hear it on the radio, and they read our words in the newspapers. I know our brave men and women want to see their brave leaders, us, those of us in Congress here at home, have the political fortitude, yes, indeed the political stomach, to support their actions abroad.

Like many in this Chamber from both sides of the aisle, I have been to Iraq, I have been to Afghanistan, I have met with our troops there, and I have met with them as they have returned home to Nevada. They know, they see, and they hear. They read what we are doing in Congress, and they listen, and they are listening to us today.

What message do you want to send to these soldiers on the front line, a message of surrender, or do you want to send a message of support, a message that we will bring them to victory?

Some will call this vote symbolic or political. Well, call it what you want, but I want our troops overseas to read about this vote, and I want them to know that we support them.

As a veteran of two wars, I know first hand that our military men and women fighting for our freedoms overseas watch our actions at home.

They see this on TV, they hear it on radio, and they read it in the newspapers.

I know our brave men and women watch to see whether their leaders at home have the political fortitude, and the stomach to support their actions abroad.

Like many in this Chamber, from both sides of the aisle, I have been to Iraq.

I have been to Afghanistan.

I have met with our troops there, and I have met with them as they have returned home to Nevada.

They know, see, hear and read what we are doing in Congress, and they are listening to us today.

What message do you want to send these soldiers on the front line?

A message of surrender or a message of strength and support, that will bring us victory.

Some call this vote simply symbolic or political.

Well, you call it what you want, but I want our troops overseas to read about this vote.

To hear about this vote.

And I hope we can demonstrate not through just words, but our actions, that we are with them in this hour.

We will remain with them, and supply them, and support them, until the job is done, until we are victorious, and until we can proudly bring them home and applaud their victory.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, how do you withdraw from the war on terror when we have been attacked over and over and over again? We were attacked at the World Trade Centers, the first time by a bomb. Then our African embassies were attacked; the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia where our young men and women were killed; the Cole naval vessel; and then 9/11.

How do you tell Osama bin Laden and Zarqawi that we do not want to participate, we do not want to fool with fighting against terror?

The last administration tried that, and we felt the pain of death and destruction on 9/11 from terrorist murderers' hands. We have to win in Iraq. By the way, we won the war in Iraq. Now we are fighting with our allies in Iraq to defeat terror. If we do not win in Iraq, we will fail in the greater Middle East, and what happens if Pakistan falls? What happens if Saudi Arabia falls? Weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Islamic extremists will be a disaster for the world.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Member what the focus of our attention should be: David Branning, Dale Burger, Robert Guy, Jason Mileo, Adam Mooney, Bryan Nicholas Spry, William Allers, Samuel Bowen, Jarrett Thompson, Patrick Adle, Neil Prince, and Keith Mariotti.

They are the dead,
short days ago they lived,
felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
and now they lie in Flanders Field,
from my district.

What are they asking us with a sense of urgency for the living? What are the quick and the dead asking us to do: Know more than they did.

Why are our troops successful in harm's way? Because our troops bond together with an integration of integrity bound with trust.

Let us debate how to finish the war, not how to continue to fight the war.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, a little over 24 hours ago, an American military hero suggested to this country that this Congress should debate the policy, the current policy in Iraq. He had some suggestions on how that policy should be changed. He believed, as we believe him, that he was doing this for the sake of our troops, for the sake of our country, for security in the Middle East, and the security of this country.

In those 24 hours, he has come under unrelenting attack, characterizing him as an individual, as a Member of Congress, as to his motives, as to what he proposed, as opposed to what he said he proposed. Those attacks came from the President of the United States, from the Vice President of the United States, from the Speaker of the House, and from so many Members of this body who challenged his patriotism, challenged his character and challenged his integrity because he simply dared to kick open the doors of Congress and suggest that we debate the pressing question of this Nation that the people of this Nation want us to debate. Not that he would win that debate, but that he wanted that debate to take place, and that for that, all of his years of service to this country were openly challenged and mis-char-acterized and slandered.

I do not know where we went wrong. I do not know where we went wrong because I went through the debates in this Congress in Vietnam and Central America, and Mr. MURTHA and I could not be on more opposite sides of those issues. And many people I served with in the history of this Congress, but never in those debates did people assassinate the character of one another. We challenged the evidence, we challenged the assumptions. We challenged what was said, but we never ever, ever, did this to one another because we respected one another, having differing views coming from different parts of the country with different backgrounds.

□ 2100

Where did we go wrong? Maybe tonight Mr. MURTHA gave us another gift. Sometimes when you hit bottom, you change the ways you do business. Maybe Mr. MURTHA gave us this. After all that he suffered over this last 48 hours, maybe this Congress will be a better place, because everyone sitting in this Congress knows who knows JACK MURTHA what has been said about him in the last 24 hours could not be further from the truth. That man is a hero. That man is a hero to this Nation. You know it and the whole Nation knows it.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. With all due respect to my friends on the other side of the aisle, especially my friend who just finished, this is selective memory at its worst. I can remember the very people now crying these crocodile tears and the vilification that they put forward on Ronald Reagan for trying to stop the Communists in Latin America, trying to end the Cold War. He was vilified as a warmonger, et cetera, by the very people who now are making these statements.

Let me note JACK MURTHA. I have the greatest respect for him. He is a patriot. But let me thus note that how many times have the people who are saying this have been down here calling our President a liar and vilifying the President of the United States. Come on. Let's be fair to one another here. The fact is there is a disagreement on the character. Our hearts break when we see in the newspaper that four or five more Americans have lost their lives. That does not mean the cause that they are fighting for is unjust.

You had an opportunity tonight to discuss that cause if you were opposed to the war. But instead what we have heard is this type of rhetoric, getting around the issue of the discussion that we should be talking about, the war, and then, in partisan terms, trying to make it partisan saying that we are being personal. No, let's discuss the war, let's discuss it honestly, and let's not obfuscate the issue.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the most profound issue that this Congress must consider is whether or not to declare and prosecute war, whether or not to send our Nation's sons and daughters into harm's way. A serious proposal has been made by the senior Member of this body, a Member who honorably served in the United States Marine Corps for nearly four decades, a Member who has served here for more than three decades, and a Member who has been one of our Nation's leaders on making our defenses the strongest they could be. That proposal raises legitimate and critical questions as to the prosecution of our Nation's war efforts in Iraq, efforts that I have always supported. It suggests an alternative course of action that deserves serious consideration and a full and fair debate. However, his proposal is not before us tonight. The Republican chairman of the Armed Services Committee offers a resolution to immediately withdraw our troops from Iraq. I don't support that. Mr. HUNTER does not support it. He offers it to avoid serious consideration of the policy our country is pursuing and proposals for possible alternatives. The majority party's response seeks to deal with this issue in a way that trivializes our consideration of how to conduct this war effort in a manner best designed to attain success. As such, this resolution is beneath the dignity and responsibility of this institution and the Members of this body.

All of us have sworn to defend the Constitution and protect this Nation and the American people. All of us, all 435, support our troops. This resolution is unworthy of our responsibility to our men and women who are now serving our Nation and who are deployed in harm's way. Unfortunately, today's process mirrors, I say to you, the superficial consideration of serious policy issues in this Congress and demonstrates a continuing unwillingness to subject policy proposals to oversight and serious and thoughtful deliberation.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that I do not possess the eloquence or the vocabulary to express the magnitude of my contempt with which I view this shabby, petty political maneuver. Our responsibilities to our country and to our men and women in harm's way in the defense of freedom demands more of us. The majority leadership demonstrates today, I fear, its lack of respect for this institution and for its great responsibilities to our democracy. The American people will see this day's proceedings for what they are, the rankest of politics and the absence of a sense of shame.

I hope that we reject this rule and this resolution.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. John Adams wrote to Abigail back in the summer of 1776, ''The thing that philosophers up to now have only dreamed about is within our grasp, the concept of self-government.''

And, folks, in the cradle of mankind there in Iraq, there is within their grasp because of what we have done in the name of liberty and destroying terrorism, it is so close. This is not about one Member of Congress who was a hero in Vietnam. This is about a message that is being sent to the world. Right after the minority leader's district that she represents and leads told the world, The military is beneath us. Mamas, don't let your babies grow up to defend this Nation and the liberty. San Francisco said no recruiters in our city, a terrible message. Followed by, let's get our troops out and not support them.

Join with us as you did in singing a prayer, God Bless America. Let the terrorists know. We don't want to divide you. We want to unite you with us.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I remember roughly 4 years ago after 9/11 what the feeling was in this Chamber. Everyone was united. We had a common purpose. And it was truly a great time to be here. The other night we went out and rolled around in the mud together for a little bit, and we were united. We had a common purpose. We wanted to have a great team.

As I listen to what is going on here tonight, I am really concerned about the acrimony and the general tenor of the discussion. I realize that there is plenty of blame to be laid at everyone's feet. I with many others am concerned about what the American public perceives and what our troops perceive in regard to this discussion tonight. We can do better. We are better than this.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Many people have said tonight, this is not the Murtha resolution. I agree. It is not the Murtha resolution. Unfortunately, it is my friend JACK MURTHA's headline. In fact, Al-Jazeera today was what our troops, our constituents in Iraq woke up to today saying that a leading Member of Congress has called for the immediate withdrawal. That is what Al-Jazeera said. That is why sometimes the media that gets in the way injects itself and it brings down the morale of our troops. That is why I am going to vote ''no'' on this resolution tonight, because I think it is important to send them another message and a very clear message that we do not support immediate withdrawal.

My friend, General Webster, who leads the Third Infantry Division over there, spoke very strongly about it. He said, ''Setting a date would mean the 221 soldiers I've lost this year, that their lives will have been lost in vain. I think it's a recipe for disaster. Setting a date is a loser.'' General Webster is a soldier, not a politician. I think he would appreciate tomorrow morning reading in the paper that Congress clearly rejected an immediate withdrawal.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Army Captain Joel Cahill was buried in Arlington Cemetery today. Captain Cahill was killed in Iraq by an improvised explosive device. He grew up near Omaha. He leaves behind Mary his wife and their two little girls.

Army Specialist Darren Howe was laid to rest in Beatrice, Nebraska last week. He died of wounds from an explosive device that hit his personnel carrier. Badly burned, Specialist Howe drove to safety, then helped his men out of the rear. He was 21 and left behind his wife Nakia and their two small children.

I spoke with JoDee, Darren's mom, in what had to be some of her most difficult hours following Darren's death.

She had the gentleness of spirit, humility of heart and pride of her son's work to thank me and the Congress for the decisions that have been made, saying: We support what you are doing. Iraq is a faraway land remote from the traditions and culture of the Great Plains, the boyhood homes of Joel and Darren. Yet I am certain that in that isolated place where they gave their lives, these men understood what was at stake. That they fought for something bigger than themselves, something that transcends the snapshot of a political debate. They fought out of duty to country, they fought to defend, they fought for the soul of the free world.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the balance of my time to the minority leader the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as the very proud representative of the city of San Francisco in the Congress of the United States, from northern California where we have more veterans than any other part of the country per capita and we treat them with respect as the gentleman from Pennsylvania is not being treated as a distinguished veteran with respect here.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very sad day for the House of Representatives. Just when you think you have seen it all, the Republicans have stooped to a new low, even for them. They have engaged in an act of deception that undermines any shred of dignity that might be left in this Republican Congress. But deception has been the order of the day throughout the entire Iraq engagement.

□ 2115

Mr. HUNTER's resolution is a continuation of that deception. It is a political stunt, and it should be rejected by this House.

The Republican deception today is a disgrace. It is a disservice to our country and to our men and women in uniform. They and the American people deserve better. It is an insult to the integrity of JACK MURTHA, one of the most distinguished Members to ever serve in this House of Representatives.

As has been said, JACK MURTHA is a decorated war veteran: two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star for his combat service, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, 37 years of active and reserve duty in the marines. His lifetime motto has been Semper Fi; and yet our Republican colleagues call him a coward and accuse him of cooperating with the enemy.

As a senior Democrat on the Defense Appropriations Committee, he is known and respected for his bipartisanship. That is why this Republican attack on him is so dishonest.

Mr. MURTHA has dealt the mighty blow of truth to the President's failed Iraq policy. The American people have rallied to JACK MURTHA's message of truth. But you cannot handle the truth. Why are the Republicans so afraid of the facts?

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Senator from Ohio, Robert Taft, who would become the Republican leader of the Senate said, ''Criticism in a time of war is essential to the maintenance of any democratic government.'' Indeed, Mr. MURTHA's courageous action to speak truth to power is a great act of patriotism.

As one who has always had the interests of America's men and women in uniform as his top priority, Mr. MURTHA has acted as he always does: in their interests. Let us all join him in saluting our troops for their courage, their patriotism, and the sacrifice that they are willing to make, and thank JACK MURTHA for his loyalty to them.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is important to restate for the morale of our troops that this Congress and this country remain resolved in the war against terrorism. From the streets of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, America will leave no spider hole, no palace, no bunker overlooked as we help freedom-loving people fight the terrorist insurgencies of Islamofascists and protect democracy worldwide.

Our greatest loss would be to withdraw our troops, thereby ceding victory to cowardly terrorists who murder and hide under the cover of shadows.

Mr. Speaker, over 2,000 of our best and bravest have fought and sacrificed their lives in defense of democracy and in the face of these terrorists. These individuals deserve our thanks and their families need to know that they did not die in vain.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of words have been thrown about in this Chamber tonight, but talk is often cheap. And while cheap talk abounds, unfortunately, cheap talk is not bounded, it is not insulated by oceans or mountains, and certainly not by the media.

The words of this Congress and its Members echo out beyond this hallowed Chamber, beyond these hallowed Halls to every household and to every foreign shore.

Our troops are listening, Mr. Speaker. They hear those who denigrate their mission. They hear those who rely on the false pillar of semantics, seeking to divide the American people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our troops are listening tonight, and while talk is cheap, our vote is sacrosanct. So I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put their vote on the RECORD and put the rhetoric aside.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule. Let us have this debate for the sake of our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 202, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 607]

YEAS—210

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NAYS—202

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel

Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—22

Beauprez
Berman
Boswell
Boyd
Camp
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Flake
Fossella
Gallegly
Hall
Jindal
Kind
LaHood
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Northup
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Shadegg
Towns
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Members are advised there are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 2150

Mr. SIMMONS, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572, House Concurrent Resolution 308 is adopted.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 308

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction:

In the second paragraph (relating to the Economic Development Initiative) under the heading ''Community Development Fund'' in title III of division A, strike ''statement of managers accompanying this Act'' and insert ''statement of managers correction relating to the Economic Development Initiative, dated November 18, 2005, and submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for printing in the House section of the Congressional Record on such date''.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 572.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the House and a concurrent resolution of the following titles:

H.R. 680. An act to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2183. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the ''Vincent Palladino Post Office''.

H.R. 3853. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office.

H.R. 4145. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 208. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus and the subsequent desegregation of American society.

The message also announced that the Senate passed a bill of the House with an amendment of the following title:

H.R. 358. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 1047. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of each of the Nation's past Presidents and their spouses, respectively, to improve circulation of the $1 coin, to create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes.

S. 1462. An act to promote peace and accountability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 1785. An act to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the distinction between a hull and a deck, to provide factors for the determination of the protectability of a revised design, to provide guidance for assessments of substantial similarity, and for other purposes.

S. 1961. An act to extend and expand the Child Safety Pilot Program.

S. 1989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the ''Holly A. Charette Post Office''.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to that report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2528) ''An Act making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.''.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the rule, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 571) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 571

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On October 15 of this year, 63 percent of Iraq's eligible voters stood in the suffocating heat for hours risking their lives to suicide bombers and guns. And why? Because they dared to vote.

Do we honor their bravery by abandoning them?

Nobody wants war. War has been truly described as hell. But at the same time, things are worth fighting for and even dying for. And among those things is precious freedom. Our own freedom was born in the crucible of a 9-year war to the sounds of muskets well described as the ''shots heard round the world.''

We can argue endlessly about the wisdom of getting into this war, but there should be no argument about how

this war should end. The consequences of our retreat have not been discussed here tonight, but they deserve consideration.

This debate has been a report card on JACK MURTHA, and I give him an A-plus as a truly great American. But among his many fine qualities, infallibility is not one. And on Iraq I prefer my country not to retreat, not to run to the high grass.

I prefer the counsel of JOHN MCCAIN who said last week, ''If we leave Iraq prematurely, the jihadists will interpret the withdrawal as their great victory against our great power. Osama bin Laden and his followers believe that America is weak, unwilling to suffer casualties in battle. They drew this lesson from Lebanon in the 1980s and Somalia in the 1990s, and today they have their sights set squarely on Iraq.''

The recently released letter from Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's lieutenant, to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, draws out the implications.

The Zawahiri letter is predicated on the assumption that the United States will leave Iraq and that al Qaeda's real game begins as soon as we abandon the country.

In his missive, Zawahiri lays out a four-stage plan: establish a caliphate in Iraq, extend the ''jihad wave'' to the secular countries neighboring Iraq, clash with Israel, none of which shall commence until the completion of stage one: expel the Americans from Iraq.

Zawahiri observes that the collapse of American power in Vietnam ''and how they ran and left their agents,'' suggests that ''we must be ready starting now.''

We cannot let them start, now or ever.

We must stay in Iraq until the government there has a fully functioning security apparatus that can keep Zarqawi and his terrorists at bay and ultimately defeat them.

I prefer the counsel of another war hero, my personal hero, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), who stands with the President, the Iraqi people, and freedom fighters everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for purposes of control.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution and in defense of a military hero of this Nation, our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA).

In a few moments I will ask unanimous consent to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) the balance of the time on the Democratic side, but I would like to put this debate in its proper framework.

This is not the finest moment of the House of Representatives. We have all sat through interminable debates on inconsequential issues, but tonight we are talking about war and peace.

Fifteen years ago when we debated the first gulf war, every single Member of this body got 5 minutes to present his views. This time we are getting less than 8 seconds. What we are debating is not a serious proposal, but a cheap political ploy beneath the dignity of this body.

□ 2200

The subject of the war in Iraq deserves serious and thoughtful discussion and debate, and we are surely not having it tonight. There is no Member of this House for whom I have more respect and affection than the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the epitome of patriotism, not of the oratorical type, but patriotism on the field of battle.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) the balance of the time for him to control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think what we are doing tonight is sending a very valuable message. It is not necessarily a message to diplomats or to the President or even to our adversaries; although I am sure that they will read about it. But it is a message to that specialist in Tikrit, to that lance corporal in Fallujah, to that sergeant in Baghdad who feels by looking at the mass of press over the last several days that somehow we are slipping away from our warfighters.

We have an opportunity to do something tonight by very simply voting ''no'' on this question of whether we should leave Iraq immediately to at least cut through that ambiguity, to at least cut through that confusion, and you know, words mean something. Wars have been started because we said the wrong words. Confusion is not something that is good to sow among your enemy or your friends.

In this case, even those who may feel that somehow the troops are not confused by this mixed message that is coming out of the United States must agree that it is right now to send that specialist in Tikrit or that lance corporal in Fallujah or that sergeant in Baghdad a clear and convincing ''no'' vote on the question of whether we leave Iraq immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution. I have been in this body 19 years, and I did not support setting artificial dates to remove our troops from Bosnia, Somalia, Kosovo, East Timor, Macedonia and all the other times that we have deployed our troops.

In fact, even when we were told back in 1997, the year after we entered Bosnia, that our troops would be home by Christmas, I did not rise to bring them home. We were told in Christmas of 1998 they would be home and Christmas of 1999. The fact is we still have troops in the Balkans. They have been there 10 years, even though it was not part of the original plan.

Mr. Speaker, all of us support our troops, but I want to tell my colleagues, in my 19 years I learned a lesson of supporting the troops from the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He took me under his wing when I came here as a freshman 19 years ago. I have traveled with him around the world. I have seen his personal dedication to the men and women who serve.

Now, there are many others in this body on both sides of the aisle that we can say the same thing about, but I want to stand up as a Representative from the other side of Pennsylvania and tell the story of JACK MURTHA who epitomizes what our military's all about. I wish I could say I have been to Landstuhl, a medical facility in Germany, as many times as JACK MURTHA has been there.

I wish I could say that weekly I would go over to Walter Reed Hospital and meet with the troops as JACK MURTHA has done week after week after week.

I wish I could say I have gone and held the hands of the wives and the children of the sailors at Bethesda as JACK MURTHA has done.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say that I have done all that, but I cannot. JACK MURTHA is one of a kind. He is an example for all of us in this body, and none of us should ever think of questioning his motives, his desires or support for our American troops.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say I have been here 19 years. I have been here with Republican and Democrat Presidents. Yes, JACK MURTHA's been there. He stood up when Bill Clinton tried to cut the funding for our troops, and he stood with us on some very tough votes. He stood up with us on the tough policy questions. He was with us on missile defense. He was with us when others in his party would not be with us on defense and security issues. On some very tough leadership spots JACK MURTHA was there, and for the 5 years that President Bush has been President, I cannot count on my hands the number of times JACK MURTHA has stood with our President in supporting our troops in supporting more money, in supporting the policies that give us the kind of capability that we need.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a sad state today. We are in a tough time with our troops. They are wondering what is going on back here. It is not about JACK MURTHA trying to undermine anyone, just as I and others would not

have tried to do that in the other 40 deployments in the 19 years that I have been here, but it is wrong, Mr. Speaker, that a gentleman with the reputation and leadership of JACK MURTHA should have to wait 5 months to get a response to a letter expressing his concerns to the administration. That is not right.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope we would all come together, and I would hope that our Commander in Chief would invite the good gentleman from Pennsylvania down to the White House to have a discussion about how we can move forward together to support the troops and win the day in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Somebody walked by not long ago, and they said, I do not have to go to your funeral because I paid my dues today with all these people giving these accolades.

I have to tell you this story. When you start getting all these accolades, you think you are a big shot. I remember one time President Carter asked me to go to the seventh game of the World Series with him. Tip O'Neill and I went down, and there were only 4 of us and 15 Secret Service people in the plane.

We got in this helicopter and, of course, flew over all these other people going to the ballgame. Well, Carter was not the most pleasant guy to be with. He wanted to talk all business, and Tip O'Neill wanted to talk nothing but baseball.

So we get about halfway there, and it is not a very long trip to Baltimore. Tip finally got him warmed up. We land, and we only land a block away from the stadium, but we had to have an armored car drive us in. So the President said, you sit in the middle there, Murtha, and Tip sat on the left side, and the President sat on the right side. Some guy yelled out some obscenities. He said, My God, they must have recognized Murtha in the car.

Let me say, this resolution today is not what I envisioned, not what I introduced, and let me read what I introduced on November 17.

''Whereas Congress and the American people have not been shown clear, measurable progress toward establishment of stable and improving security in Iraq or of a stable and improving economy in Iraq, both of which are essential to 'promote the emergence of a democratic government';

''Whereas additional stabilization in Iraq by U.S. military forces cannot be achieved without the deployment of hundreds of thousands of additional U.S. troops, which in turn cannot be achieved without a military draft.''

Now, let me say this. There were two of us who voted for a military draft, so I do not think that is an option. When you go to the high schools, they say, you are for a draft. I said, yes, but there is not too many of us, and I do not think you have to worry about it.

''Whereas more than $277 billion has been appropriated by the United States Congress to prosecute U.S. military action in Iraq and Afghanistan;

''Whereas, as of the drafting of this resolution, 2,079 U.S. troops have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

''Whereas U.S. forces become the target of the insurgency;

''Whereas, according to recent polls, over 80 percent of the Iraqi people want the U.S. forces out of Iraq;

''Whereas polls also indicate that 45 percent,'' this is a British poll, but the Defense Department support this British poll or confirm this British poll, ''of the Iraqi people feel that the attacks on U.S. forces are justified.''

Hear what I am saying. Forty-five percent of the Iraqi people feel it is justified to attack Americans.

''Whereas, due to the foregoing, Congress finds it evident that continuing U.S. military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the people of Iraq, or the Persian Gulf Region, which were cited in Public Law 107–243 as justification for undertaking such action.''

I did not say anything about intelligence. I did not say anything about the President. All these statements that have been made vilifying me today did not say anything like that.

''Therefore be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq, by direction of Congress, is hereby terminated and the forces involved are to be redeployed at the earliest practicable date.

''Section 2. A quick-reaction U.S. force and an over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines shall be deployed in the region.

''The United States of America shall pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.''

That is what I said. I have never had in the 32 years that I have been in Congress such an outpouring from this country, four to one in my office. You cannot even call my office if you tried, an outpouring of people crying. People are thirsting for some direction. They are thirsting for a solution to this problem. They want to support the President. I want to support the President. Everybody does.

We put into place in the Appropriations Committee a criteria for success because we were so unhappy. This was in May. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and I put a criteria for success in the bill, it was a Moran amendment, because we were not happy with the results. Nobody was talking to us. Nobody would tell us what was going on, and we felt it was absolutely necessary that we put this into writing.

I went to Iraq about 2 months ago, and I talked to the commanders, and all of you know the commanders are very hesitant to say anything that is not in the policy of the White House, and I agree, that is the way it is run by the civilians. That is the way it should be, but I could tell how discouraged the commanders were.

The one Marine commander said, I do not have troops to put on the border, the Syrian border. Now, why did they not have enough troops? Because of the deployment, because of the small number of people that are serving in our Armed Forces today.

We told them, the Armed Services Committee, under DUNCAN HUNTER's leadership, said you can take 30,000 more people. They cannot recruit to that. They have fallen 10,000 short; and not only have they fallen 10,000 short, they are now taking 20 percent category 4s, which they said in the voluntary Army would never happen.

The war's not going as advertised. The American public is way ahead of us. If you heard the World War II veterans, if you heard the Vietnam veterans, the wives and the widows on the phone crying to my staff and myself when I am talking to them, if you heard them reaching out and asking for a policy, a bipartisan policy. When I introduced this resolution, I did not introduce this as a partisan resolution.

I go by Arlington Cemetery every day, and the Vice President, he criticizes Democrats. Let me tell you, those gravestones do not say Democrat or Republican. They say American, and DICK CHENEY's a good friend of mine. He was a good Secretary of Defense.

Our military is suffering. The future of our country is at risk. We cannot continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people and the Persian Gulf region. That is my opinion.

General Casey said in a September 2005 hearing, the perception of occupation in Iraq is a major driving force behind the insurgency. Hear what I am saying. General Abizaid said on the same date, reducing the size of visibility of the coalition forces in Iraq is part of our counterinsurgency strategy.

For 2½ years I have been concerned about our policy and the plan in Iraq. I have addressed my concerns to the administration and the Pentagon.

□ 2215

I have spoken out in public about my concerns in going to war.

A few days before the start of the war, I was in Kuwait. They drew a red line around Baghdad; and they said when the American forces cross the red line, they will attack us with weapons of mass destruction, meaning biological and chemical weapons. I believed that. They believed it. The military commanders believed it. And when they went in, though, they felt they had sufficient protective gear that they could overcome it. The heat would dissipate some of the gas and so forth, and it would be no problem for our forces, they felt. They even thought they had cell phones monitored so they could tell that it was there. It turned out not to be true.

Let me tell the Members this: BILL YOUNG and I have been on the Defense

Subcommittee for 25 years. We spend more money on intelligence than all the countries in the world put together and more on intelligence than most countries' GDP. But the intelligence concerning Iraq was wrong. It is not a world intelligence failure. It is a U.S. intelligence failure.

I have been visiting our wounded troops at Bethesda, and only two people, I think, visit any more than I do, and that is BILL YOUNG's wife and BILL YOUNG. They go there as often as I do, and Beverly goes more often.

Now, let me tell the Members what demoralizes the troops. Going to war with not enough troops and equipment to make the transition to peace, the devastation caused by IEDs, being deployed to Iraq when their homes have been ravaged by hurricanes, being under second and third deployment and leaving their families behind without a network of support.

The threat posed by terrorism is real, but we have other threats that cannot be ignored. We must be prepared to meet all these threats. The future of our military is at risk. Our military and their families are stretched thin. A very small percentage of people in this country are serving this country at this stage in this war. Many say the Army is broken. Some of our troops are on their third deployment. Recruitment is down. Defense budgets are being cut, $5 billion this year, $5 billion cut from the defense budget; and the chairman and I are concerned they are going to cut another percentage point, which is $4 billion more, from the defense budget.

Personnel costs are skyrocketing, particularly in health care. And choices have to be made. We cannot allow a promise that we have made to our military families in terms of service benefits, in terms of their health care to be negotiated away. Procurement programs that ensure our military dominance cannot be negotiated away. We must be prepared.

The war in Iraq has caused huge shortfalls in our bases in the United States. I visited four bases, four Southern bases, premier bases. Every one of them was short, short radios, short mortars, short ammunition even. Our troops were C–4, which means the lowest state of readiness, because they did not have the equipment to train right before they are deployed to Iraq. And much of our ground equipment is worn out and in need of serious overhaul.

I have said to all these CEOs that come to see me, Folks, do not think about procurement. We about bought, what, five or six ships this year, something like that. They said they are going to build 12 next year. Do not believe that. But I will tell the Members one thing we have to do is rehabilitate this equipment. A $50 billion bill, in my estimation, and I do not know where the money is going to come from.

George Washington said: ''To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.'' I do not know what the threat is, but I will tell you it takes 18 years to get a weapons system out there, and we had better well get those systems put together now. We had better start them right now because we do not have them. They have a system right now they are thinking of cutting back. The Europeans invested a lot of money in it. Billions of dollars have been invested in this weapon system, JSF. If they cut back the buy, the cost to increase, the Europeans will cut back on their buy, and it will skyrocket the price; and we will have to reduce the number of airplanes that we buy. We must rebuild our Army.

Our deficit is growing out of control. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office recently admitted to being ''terrified'' about the budget deficit in the coming decades. This is the first prolonged war we have fought with 3 years of tax cuts, without full mobilization of American industry, and without a draft. The burden of war has not been shared equally, and the military and their families are shouldering this burden.

Our military has been fighting a war in Iraq for over 2½ years. Our military has accomplished its mission and done its duty. Our military captured Saddam Hussein, captured or killed his closest associates. But the war continues to intensify. And you know the deaths and you know they estimate that not only do we have 15,500 that have been wounded, but we have 50,000 that we think may suffer from what I call battle fatigue.

I just recently visited Anbar Province, as I said, and I became convinced that we had to take some action. I became convinced that I needed to say something about what was going on. I needed to introduce a resolution which would bring this to a head so we could come to a bipartisan resolution to fight this war together, to show our troops how we support them, and that resolution calls for a redeployment of our troops. I said over a year ago now, the military and the administration agree, Iraq cannot be won militarily.

We can say it here in these air conditioned offices, but let me tell you something. It cannot be won militarily. It has got to be won politically, and we have to turn it over to the Iraqis and give them the incentive to take back their own country.

Our troops have become the primary target of the insurgency. They are united against U.S. forces. We have become the catalyst for violence. U.S. troops are the common enemy of the Sunnis, the Saddamists, and the foreign jihadists. I believe with U.S. troop redeployment, the Iraqi security forces will be incentivized to take control. A poll recently conducted shows 80 percent of the Iraqis oppose the presence of coalition troops. I believe we need to turn Iraq over to the Iraqis. I believe the Iraqi election scheduled for mid-December, the Iraqi people in the emerging government must be put on notice: the United States will immediately redeploy. All of Iraq must know that Iraq is free, free from United States occupation. I believe this will send a signal to the Sunnis to join the political process for a good and free Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the gentleman who spends so much of his time with our Nation's wounded.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans can sleep well tonight because our soldiers are out there on the front line against terror making sure that we can do that. And we owe them a lot. We owe them our thanks. We owe them our appreciation. We owe them the necessary equipment to carry out their mission, to protect themselves while they are doing that, and we owe them our support. And it is important that we let them know without any doubt that we support them, that this Congress supports them. And that is why, in case there is any confusion about how we would like Members to vote on this resolution tonight, we want them to vote ''no.'' This is not a good resolution.

Incidentally, in case the Members have not noticed, JACK MURTHA spent more time tonight speaking on the floor than he has in the last 20 years combined presenting the appropriations bills.

JACK and I have been friends for a long time, as he suggested, and we have worked together. He was my chairman for a long time. I have been his chairman for a long time. We work together for the best interest of our Nation and for those who protect our Nation. And he has received many accolades tonight and properly so.

Chairman HUNTER, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, also deserves accolades. He was willing to offer this resolution, which we all are going to vote against, I hope. Chairman HUNTER was an airborne soldier in Vietnam, and he led a platoon of Rangers in Vietnam. Chairman HUNTER deserves an awful lot of thanks and appreciation for the work that he did then and the work that he is doing tonight here on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about JACK MURTHA tonight, and it is not about DUNCAN HUNTER. This is about 296 of us who voted to support the President going into Iraq to fight terror, to fight Saddam Hussein and his vicious armies. Once you have committed to a war or to a battle, it is like some other things in life, once you are committed, you are committed, like it or not. And we got committed when we voted to send troops to Iraq.

Now, how do you get out of a commitment like that? Well, you can win. That is the preferred way. Or you can

lose. We do not like that. You could retreat, or you could surrender. I do not think we like either one of those two.

Or there is another way: we could negotiate our way out. But in a case of global terrorists, whom do you negotiate with? They hide. They sneak. Would you negotiate with Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Al-Zarqawi? Whom do you negotiate with? You do not have anybody to negotiate with because they are pure and simple terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, there are many things that have been said tonight on both sides of the aisle that are very important. There has been a little bit of spin here and there, but that is not unusual for a legislative body like this. But, Mr. Speaker, there is no place, when we are dealing with the security of our Nation and the security of the American people, there is no place for politics on either side.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, we need to send a strong message to our troops and to their families. For those families who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, for those families who are dealing with a seriously wounded soldier or marine who might be at Walter Reed Hospital or at Bethesda Hospital or at Landsthul in Germany, we need to let them know that we are here to support them.

In a few short days when we will be back to legislative business, there is another issue that we have to deal with, and I am going to take advantage of this extra minute to tell the Members what it is. Somebody in the Pentagon has ruled that if JACK MURTHA and I go to hospital with my wife, Beverly, which we do on occasion, and she makes us empty our wallets to help a family that is struggling to meet their expenses, some regulation at the Pentagon says that is illegal, that is bribery. What can I bribe a wounded soldier to do? He has already done everything that he can do for me. So we need to change that.

□ 2230

So we need to change that. Chairman HUNTER and I and Mr. MURTHA and I have worked together with our counterparts in the Senate, and we intend to fix this on the first legislative or appropriations bills we have access to. So that is what this is about tonight, to let our soldiers win this war against terror not only in Iraq, but in Afghanistan and anywhere else that terrorists raise their ugly heads. This is not limited to Iraq. Iraq is one of the major battlefields. Afghanistan is one of the major battlefields.

My friends, we are in it for the long haul against the threat of terrorism, and it is important that we prevail and support those on the front line against terror and vote ''no'' tonight on this resolution that does not do any of what I just said.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2¼ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee and does so much for the quality of life for our troops.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have just heard from two giants of this body, men that we are all very, very proud of. If we had any sense, we would all sit down right now and take the vote; and I will give up my time if everybody else will give up theirs, and we will vote. I am told no, that is not going to work.

So let me try to be brief. Both of these gentlemen expressed the conflicting views in a most sincere way, and I think we respect both of them.

But, Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in opposition to H. Res. 571. I want us to withdraw the moment the job is done, and that is what our troops are telling us, too. They want to stay there until it is done. That is what most of the Iraqi people tell us, do not leave us until it is done.

Mr. Speaker, there are some out there insisting that the mission on Iraq has been a failure, and our presence in Iraq has not been properly run, and we are not winning the peace. Frankly, I do not think that is true, and it only serves to lower the morale of the men and women fighting in Iraq while encouraging the terrorists who hate America.

The fact is those who assert that the Iraq policy is failing frankly fail to recognize the many successes that have occurred on a daily basis over there. What we are talking about is fighting terror and liberating a people. Look at just the political successes. They have had two elections, and those two elections, most of those people had never voted in a free election in their entire lives. On October 15, they adopted a Constitution. They did not know what a Constitution was, and 78 percent of the voters backed the charter of the Constitution.

We are making enormous progress toward liberty and democracy for the Iraqi people, and by extension the people of the Middle East. I say thank you, troops, for what you are doing. We love you, and we are going to be with you until the job is done.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Normally the soldiers cannot speak for themselves. I do not believe we are making the progress that is articulated in many cases. Everything I see, oil production is below prewar level; electricity production is below prewar level; incidents have increased from 150 a week to 770 a week in Iraq.

But let me read a letter from a young soldier at Walter Reed. Everybody says when you go to Walter Reed, they all want to go right back, and they usually do not complain. Let me read this letter.

''I am sure you are extremely busy today with the announcement of your support for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. We have been trying unsuccessfully to reach you by phone.

''My husband is an injured Iraq soldier who so highly commends you for speaking out about this disastrous war and its aftermath on U.S. troops. Though we are now living in Washington, D.C., on the Walter Reed campus, we are originally from your 12th District in Pennsylvania.

''Congressman Murtha actually pinned my husband's Purple Heart. We are so proud that he was the man to honor my husband for what he did in Iraq. It may serve Mr. Murtha more to remind him that my husband is the 24-year-old guardsman who lost part of a leg in a suicide car bomb attack in April of this year.

''We were shocked and overjoyed that Murtha spoke out against the Bush administration's handling of the war. Unlike what many say is a blow to troop morale by questioning the war, his frank call for attention to the subject brought nods and applause from the injured soldiers at Walter Reed's Mologne House. It is the first that my husband and I feel that a politician has truly stuck up for the soldiers most personally affected by the war in Iraq.''

We send the soldiers to the war. We are the ones that make that decision. We also have to speak out when we do not think the war is going in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS), who served multiple tours in Vietnam.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution. I am proud to be a Vietnam veteran. I am proud to have spent almost 4 years in that country with the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency, but I was not proud when Members of Congress, Members of this body, criticized us in the course of that war publicly back here at home. Their critical comments were demoralizing and undercut our efforts. It encouraged our enemy, and it placed us at risk.

At some point in the 1970s, our national will broke down, we cut and ran. We left our friends behind, my colleagues, my counterparts. And we abandoned Southeast Asia to unprecedented slaughter and destruction.

Now 30 years later I find myself on this same floor talking about the ''immediate redeployment'' of our troops from a foreign battlefield where they are fully engaged in a difficult and dangerous mission.

More than anyone else, this Vietnam veteran wants to see our troops come home safely, successfully and soon. But now is not the time for immediate withdrawal. Now is the time to support our troops and the values they fight for.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me read another letter.

''We are Gold Star parents. Our son was killed October 18, 2003, south of Kirkuk with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. You and I talked for about 90 minutes on the phone in early 2004. I

have spent the better part of 2 years lobbying for improved body armor.''

Do Members remember, we sent the troops to war without body armor? We found the body armor. We found the shortage and up-armored the Humvees. Congress found it, and we put the money in the bill.

''We believe the best way to support the troops is through a responsible and well-thought-out foreign policy.''

Not stay the course, but a thought out, and this is from a woman whose son was killed.

''We do not have that policy today in Iraq. By staying in Iraq, we have become occupiers instead of liberators.'' And 80 percent of the Iraqis think that.

''Today we are called un-American because we are obligated to disagree with the President. We want better for our son's comrades. It is our obligation to stand up and be counted to support the troops, to speak for those that are not free to speak for themselves, to use their bravery and sacrifice wisely. You, sir, are a man of our heart. God knows why the rest of the Democratic Party is not rallying around you, but we are. Even as we stand alone, it is the right thing to do. Our support is unequivocal for you on matter in this dangerous and lonely time.''

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and who is a colonel in the Army Reserve and a Gulf War veteran.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for Mr. MURTHA and Mr. HUNTER. And I am uncomfortable when Mr. MURTHA talks about one political party rallying round something. I do not want Republicans or Democrats rallying around anything. You moved me when I was in my office and you talked about going to Arlington. All of us have been there; all of us have been to our Nation's cemeteries and seen the white crosses and Stars of David.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) and I were privileged to represent our country this past May, and I am sure Mr. MURTHA has been there, standing on the cliffs of Normandy at Omaha. We gave the Memorial Day address representing our Nation. I was there with my 20-year-old son, and I could feel the envy of souls because I thought about what their last thoughts may have been. And then as I strained among these thousands of graves, if I permitted the eyes of my mind to have a vision I could actually see, if I permitted the ears of my heart to listen, I could hear.

And what did they say? They said, What we did on this day was worthy. You see, they came to a continent to free it from tyranny on that day. They came to a land where they had never been to fight for a people they had never met. Does that not yet sound familiar?

And we speak of the sacrifice of what we refer to as the greatest generation. How are we now yet defining ourselves when our men and women are faced with something very similar.

We should be here tonight talking of our strategy of victory, defined by our perseverance to an enduring freedom throughout the world. To discuss withdrawal from Iraq tonight before our mission is complete is the wrong strategy at the wrong time. Why? Because freedom is on the move.

We, the people of the United States, we are a great Nation with a great vision. We seek to preserve the blessings of liberty for our citizens and for all those around the world who recognize the God-given right of freedom.

Today our Nation is truly engaged in an epic struggle for freedom in Iraq. Whether you believe how we got there is true, the struggle among us is evident here tonight. What we do not want is what Mr. HYDE referred to as our enemies to take advantage of our weaknesses. The painful lessons, whether it was Vietnam or Lebanon or Somalia, North Korea, Iran, al Qaeda, they watch, and it is part of what they want to do to envelope our weakness.

You see, Clausewitz had it right. He said, The use of our military force is the instrumentality of a political decision. We then expect our military to act on the field of battle with great valor, courage and commitment. You see, they are an extension of us. And in return, our soldiers ask what of us? Loyalty. And they expect us to have the very same resolve that we expect of them; that in battle, they look at us and say, when it gets hard, when it gets tough, can you hang with us, Congress? That is a very pertinent question for a soldier to ask of us.

So I respect Mr. MURTHA, but this is the wrong time for your resolution, sir.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman may state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LANTOS. Do I understand, Mr. Speaker, that we are debating Mr. MURTHA's resolution or Mr. HUNTER's resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pending is House Resolution 571.

Mr. LANTOS. The previous speaker referred to Mr. MURTHA's resolution. That is not before the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is a matter for debate—a matter that may be addressed by debate.

□ 2245

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have a further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Please state your parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LANTOS. We on this side of the House are under the impression that we are debating the Hunter resolution. Please correct us if we are wrong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct and he may make that point by debate.

Mr. MURTHA. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER).

Mr. BUYER. Mr. MURTHA, I apologize to you. I know you have a resolution. That is what I was referring to. I recognize we are debating Hunter, and I apologize to you, Mr. MURTHA.

Mr. MURTHA. Let me read another letter.

''In 2004, my youngest son graduated from college and was already enrolled in the Marines. He was ready to help our country and others in whatever was asked of him. It was with great distress that we have watched the administration mishandle this war. There was no plan.''

What the gentleman from Indiana said about World War II, there was a plan. There was a plan when we went into Normandy. We landed 150,000 people in 24 hours. There is the conception at home that there is no plan. I hear this over and over again. That is why there was such an outpouring when I offered a plan, when people called me and said they wanted a plan.

''It was with great distress that we have watched the administration mishandle this war. There was no plan, no push to go in and win the war in total. Mission Accomplished was a joke, and even we the uniformed knew then that it was a misnomer. Losing Colin Powell from the administration was a deep blow to us. We respected his honor and his professionalism. His soldier inside. Our son has had one deployment to Iraq. He came home safely this time, and awaits his second deployment in July. Congressman MURTHA, we are a patriotic family, but I cannot abide by sending my son back into a war where there is no goal, no plan, and a war being planned by Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President CHENEY. We would feel differently if we felt our son was being used in the proper manner, and for a valiant effort. But we feel that they are clay pigeons in a carnival, just waiting for the next suicide bomber or IED. My husband and I did not feel this way 6 months ago. We thought the administration had realized their inadequacy and were making changes, and that we should stay the course. That has not happened. Things continue in disarray. This is not the best use of our military, nor respectful of the values and ideals of the servicemen and women within it. We support your views and we feel that there is a need for change.''

That is what I am saying. We need to change direction in Iraq.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) who served as an Army officer in the U.S. Airborne.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would point out first that the childish shouting from many who have not served dishonor those who serve on the front lines with quiet resolve at this time while we have a necessary debate on this war.

I am here to represent some folks who cannot speak because they are serving on the front lines right now. I received a phone call in the well of the

House this evening from one of the commanders of America's premier counterterrorism organization. He shared with me his great dismay at much of the rhetoric that had emanated from this body today, making them the pawns in a political battle over what they clearly see as they are making success on the front lines. Please, your shouting and your rhetoric sends echoes to our enemies as well as to our soldiers and our friends.

It is honest to have a debate, my friends, but when I am asked on the floor of this house, why are you doing to us what was done to so many veterans here by Members of this body during Vietnam, when I am told repeatedly of their successes, my friends who I served with over nearly 30 years ago and who are serving now on the front lines commanding the units, leading the units and who are serving as junior enlisted soldiers, hundreds of soldiers whose opinions fly in the face of the rhetoric shared tonight.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, here we are in America's House, having a debate that is altogether appropriate, because as our founders stated the goal, it was to form a more perfect union. And because we are human beings, there is always a gulf between the real and the ideal. This is not a personal debate to be personalized about the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He offered a point of view yesterday. Whatever his intent, here is how it was reported. The Washington Post called it immediate withdrawal. The New York Times called it immediate withdrawal. More ominously and sadly, Al-Jazeera called it immediate withdrawal.

The problem is this, ladies and gentlemen, as has been articulated. Another e-mail, my colleagues:

''I am a U.S. Army captain currently serving in Iraq and I am shocked and appalled by Representative Murtha's call for immediate withdrawal. Please, please, please convince your colleagues to let us finish this critical job.''

That is what is at stake. Vote ''no'' on immediate withdrawal.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me ask, Mr. Speaker, we have the right to close on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Yes.

Mr. HUNTER. We have got only one speaker left, so I would ask my colleague from Pennsylvania to close on his side if he could.

Mr. MURTHA. Who has the right to close?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has the right to close.

Mr. MURTHA. This is his resolution.

The first encounter with the casualties in this war, I had two young widows come to my office. They wanted to go to Walter Reed because they had lost their husband and they wanted to talk to the soldiers and tell them how lucky they were that they were still alive. One was 23 with two children. One was 19 without any children. I thought how proud I was of them. Another young man from my district was blinded and lost his foot. They did everything they could do for him in Walter Reed. And then he went home and his father was in jail. His mother had not seen him. There was no one at home and he was by himself. The VA has done everything they could to help him. They sent him to Johns Hopkins to see if there is a possibility for him to see and found out that he could not see. And then they started sending bills. Collection agencies sent him bills. Imagine. He is by himself in his own home and a collection agency from Johns Hopkins sends him a bill. Obviously we straightened it out, but that is the kind of thing that happens when you forget about the veteran.

I had a soldier that lost both legs and an arm. Bill has seen the young fellow from Micronesia. We visited a mental health ward. You know what they said to me? Fifty thousand of them are going to have some kind of battle fatigue. They said that we don't get Purple Hearts. We don't get any recognition at all. We get shunned aside as if we were cowards.

A young woman from Notre Dame lost her arm and she was worried about her husband losing weight. She was the one that lost her arm. It makes me so proud. A Seabee was lying in intensive care with his three children and his mother and his wife in tears because he was paralyzed from the neck down. This young Marine, his father had been a Marine. His father was there. His father was rubbing his hand. He says, please get my son's brother home. He wants to see his brother. I called the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps said, he doesn't want to come home. So I went back and told his father. He said, please get him home. So I told the Marine Corps and they got him home. I said, you get him out of that country blank-blank right now, and they did.

Another Marine lost both his hands, blinded. I went to the hospital. After I talked to him, I said how proud, as I do to all of them, how proud I was of them. Is there anything you can do for them, I said? He said, yeah, get him a Purple Heart. Why wouldn't he get a Purple Heart? Because he was demobilizing from the friendly bomblets that had been dropped and hadn't exploded, thousands of them. Finally one of them blew up, blew his hands off and killed the guy behind him and blinded him. The Marine Corps said, we have regulations about Purple Hearts. It was friendly fire so he can't get a Purple Heart.

I told the commandant, If you don't give him the Purple Heart, I'm going to give him one of mine. I was going to go out on Thursday, the commandant went out on Wednesday and he got his Purple Heart. Our troops have become the enemy.

Folks, it is easy to sit here in your air-conditioned offices and say, send them into battle. It is easy to sit here in the Capitol of the United States and say, stay the course. But when there is not a plan, when the families write to me and say there is not a plan, when they don't understand, when they believe that Captain Fishback came to see me, he says, You're complicit with the administration in torture, Congress is, because you're looking the other way. I said, We didn't know a thing about it.

And one of the things that turned the Iraqis against us was the tragedy that happened at Abu Ghraib. Because we in Congress are charged with sending our sons and daughters into battle, it is our responsibility, our obligation to speak out for them and that is why I am speaking out.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes we are going to send a message to our troops. And for our last speaker, we have a gentleman who knows a lot about freedom. He knows a lot about a lack of freedom. He knows a lot about American resolve and sometimes the lack of American resolve. He has been awarded two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with valor, two Purple Hearts, four air medals and three outstanding unit awards. He is one of our real heroes, SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you, Mr. HUNTER. You are a great man yourself.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American men and women in uniform and their families. I did spend 29 years in the Air Force, and I served in Korea and Vietnam and spent 7 years as a POW in Vietnam and more than half of that in solitary confinement. I know what it is like to be far from home, serving your country, risking your life, hearing that America doesn't care about you as happened in Vietnam.

□ 2300

Your Congress does not care about you. Your Congress just cut off all the funding for your war. They are packing up, going home, and leaving you here.

When I was a POW, I was scared to death when our Congress talked about pulling the plug that I would be left there forever. I know what it does to morale, I know what it does to the mission, and so help me God, I will never, ever let our Nation make that mistake again.

Our men and women in uniform need our full support. They need to know that when they are in Iraq driving from Camp Blue Diamond to Camp Victory that the Congress is behind them, to

give them the best armored trucks they can drive, the best weapons they can fire, and the best ammunition they can use. They need to have full faith that a few nay-sayers in Washington will not cut and run and leave them high and dry. They need to know these things because that is mandatory for mission success and troop morale.

America, and the Congress, must stand behind our men and women in uniform because they stand up for us every minute of every day.

Any talk, even so much as a murmur, of leaving now just emboldens the enemy and weakens the resolve of our troops in the field. That is dangerous. If you do not believe me, check out al Jazeera. The withdrawal story is on the front page. We cannot do that to our fellow Americans over there.

Mr. Speaker, we are making great progress in Iraq. Remember in January how we saw pictures from Iraq of that first election. For weeks, the media predicted gloom and doom. Remember that? What did we see? We watched people as they waited in line for hours, defying death threats just to cast their vote for democracy.

Remember the picture of the woman in the black hair cover flashing her purple finger in the ''V'' after voting in the first Iraqi elections? It was a breakthrough for democracy, and it was just the beginning.

Remember the recent vote on the referendum when people came out in droves to make their voices heard? You would not have known about it because there was so little mention of it in our press, but the people got out there and they voted and they showed their support for democracy, a new government, hope, and a future.

These people are thirsting for something more. They are risking their lives in the name of a new government, and we must stay the course if we want to foster a stable Iraq and create hope for millions in the Middle East.

Our work is paying off, not just at the ballot box. Remember when we were waking up that Sunday morning in shock as we caught Saddam Hussein cowering in a rathole? He is gone. And you know what? At least 46 of Hussein's 55 most-wanted regime members are either dead or incarcerated. Nationwide, thousands and thousands of police officers have been hired, and nearly 200,000 Iraqi soldiers are trained and serving their country. It is going to take time, but our guys on the ground are working with other nations to make inroads to create leadership and inspire democracy in a country that has only known hate, fear, and death from a ruler.

However, sadly, some here want to embolden the enemy by saying we just cut and run. That is just irresponsible and unconscionable.

I have to ask, what would Iraq be like if the United States pulled out, allowing dangerous people like the head of al Qaeda, Zarqawi, to run the country? What would that mean for the region, the world? Al Qaeda rules with death, fear, terror, and blood. Al Qaeda takes innocent people hostage, and then beheads them, and then brags about it on the Internet. Al Qaeda has no respect for human life. They prey on innocent people to do their dirty work, because they know we do not target schools and hospitals and mosques; yet those are the exact places they run for cover.

Al Qaeda will kidnap loved ones, especially very young children, of people trying to build democracy, to scare them out of helping the country. They are taking kids hostage because parents want a new life and a better life for their children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) be allowed to have 3 more minutes.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 3 additional minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask, What part of al Qaeda do you want operating here in America? Al Qaeda is a worldwide organization and a worldwide threat. I do not want any part of this. Americans do not want, need, or deserve al Qaeda. Our troops are over in Iraq fighting not just for our freedom and protection, but the freedom of the world.

We must fight the bad guys over there, not over here. We must support our troops to the hilt so they do not go to bed at night covered in talcum-powder-thin white sand wondering, Does America really support me?

In case people have forgotten, this is the same thing that happened in Vietnam. Peaceniks and people in Congress, and America, started saying bad things about what was going on in Vietnam, and it did a terrible thing to troop morale.

I just pray that our troops and their families can block this noise out and know that we will all fight like mad to make sure our troops have everything they need for as long as they need it to win the global war on terrorism.

Withdrawal is not an option. To our men and women in uniform, I simply say, God bless you. I salute you. All of America salutes our troops.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.J. Res. 73, To Redeploy U.S. Forces from Iraq. However, I must also speak to and oppose the cynical resolution offered by Mr. HUNTER. Mr. HUNTER's resolution calling for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a political stunt and an outrageous politicization of a serious proposal offered by Congressman JACK MURTHA, a respected leader in the Congress. Mr. HUNTER's resolution shows great disrespect to someone of Mr. MURTHA's stature and is a discredit to his years of service.

From the beginning, this war has been conducted without oversight. Democrats have repeatedly asked for substantive hearings on the war in Iraq. In addition, we have requested investigations on the misuse of intelligence by the Bush administration. War is too important of an issue to politicize the lives of our soldiers. Despite Democrats request for hearings on torture, contract fraud, and the leak of confidential national security information.

It goes without saying that the war in Iraq is not going as advertised. Our troops have become the primary target of the insurgency. They are united against U.S. forces and we have become a catalyst for violence. U.S. troops are the common enemy of the Sunnis, Saddamists and foreign jihadists. I believe with U.S. troop redeployment, the Iraq security forces will be incentivized to take control. A poll recently conducted shows that over 80 percent of Iraqis are strongly opposed to the presence of coalition troops, about 45 percent of the Iraqi population believe attacks against American troops are justified. I believe we need to turn Iraq over to the Iraqis. I believe before the Iraqi elections, scheduled for mid December, the Iraqi people and the emerging government must be put on notice that the United States will immediately redeploy. All of Iraq must know that Iraq is free. Free from United States occupation. I believe this will send a signal to the Sunnis to join the political process for the good of a ''free'' Iraq.

The U.S. needs to vacate Iraq both to splinter the insurgent factions that have united against us and to create incentives for the Iraqis to take on their own security. Not surprising is the fact that the American people have realized this for months. It is just now that some Democrats and Republicans alike are beginning to express grave concerns about the need for a course change in Iraq. With the administration so unwilling to reconsider its disastrous policies in Iraq, it was only a matter of time that Congress would begin to assert itself. Sadly, in the past week the President and the Vice President have restored to questioning people's patriotism to hide their own mistakes. The administration has no idea as to how to proceed in Iraq and they are wrong to use these ''McCarthy-type'' tactics.

I strongly support the Murtha Resolution. H.J. Res. 73 gives Americans a moment to pause so we can seriously discuss the future of America and our troops. This is what a democracy stands for. In addition, H.J. Res 73 calls for the:

Immediate redeployment of U.S. troops consistent with the safety of U.S. forces, creation of a quick reaction force in the region, creation of an over-the-horizon presence of marines, diplomatic pursuit of security and stability in Iraq.

Let me close by saying that the Republican cover-up Congress has refused to exercise its oversight responsibilities to protect our troops, the American taxpayers and our national security H. Res. 571 is not a serious response to the serious question of saving the lives of our soldiers. It is time to get serious and support Mr. MURTHA's proposal now for disengagement in Iraq.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House have done a heinous thing: they have insulted one of the deans of this House in an unthinkable and unconscionable way.

They took his words and contorted them; they took his heartfelt sentiments and spun

them. They took his resolution and deformed it: in a cheap effort to silence dissent in the House of Representatives.

The Republicans should be roundly criticized for this reprehensible act. They have perpetrated a fraud on the House of Representatives just as they have defrauded the American people.

By twisting the issue around, the Republicans are trying to set a trap for the Democrats. A ''no'' vote for this Resolution will obscure the fact that there is strong support for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. I am voting ''yes'' on this Resolution for an orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq despite the convoluted motives behind the Republican Resolution. I am voting to support our troops by bringing them home now in an orderly withdrawal.

Sadly, If we call for an end to the occupation, some say that we have no love for the Iraqi people, that we would abandon them to tyrants and thugs.

Let us consider some history. The Republicans make great hay about Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against the Iranians and the Kurds. But when that attack was made in 1988, it was Democrats who moved a resolution to condemn those attacks, and the Reagan White House quashed the bill in the Senate, because at that time the Republicans considered Saddam one of our own. So in 1988, who abandoned the Iraqi people to tyrants and thugs?

In voting for this bill, let me be perfectly clear that I am not saying the United States should exit Iraq without a plan. I agree with Mr. MURTHA that security and stability in Iraq should be pursued through diplomacy. I simply want to vote yes to an orderly withdrawal from Iraq. And let me explain why.

Prior to its invasion, Iraq had not one (not one!) instance of suicide attacks in its history. Research shows a 100 percent correlation between suicide attacks and the presence of foreign combat troops in a host country. And experience also shows that suicide attacks abate when foreign occupation troops are withdrawn. The U.S. invasion and occupation has destabilized Iraq and Iraq will only return to stability once this occupation ends.

We must be willing to face the fact that the presence of U.S. combat troops is itself a major inspiration to the forces attacking our troops. Moreover, we must be willing to acknowledge that the forces attacking our troops are able to recruit suicide attackers because suicide attacks are largely motivated by revenge for the loss of loved ones. And Iraqis have lost so many loved ones as a result of America's two wars against Iraq.

In 1996, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on CBS that the lives of 500,000 children dead from sanctions were ''worth the price'' of containing Saddam Hussein. When pressed to defend this reprehensible position she went on to explain that she did not want U.S. Troops to have to fight the Gulf War again. Nor did I. But what happened? We fought a second Gulf War. And now over 2,000 American soldiers lie dead. And I expect the voices of concern for Iraqi civilian casualties, whose deaths the Pentagon likes to brush aside as ''collateral damage'' are too few, indeed. A report from Johns Hopkins suggests that over 100,000 civilians have died in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, most of them violent deaths and most as ''collateral damage'' from U.S. forces. The accuracy of the 100,000 can and should be debated. Yet our media, while quick to cover attacks on civilians by insurgent forces in Iraq, have given us a blackout on Iraqi civilian deaths at the hands of U.S. combat forces.

Yet let us remember that the United States and its allies imposed a severe policy of sanctions on the people of Iraq from 1990 to 2003. UNICEF and World Health Organization studies based on infant mortality studies showed a 500,000 increase in mortality of Iraqi children under 5 over trends that existed before sanctions. From this, it was widely assumed that over 1 million Iraqi deaths for all age groups could be attributed to sanctions between 1990 and 1998. And not only were there 5 more years of sanctions before the invasion, but the war since the invasion caused most aid groups to leave Iraq. So for areas not touched by reconstruction efforts, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated further. How many more Iraqi lives have been lost through hunger and deprivation since the occupation?

And what kind of an occupier have we been? We have all seen the photos of victims of U.S. torture in Abu Ghraib prison. That's where Saddam used to send his political enemies to be tortured, and now many Iraqis quietly, cautiously ask: ''So what has changed?''

A recent video documentary confirms that U.S. forces used white phosphorous against civilian neighborhoods in the U.S. attack on Fallujah. Civilians and insurgents were burned alive by these weapons. We also now know that U.S. forces have used MK77, a napalm-like incendiary weapon, even though napalm has been outlawed by the United Nations.

With the images of tortured detainees, and the images of Iraqi civilians burned alive by U.S. incendiary weapons now circulating the globe, our reputation on the world stage has been severely damaged.

If America wants to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people, we as a people must be willing to face the pain and death and suffering we have brought to the Iraqi people with bombs, sanctions and occupation, even if we believe our actions were driven by the most altruistic of reasons. We must acknowledge our role in enforcing the policy of sanctions for 12 years after the extensive 1991 bombing in which we bombed infrastructure targets in direct violation of the Geneva Conventions.

We must also be ready to face the fact that the United States once provided support for the tyrant we deposed in the name of liberating the Iraqi people. These are events that our soldiers are too young to remember. I believe our young men and women in uniform are very sincere in their belief that their sacrifice is made in the name of helping the Iraqi people. But it is not they who set the policy. They take orders from the Commander-in-Chief and the Congress. It is we who bear the responsibility of weighing our decisions in a historical context, and it is we who must consider the gravest decision of whether or not to go to war based upon the history, the facts, and the truth.

Sadly, however, our country is at war in Iraq based on a lie told to the American people. The entire war was based premised on a sales pitch—that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction menacing the United States—that turned out to be a lie.

I have too many dead soldiers in my district; too many from my home state. Too many homeless veterans on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

America has sacrificed too many young soldiers' lives, too many young soldiers' mangled bodies, to the Bush war machine.

I will not vote to give one more soldier to the George W. Bush/DICK CHENEY war machine. I will not give one more dollar for a war riddled with conspicuous profiteering.

Tonight I speak as one who has at times been the only Member of this Body at antiwar demonstrations calling for withdrawal. And I won't stop calling for withdrawal.

I was opposed to this war before there was a war; I was opposed to the war during the war; and I am opposed to this war now—even though it's supposed to be over.

A vote on war is the single most important vote we can make in this House. I understand the feelings of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who might be severely conflicted by the decision we have to make here tonight. But the facts of U.S. occupation of Iraq are also very clear. The occupation is headed down a dead end because so long as U.S. combat forces patrol Iraq, there will be an Iraqi insurgency against it.

I urge that we pursue an orderly withdrawal from Iraq and pursue, along with our allies, a diplomatic solution to the situation in Iraq, supporting the aspirations of the Iraqi people through support for democratic processes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, there is concern on the floor tonight about the way in which this resolution was brought up. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, is one of the finest members of this body and has given his heart to our nation and his wisdom to this Congress. But underlying concerns about the process tonight, is the critically important issue regarding the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq. The United States' commitment to a stable and democratic Iraq is essential for the future of the region, for the larger war on terrorism and for the Iraqi people.

In my ten trips to Iraq, four times outside the umbrella of the military, I've had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of Iraqis and can tell you with some certainty about their greatest fear . . . It is not the suicide bombs and other terrorist attacks brought against their countrymen. It is the concern that the United States, which has helped give them a taste of freedom and democracy, will leave them before they are ready to fend for themselves.

Tonight we have the opportunity to proclaim, ''We will not leave you.'' When I hear the critics on this floor or in the news media say our policy is a disaster, that we are in a mess in Iraq, I think of the transfer of power in June 2004, the election in January 2005, the referendum this past October and what I believe will be a huge success in December with the election of a permanent Iraqi government. I am in awe of what the Iraqis have accomplished in such a short period of time.

Regretfully, the administration has done a very poor job explaining to the American people why we are there and when and how we intend to leave, but this does not mean we don't have an exit strategy. We have a strategy but regretfully it has had to be amended more than once.

The United States' strategy is to assist the Iraqis in creating a secure environment so

they can develop their new democratic government with a competent police, border patrol and army to defend that government. American forces will be reduced when enough Iraqi security forces can take our place and their new government is fully functioning.

Haven't we learned from the 1983 bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut that if we leave without finishing the job those that wish us harm will come at us again?

Didn't we learn any lessons from the attacks against our military personnel in Saudi Arabia and our diplomats in Africa and our sailors on the USS Cole? And didn't we learn that the Islamist extremists would come at us again when they attacked the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and attempted to attack our Capitol on September 11, 2001 ?

Yes they will be back again and again and again.

If we leave Iraq without completing our mission, what type of message will this send to the people who need our help? To them and the rest of the world the message will be clear . . . if you put up a strong enough resistance, the United States will eventually tire of its efforts and leave before its mission is accomplished.

JOHN MCCAIN was correct when he asked the same questions during debate of the Defense Authorization bill: "Are these the messages we wish to send? Do we wish to respond to the millions who braved bombs and threats to vote, who have put their faith and trust in American and the Iraqi Government, that our number one priority is now bringing our people home?"

Mr. Speaker, although some may feel otherwise, this is a serious debate about a serious issue. I strongly urge all members to vote against this resolution and against the premature withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, today's debate should not be about the character of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, whose service to his country is above reproach. It should also not be about a resolution introduced by one member ascribing it to the position of another. It should be about the profoundness of the dilemma we face in our Iraqi policy.

All wars evoke analogies to prior conflicts. Vietnam is on everyone's mind. My sense is that references to our Southeast Asian experience are somewhat oblique, but important to ponder. Of particular relevance is the advice of a former Vermont Senator, George Aiken, who suggested we just declare victory and get out of Vietnam. Aiken's advice was rooted in frustration, but wise as it was, represented more spin than reality. Given the strategies in play, victory wasn't close at hand.

For may Americans, including me, the war in Iraq has been difficult to justify. But all Americans, except perhaps a few who may be partisanly vindictive, should want as positive a result as possible, given the circumstances we now face. The decision to go to war may have been misguided and strategies involved in conducting it mistake-ridden; nonetheless there should be clarity of purpose in ending the conflict, with the goal neither to cut and run, nor simply to cut losses. At this junction of involvement we should define cogently our purposes and by so doing create a basis both for a viable future for Iraq and for a U.S. disengagement that respects the sacrifices of those who have served so valiantly in our armed forces and those of our coalition allies.

The key at this point is to recognize the WMD threat proved not to be a compelling rationalization for the war and emphasize instead the moral and philosophical case for overturning a repressive and cruel regime and replacing it with a constitutional democracy. This latter emphasis need not suggest or imply that all repressive regimes are fair game for intervention, nor that regime change is the principal American way, nor that other rationales for intervention don't exist. But it is the case for intervention that shows the most concern for the Iraqi people as they look both to their past and to the new challenges of Al Qaeda.

Accordingly, in today's circumstances, my advice, as one who voted against authorizing military intervention in Iraq, is for the Administration to emphasize its commentment to democracy, not as a rationale for continuing the war, but as the reason for disengagement.

Let me amplify.

All Americans, however wary they may be of the political judgments that have to date been made, should concur that the world is better off without Saddam Hussein and that it is positive that a dictatorial regime is being replaced with a democratically elected government. The cost of the undertaking may have been too high and the results counter-productive in many ways, but before the international situation worsens further, the administration would be wise, perhaps noting with pride the elections to be held under a constitution this December, to announce that a new sovereign circumstance allows for comprehensive troop drawdowns next year. The more definitive and forthright the plan the better, but announcing a precise time table is less important than making a firm commitment to leave, with articulation of a clear rationale for so doing. If we don't get out of Iraq at a time of our own choosing and on our own terms, we will eventually be asked to leave, possibly ignominiously, by the Iraqi government, or be seen as forced to leave because of terrorist acts, which can be expected to continue as long as we maintain a military presence in the heart of the Muslim world. The key is that we must control and be seen as controlling our own fate.

All Americans should be respectful of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. They have been placed in an untenable situation. If they had not been so heroic and in many cases so helpful in rebuilding neighborhoods and schools, the U.S. would face a far more difficult dilemma today.

But we have no choice except to assess whether Osama Bin Laden and his movement have not been given added momentum by our intervention in Iraq, and whether the ideologically advocated policy of establishing long-term bases or one of returning our troops home is likely to be the more effective strategy in prevailing in the world-wide war on terror.

Here, it should not be hard to understand that prolonged occupation of a country which encompasses an area of land where one of the world's oldest civilizations prospered is humiliating to a proud people and those elsewhere who share its great religion. It should also not be hard to understand that the neo-con strategy of establishing a long-term military presence in Iraq with semi-permanent bases raises the risk of retaliatory terrorist attacks at home and abroad.

Indeed, according to the University of Chicago scholar, Robert Pape, in his definitive book on suicide bombers, Dying to Win, the principal reason anarchists choose to wrap themselves in explosives and kill innocent civilians is to register martyred objection to the occupation of countries or territories by the armed forces of Western or other Democratic governments. Suicide bombing, by implication, will exist as long as occupations continue.

In this regard, a note about Al Qaeda is in order. Just as neither Iraq with its secular leanings nor any Iraqis were responsible for 9/11, so Saddam Hussein apparently considered Osama Bin Laden as much a rival as a soul brother. It is Western military intervention that has precipitated Al Qaeda's rapid growth in Iraq and elsewhere, creating a "cause celebre" for its singularly malevolent actions. If American withdrawal policy comes to turn on the question of anarchy—i.e., troops can't be drawn down as long as suicide bombers continue to wreak havoc—we place ourselves in a catch 22 and, in effect, hand over decision-making discretion to those who wantonly kill. We allow the radical few to use our presence as the reason for their actions and at the same time cause our involvement to be held hostage to their villainy. The irony is that as conflicted as the Iraqi police and army appear to be, we are fast reaching a stage where the anarchists may be more credibly dealth with by Iraqis themselves, particularly if the principal rationale for violence—i.e., the American presence—disappears.

Hence, the case for a change in strategy is compelling, not as the resolution under consideration tonight envisions, but in an orderly manner, protecting our troops, our values and the gains we have helped make for the Iraqi people.

Sometimes it is as difficult to know when to end as it is when to start a war. In this context I am hard pressed to believe anything except that a mistake of historical proportions will occur if the administration fails to recognize the opportunity presented by next month's elections to effectively bring our involvement in this war to a close. It may be true as the Secretary of State told the Senate several weeks ago, that democratic elections alone don't create a viable government. But the assertion of the Secretary, however valid, should not be used as a rationale for an unending American occupation.

It is possible, of course that civil strife will ensue when we withdraw, but this is just as likely to be the case in 2026 as 2006. In any regard, civil union is for the Iraqi people to manage. It's not for American troops to sustain. The authorization this Congress gave to the Executive to use force contemplated the clear prospect of military intervention in Iraq. It did not, however, contemplate prolonged occupation. If this is not understood by the Executive branch, the current overwhelming Iraqi polling sentiment favoring American troop withdrawal will be more than matched by shared American sentiment. In a democracy no one can be a leader without followers.

The issue is no longer, as is so frequently asserted, the need "to stay the course;" it is to avoid "overstaying" our presence.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, just last month, the Iraqi people, including large numbers of Sunni Iraqis, voted in a referendum on their Constitution. The Iraqi people are choosing to participate in the political process that can eventually undermine support for the indigenous insurgency in Iraq.

The next step in building Iraq's political future is elections in December under this new, completely Iraqi Constitution. Broad participation in these elections will continue to build political momentum for a new self-governing Iraq at peace with its neighbors.

While the political process moves forward, the United States and its allies must continue to train Iraqi police and security forces so that week by week, month by month, more neighborhoods, towns and provinces are patrolled and controlled by Iraqis.

We must also continue to conduct military operations against insurgents and foreign fighters in Iraq, particularly al Qaeda in Iraq. There are still difficult days ahead and much work to be done—much of it done by our men and women in the military.

I expect U.S. forces will continue to stay in Iraq through December's elections at roughly their current level. But as I've said, if political and security progress continues on roughly the course we are on, American forces should be able to start being drawn down in significant numbers during the course of next year. These redeployments should be based on conditions in the field. As the Iraqis stand up, we can stand down.

After September 11, 2001, we made a decision to play offense in fighting the war on terror, to track down enemies who would kill Americans and give them no place to hide. Our troops are doing a fantastic job, and terrorists know they have no hope of defeating our troops in the field. They know that the center of gravity in their fight is to undermine the will of the American people.

I would rather have American soldiers hunting down terrorists over there, than have American firefighters and police officers responding to attacks here at home.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, our military men and women are doing a tremendous job in Iraq, as they work with Iraqis to secure their country and combat the terrorists who want so desperately to prevent freedom from taking root there. Our troops deserve to hear messages of strong support and thanks from us—not calls for withdrawal that merely give hope to the enemy. Given a chance, the Iraqi military and political system will become strong enough to defend the Iraqi people on its own. But pulling our troops out now would undermine this goal and provide an opening for al Qaeda and its terrorist brethren.

I disagree wholeheartedly with those who claim our presence there is counterproductive and those who argue that it would be best to bring America's troops home before their mission is completed. Iraq and its people have made great strides, most recently with their free vote on a constitution. But all their progress and our troops' blood and sweat will be for nothing if our forces withdrawal before Iraq's own forces are ready to defend the country.

All of us want to see our soldiers come home, but it would be a huge mistake to make their withdrawal based on an arbitrary date, rather than conditions-based. So many of our servicemen and women have sacrificed so much to ensure that Iraq does not become a haven for terrorists, and we have to make sure that mission is accomplished and that their sacrifice has not been in vain. Pulling our troops out now is akin to surrender and would be a fateful blunder.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, the debate over this fraudulent resolution is a sad comment on the level of debate in the House of Representatives and an insult to a colleague of ours who has dedicated his career in the House to improving our national defense and supporting American soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel. No one in this body can or should challenge the patriotism of Congressman JACK MURTHA, who is a decorated veteran who spent 37 years in the United States Marine Corps and whose experience in uniform has helped to shape his informed views on national security here in Congress. When he expressed his personal and thoughtful views on the future of our Nation's involvement in the war in Iraq he was subjected to a barrage of personal criticism that was truly excessive, including an official statement from the President's Press Secretary that trivialized the very nature of our congressional debate over a very important subject.

Today the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, usually a thoughtful Member himself, took it upon himself to introduce a caricature of a resolution that totally ignores many of the important points that Mr. MURTHA originally suggested, and it makes a mockery of the process of honest and open debate in the House of Representatives. It is difficult for me to remember a time when serious issues of national security have ever been treated with such disdain here in the House, and I am extremely disappointed in the Republican leadership of the House that has allowed this circus atmosphere to take place today.

Even more astounding to me is that the House is rushing through a rule to consider this Resolution today with the explanation that it is ostensibly a debate over the war in Iraq. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have not had an honest debate on the war in Iraq here in the House even as we have seen more than 2,000 young American die in battle. We have not had an honest debate over the quality of information that we were given before the start of the war, or about the inability of Secretary Rumsfeld and the Bush Administration to give us any serious indication of our current objectives or a time line for the ultimate re-deployment of American troops out of Iraq. I would welcome such an honest and thorough debate, as I am sure all of my colleagues in the Democratic party would. But what we are doing today is a politically motivated exercise that insults that integrity and cheapens the reputation of the House itself.

There are many troubling aspects of our involvement in Iraq that we should be debating, including the discovery just this week that some of the Iraqi security forces that we are training—paying for—were engaged in the same type of torture of Iraqi citizens that characterized the reign of Saddam Hussein himself.

What we should not be doing is considering a disingenuous resolution that is merely intended to elicit sound bites for conservative talk radio shows and which is a thinly-veiled attempt to insult one of the most courageous and dedicated members of the House, Mr. MURTHA. We can do better, Mr. Speaker, and we should resoundingly reject this measure.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA said yesterday that "our military has done everything that has been asked of them, the U.S. cannot accomplish anything further in Iraq militarily. It is time to bring them home." I know Mr. MURTHA to be a man of honor and integrity and I am sure he is sincere in his belief that there is not more to accomplish and we must immediately withdraw our troops. I could not disagree more with his assessment.

We must stay in Iraq to finish the job and leave with honor. To cut and run now and leave with our tail between our legs would send the message to terrorists around the world that America has lost its will to win the War on Terrorism. This would merely embolden our terrorist enemies and lead to open season on America and our allies. We cannot allow this to happen. We must stay the course in Iraq and finish the job. The stakes are too high to fail.

Throughout American history, we have been tested in times of war many times. But virtually every time, we stayed the course and prevailed.

We did not experience quick victory in the American Revolution. In fact, it took our Founding Fathers years to win our hard-fought independence. We were defeated at the Battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights, White Plains and others, and we will never forget the dark days at Valley Forge, yet we did not give up our desire for freedom.

And let's not forget in World War II, where we suffered rapid and repeated defeats at Guam, Wake Island, the Philippines and Kasserine Pass.

But when General Douglas Macarthur was forced to leave the Philippines, he did not say, "We should have an immediate withdraw of all American troops." Instead, he uttered the immortal words: "I shall return."

And we aren't even losing in Iraq! We are winning, and making a difference. Because of our intervention in Iraq, a murderous dictator and a totalitarian regime have been overthrown, free elections have been held, and a new constitution has been drafted and ratified.

This is an important and emotional debate. When to send our servicemen and women to war and when to bring them home is perhaps the most difficult decision we as Member face. I have been to Iraq and everybody I met was enthusiastic, about doing their job and helping the Iraqi people.

We must fight this temptation to set an artificial timetable as to when we bring our troops home. All this will do is allow the terrorists time to regroup and lay in wait until we leave. But do not take my word for it. Take the word of a top American commander in Iraq who called setting a deadline for troop withdrawal "a recipe for disaster."

Army Maj. Gen. William Webster, whose 3rd Infantry Division is responsible for security in three-fourths of Iraq's capital said "Setting a date would mean that the 221 soldiers I've lost this year, that their lives will have been lost in vain. Iraq's armed factions would likely take a cue from a timetable for a U.S. withdrawal to lie low, gathering their strength and laying plans for renewed conflict when the Americans leave."

Gen. Webster went on to say "They believe they're doing the right thing. The soldiers believe they're helping."

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been saying that the war in Iraq has been a dismal failure and a mistake. Let me ask them, is it a sign failure that our troops have vaccinated over 3 million children under 5 to help these children fight polio. Or that we screened more than 1.3 million children under age 5 for malnutrition.

Was it a mistake to rehabilitate almost 3,000 schools? What about the 36,000 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 1000 master trainers, that have been trained by the Iraqis with the United States' help? These teachers are going to start teaching in a way that gives freedom to the children.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle once again, would you say accomplishing all of this constitutes failure? The millions of Iraqi men, women and children who no longer live under a brutal dictator would not think so.

We must continue to fight the terrorists and secure Iraq as a stable, secure democracy. We are making a great deal of progress on the democracy front as well. The approval of Iraq's constitution on October 15 was a historic day for Iraq and a bad day for terrorists. Millions of Iraqis turned out to vote, embracing the democratic process. Iraq now has a constitution.

On the day of the referendum, there were no suicide bombings, and attacks on polling stations were down from 108 in January to 19 in October. Sixty percent of registered voters took part in the referendum. Significantly higher turnout in Sunni a further indication that Sunnis are joining the political process.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads in Iraq. Do we cut and run or do we stay and finish the job? There is too much at stake to immediately pull out. All we would be doing is strengthening the terrorists. We must finish the job. We must stay the course and leave with honor. I urge a ''no'' vote on this resolution.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the unspoken inevitability we face is that U.S. troops will eventually leave Iraq.

Eighty percent of Iraqis want us to leave now. They now see us as occupiers, not liberators.

American politicians say we must save Iraqis from an even more violent civil war.

But that civil war is underway because of the American presence. It is fueling Sunni hostility toward Shia collaborators.

If the American forces weren't there, Iraqi Shia security forces would no longer be serving the interests of foreign infidels against other fellow Iraqis. It would open the door to the reenlistments of many of the best trained and experienced former Iraqi military and police professionals.

The preponderance of power now lies with the Shia and the Kurds. The Sunni fighters have only small arms and make-shift explosive devices. The insurgents don't have access to Saddam's tanks and helicopters.

Furthermore, we have equipped the Shia and Kurds with much superior weaponry and they are vastly superior in number.

If the Americans end their occupation, the insurgents' resistance will lose its purpose.

The foreign jihadi element in Iraq is numerically insignificant. The vast bulk of the resistance has little connection to al-Qaeda or its offshoots. The colonel in charge of cleaning out the insurgency in Tall Afar said they were fighting foreign jihadi fighters coming in from Syria. Yet, when they interrogated the more than a thousand captives, not one—not one was a foreigner—all were native Iraqi insurgents.

But al Zarqawi and his followers have benefited mightily from this misguided war because he is being given credit by American politicians for heading the resistance. We, in America, have been his best recruiting aid.

But what Zarqawi and al-Qaeda want is wholly different from what the Sunni insurgents want. Zarqawi wants to see a Muslim caliphate and a violent struggle against Christian and Jewish infidels around the world until Judgment Day.

The Sunni insurgents want an independent Iraq that will enable them to regain the wealth and power they experienced under Saddam.

Foreign fighters will be harshly treated by Iraqis once American troops leave. The jihadists need a failed state to function. That's why they were not in Iraq until we entered Iraq and broke up the effective, albeit horribly repressive government of Saddam Hussein.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H. Res. 571, and to urge my colleagues—in the strongest possible terms—to vote against this resolution. As with other members who have risen here today, I also served in our military. I'm a veteran of the United States Navy, and served one year in the Vietnam War on swift boats. But, Mr. Speaker, I do not stand before you tonight and suggest that past military service is a requirement for one to have a credible opinion on this important issue. All Americans have a right to be heard on this matter—and should be heard.

Mr. Speaker, with all my heart and with all my mind, I believe that to pull our troops from Iraq immediately would send a clear and unmistakable message to every potential enemy worldwide that the United States has no backbone, no willingness to see a tough struggle through to the end. It would be a message to our allies that the United States does not honor its commitments. And it would send a message to the families of every member of the armed forces selflessly serving to defend our liberties, especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice that their service, their sacrifice, has been in vain.

Look to our past history: In the face of relentless opposition from abroad and ever here at home, the United States honored its commitments to Germany, Japan, and South Korea after World War II and the Korean War. Today they are our strongest allies. On the other hand, Osama bin Laden himself wrote that evidence of the United States' weakness could be found in our departures from Vietnam, Beirut, and Mogadishu. ''The United States is a paper tiger,'' he was saying. ''Smack them in the face and they run.''

To pull our troops from Iraq immediately would be an abrogation of our responsibilities in the world.

History will not define this great nation by our decision to enter Iraq—it will define us by how we leave Iraq.

Whether or not you supported the decision to go to war against Iraq in the first place, we have an obligation to leave Iraq a safer, freer country than it was under Sadam Hussein. Spreading freedom and liberty is not something America has ever avoided, nor should it.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the definition of ''immediate termination of United States forces in Iraq'' must mean the following as set forth by Representative JOHN MURTHA:

''My plan calls:

—To immediately redeploy U.S. troops consistent with the safety of U.S. forces.

—To create a quick reaction force in the region.

—To create over-the-horizon presence of Marines.

—To diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq.

You may call this a position, a program, or an exit strategy but this is the Murtha message which set in motion the current proceedings on the floor of the House of Representatives. This is the declaration heard from Representative MURTHA by the American people and around the world. By all standards of decency and by popular decree the Republican leadership is mandated to respect the precedent setting language of this most detailed of all proposals for new and creative action in Iraq.

For this reason I urge all of my colleagues to examine closely the resolution before us. ''That the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.'' In view of the fact that the wording of this resolution distorts the plan set forth by Congressman MURTHA, I urge all Members to condemn this dirty trick by voting ''present.''

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, there is nothing—nothing—more serious that we will do in our lives as well as our careers than to send young American men and women to war. And there is no one in this body who understands the consequences of that decision more than JACK MURTHA who served 37 years in the Marines, won two Purple Hearts in battle, and loves without reservation our soldiers in uniform.

Over 2,070 Americans and tens of thousands of civilian Iraqis are dead, thousands more are horribly injured in this war that many of us believe to be completely unjustified. Yet the House Republicans are so morally bankrupt that they would turn to cheap political stunts in order to undercut Congressman MURTHA's conscience-driven call for an end to the Iraq war, which he calls ''a flawed policy wrapped in illusion.''

But there is not a person in this House who is man or woman enough to ever undercut the credibility of JACK MURTHA, no matter how many accusations they may throw at him, no matter how many names they call him, and no matter how many ''clever'' tactics they try.

Shame on the Republican leaders for thinking it's ok to turn this war into a game and Representative MURTHA into a political football. Shame on the Speaker for accusing JACK MURTHA of insulting and demoralizing our troops. Mr. MURTHA, this decorated war hero, is right when he says ''what demoralizes them is going to war with not enough troops and equipment to make the transition to peace; the devastation caused by IEDs; being deployed to Iraq when their homes have been ravaged by hurricanes; being on their second or third deployment and leaving their families behind without a network of support.''

The Republicans don't demean Mr. MURTHA, can't begin to demean Mr. MURTHA, when they make baseless allegations and engage in pointless political stunts. They demean themselves and they demean the integrity of this House of Representatives. Shame on you.

I support JACK MURTHA's resolution to stop sending our soldiers to die in Iraq. I support him when he says, ''It is time to bring them home.'' The proper response from those who disagree with this revered Marine would be to have a serious discussion about how we got into Iraq, about the conduct of the war, and about how we get out. Instead we see the typical slash-and-burn personal attacks that are

the mainstay of the Republicans, especially when they know they are wrong. And you are wrong.

But you are no longer fooling the American people. In overwhelming numbers they think it was a mistake to go to war in Iraq; they think the Bush Administration mishandled the war; they don't trust the President to tell the truth; and they don't support this war. On the eve of Thanksgiving, even as our troops are doing their very best far from home and family, the Republicans have chosen to pull a cheap, demeaning political stunt. Shame on you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, we went to war in Iraq in an irresponsible way; we should leave Iraq in a responsible way.

The Administration's slogan of ''stay the course'' is not a strategy. More of the same is unacceptable. We must change course. The Bush Administration has tried to stifle debate here at home by shamelessly challenging the patriotism of those who question their approach. The time has come for a serious debate on this issue of utmost importance to the American people. We should bring our troops home as quickly and safely as possible. But bringing our troops home is only part of a successful strategy for leaving Iraq. We must redeploy our troops in a way that does not unleash even more bloodshed and killing in Iraq, and does not create a vacuum that will be exploited by Al Queda and terrorist elements.

Our nation went to war in Iraq based on false information and gross distortions of the facts made by President Bush and others in his Administration. Before the invasion, a number of us gave speeches on the floor of this House outlining the dangers of going to war in Iraq. The Bush Administration and the Congress chose to disregard the warnings that were raised by many people who had experience on foreign policy issues regarding the Persian Gulf region.

We have made many mistakes during the war, but many of the results of our invasion were predictable. As I said on this floor prior to the war:

''The President has presented a utopian vision of democracy breaking out in the Middle East after we invade Iraq. It is just as easy to imagine a scenario where difficulties in Iraq and the American action there fuel resentment toward occupying American troops and inflame the region against us, strengthening the hands of radical Islamic fundamentalists and making it more difficult to promote democracy and other U.S. goals in the region.''

Now, more than two and half years after the invasion of Iraq, those predictions have unfortunately proved true. The Administration utterly failed to understand the dynamics and history of Iraq. They failed to understand the opening that Sunni grievances and old rivalries would give to our enemies, to Al Queda and others. The Administration built its actions on a foundation of sand—on rosy scenarios and wishful thinking. We never had a plan to deal with the forces we were unleashing in Iraq and we are dealing with the consequences now. There have been over 2,079 confirmed American deaths in Iraq. Over 15,500 have been seriously injured. There have been reports of at least 30,000 Iraqi civilian deaths.

Having invaded Iraq, the United States has a moral and national security obligation to do everything possible to prevent the situation from spiraling even farther out of control. We must devise a plan to leave Iraq in a way that maximizes the chances for stability and minimizes the possibilities of a full scale civil war erupting.

The insurgency today consists primarily of former Baathists who lost their grip on power and who fear for their future security in a country dominated by the Shia. They have resorted to a bloody campaign of terrorist attacks to prevent the establishment of a central government. The Bush Administration has failed to develop a political strategy that will end the violence.

This conflict will not be resolved by military force. It requires a diplomatic and political solution. Any resolution must address the Sunni fears that are feeding much of the violence. At the same time, any resolution must recognize the facts on the ground—the Kurds will never again allow themselves to be victimized by a central government in Bagdhad and the Shia, by virtue of their majority status, will never again allow themselves to be dominated by others.

The Bush Administration's efforts to achieve a political solution have been grossly inadequate. However, the prospects for a political and diplomatic resolution are less likely in the face of a total immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. The more likely result would be a surge in killings of innocent Iraqis as different groups compete for power in the vacuum left by the immediate and total departure of American forces. That bloodshed would be a great stain on our nation and a terrible blow to our already shattered credibility. Moreover, just as the precipitous U.S. disengagement from Afghanistan following the Soviet withdrawal from that country opened the door to the Taliban regime, the immediate and total withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq—without a political plan in place—would most benefit extremist and terrorist groups.

Our strategy for leaving Iraq must also recognize that Iraq's neighbors—Iran, Turkey and Syria—all have strong interests in the future of Iraq. Our plan must ensure that the United Nations and the international community will work to prevent others from exploiting the situation in Iraq at the expense of the Iraqi people and the security of the region and the United States.

The Senate Democrats, under the leadership of Senators HARRY REID and CARL LEVIN have proposed a path for bringing our troops home in an orderly way that minimizes the likelihood of an outbreak of a full scale civil war in Iraq.

In the aftermath of the terrible attacks of September 11, 2001, the world rallied to our side. The international community supported our decision to go into Afghanistan to root out Al Queda. The Bush Administration squandered that international good will. Instead, it began a war of choice against Iraq. As many predicted before the invasion, that war has fueled the ranks of Al Queda and strengthened the jihadists. We must not compound the blunders of the Bush Administration by creating the conditions for even more bloodshed in Iraq and allowing it to become a haven and launching pad for terrorist activities.

This Congress has not had a serious debate on Iraq. Instead, the Republican leadership in this House has worked to hide from the American people the gross incompetence of the Bush Administration's policies on Iraq. The time is long overdue for us to have a serious discussion on this issue of the greatest importance to the American people. Our troops and their families deserve no less.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a colleague, a friend and someone whose judgment I respect. JOHN MURTHA had seen a lot of battles before he came to Congress. A decorated Vietnam Veteran with two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star in 37 years of service in the Marines.

I did not know him then, but I know him now. He is a Member who carries with him a full life lived, a perspective shaped by experience and understanding. He has accrued wisdom, which is seldom seen in a person who carries it in such a dignified and unassuming manner.

He was one of the first gentlemen of the House to support the ''Women In Military Service For America Memorial.'' I asked him for his support on this project, but I did not have to explain it. He understood the contributions women and other minorities have made in the military. He takes a comprehensive and inclusive view of situations. This man's actions define who he is. I find this refreshing. He speaks from a position of knowledge. I say this because tonight we are debating a severely amended version of the Murtha Resolution.

If we are going to seriously debate the war in Iraq, we must do so in the scope that represents the full spectrum of the American people. This resolution tonight is not the debate the American people have asked for or need to hear. The American people want a comprehensive and inclusive debate that reflects the complexity of the situation our country finds itself in.

While agreeing with the Murtha Resolution, I do so primarily because he has given this situation great thought and because I trust that the author had every intent of fully debating his resolution whether members agreed to it or not—and is willing to listen constructively. We should follow his lead on opening up this debate—not smothering it. Mr. Speaker, I ask that on this Friday night before we adjourn for the Thanksgiving season to be with family and mends to give thanks, let us give dignity to a true debate about this war in Iraq.

The American people deserve better.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my observations regarding the shameless acts of the Republicans who have hijacked the House of Representatives and have become so arrogant, so deaf to any voices but their own they do not hear the voices of the American people. My friend and colleague, JOHN MURTHA, a true American patriot and decorated Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam combat, spoke from his heart yesterday on behalf of those he cares most about: the men and women wearing the uniform of the United States of America and the people of this country he has served all his life.

Congressman JOHN MURTHA, the leading Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee's defense committee, reached a point where he felt this country's continued occupation of Iraq was a source of the violence in Iraq. Congressman MURTHA had the courage to do what few have been able to do. He faced the people at a press conference and described how he had come to the conclusion that: ''The United States and coalition troops have done all they can in Iraq, but it is time for a change in direction. Our military is suffering. The future of our country is at risk. We

can not continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf Region.''

Congressman MURTHA supported his conclusions by the now familiar truths we know. The reasons we were given for going to war were all false. There were no weapons of mass destruction and no nuclear weapons; there was no imminent danger. We were not welcomed by flowers in Baghdad. We had not brought Democracy in Iraq. Congressman MURTHA cited the key indicators in order to assess the ''progress'' of Iraq. According to reports recently submitted to his committee by the Secretary of Defense, Congressman MURTHA learned some disturbing news. ''Oil production and energy in Iraq are below prewar levels. Our reconstruction efforts have been crippled by the security situation. Only $9 billion appropriated for reconstruction has been spent. Unemployment remains at about 60 percent. Clean water is scarce. Only $500 million of the $2.2 billion appropriated for water projects has been spent. And most importantly, insurgent incidents have increased from about 150 per week to over 700 per week in the last year.''

Congressman MURTHA pointed out that the American people do not want us in Iraq. A British poll found that 80 percent of Iraqis do not want us occupying their country. Of the 80 percent of the Iraqis who don't want us in Iraq, 44 percent felt attacks on Americans were justified. Drawing on his experience in Vietnam, Congressman MURTHA said there is no way to win a war with insurgents when the people tell the insurgents what moves you are going to take.

Congressman MURTHA repeated what he has been saying. The war in Iraq cannot be won militarily. The administration is now saying the same thing. Congressman MURTHA stated that our military has done its duty, but the war continues to intensify.

Congressman MURTHA's proposal was not to ''cut and run'' as the Republicans have said. His proposal provides for re-deployment from Iraq, the safety of our troops, and a rapid deployment force to deal with any genuine terrorist threat in the region.

To equate a criticism of the President's failed policy with a lack of support of our troops is beneath contempt. It is appalling to see the President, the Vice President, and Secretary Rumsfeld smear JOHN MURTHA with accusations of cowardice.

I think Congressman MURTHA said it just right when he was asked at his press conference yesterday how he felt about Vice President CHENEY'S attempt to tell him what was good for the troops. He said he welcomed a man with five deferments attempting to tell him what was good for troops in battle. It was easy, MURTHA said, to sit in air-conditioned offices, and decide what the troops were going to do, but our soldiers have it very hard in Iraq. Very hard. When a man with the combat record of Congressman MURTHA talks about men and women in battle, I think he deserves to be heard.

Instead, the President blasted him from as far away as China. And today, the Republican House leadership pulled one of their dirtiest tricks. The Republicans introduced and put up for a vote a mockery of the Murtha Resolution, with no discussion, no consideration in committee and no input from the American people. It was a calculated move by Republicans designed to make it appear to the American people that MURTHA'S reasonable resolution was a proposal to undermine the troops.

With this move, Republicans made a mockery of the people's House and the people's wishes. They smeared an American hero and a man who cares about the military and his country. The leadership of the Republican House of Representatives, acting in lock step with a failed President is perpetuating, in JOHN MURTHA's words, a ''failed policy wrapped in an illusion.''

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in opposition to this resolution calling for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. It is a shame that some members of the House leadership have decided to turn one of the most pressing issues facing our Nation into a political stunt.

This resolution is not offered in good faith; it is a blatant effort to confront, to embarrass, and to chide anyone who has legitimate questions about how this war is being prosecuted. It is cynical and mean-spirited, and most tragically, it is a disservice to our troops who are serving valiantly and sacrificing their lives every day to accomplish the mission they were given.

Our Nation's future role in Iraq is a serious matter that affects the lives of all Americans. Consequently, the American public have legitimate questions—not necessarily about the value of our mission there, but about how we expect to achieve our goals. They want to know what victory will look like, the steps we will take to get there, and the appropriate time for our forces to leave safely. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, their families here at home, and all Americans deserve those answers.

Yesterday, my friend and colleague, JACK MURTHA, a patriot and a decorated veteran, attempted to start that dialogue. However, instead of having a frank discussion about the potential consequences of immediate troop withdrawal or addressing the burning questions in the minds of most Americans, the Republican leadership disingenuously twisted Mr. MURTHA's words, making a mockery of the democratic principles that we hope to instill throughout the world.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress the right to oversee the operations of the military. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, it is a responsibility I take very seriously. Instead of seeking a plan for victory, the Republican leadership has given the American people silence and the status quo. If we do not endeavor to provide the answers that so many demand, we will have failed in our responsibilities.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution and to demonstrate that we will not play politics on an issue of such magnitude.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have been in Congress for nearly 20 years. And in all that tie, I don't think I have ever been more ashamed of the House of Representatives than I am today.

Deciding issues of war and peace should be one of the most solemn obligations we confront in Congress. Instead, what is going on today is pure political gamesmanship. Such gamesmanship demeans the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, demeans our country's tradition of democratic debate, and is a total abdication of our responsibilities as Members of Congress. Rather than holding vigorous oversight hearings and having a full, open and honest discussion about the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq, the Republican leadership has rushed a resolution to the floor today that deliberately mischaracterizes the views of many Democrats, including the honorable Representative JACK MURTHA, a decorated marine who served in both Korea and Vietnam, who have called for a safe and orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops over the next six months to a year.

Instead of debating the merits of the ongoing occupation of Iraq and the White House's lack of an exit strategy, the White House and the Republican leadership in Congress have viciously attacked the integrity of both Republican and Democratic critics of the administration's Iraq war policies. Senator HAGEL, a Republican from Nebraska, was so outraged by such character assassination that he said recently, ''The Bush administration must understand that each American has a right to question our policies in Iraq and should not be demonized for disagreeing with them. Suggesting that to challenge or criticize policy is undermining and hurting our troops is not democracy nor what this country has stood for, for over 200 years . . . Vietnam was a national tragedy partly because Members of Congress failed their country, remained silent and lacked the courage to challenge the Administrations in power until it was too late . . . To question your government is not unpatriotic—to not question your government is unpatriotic.''

It is particularly galling when individuals like DICK CHENEY, who has never served a day in the military, let alone been shot at by enemy soldiers on behalf of our country, questions the integrity of genuine heroes like Representative MURTHA.

Let me be clear, I have not supported an immediate withdrawal from Iraq. But, I do believe that in the wake of the December parliamentary elections in Iraq that the U.S. should negotiate a timeline with the new Iraqi government for the withdrawal of U.S. troops next year.

I was heartened when millions of Iraqis, even at risk of life and limb, voted in late January to establish an interim government and constitutional assembly and again in October in support of a new Constitution. I wrote to President Bush just after the January election, suggesting that the U.S. negotiate a timeline for a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops with the newly elected government. I felt it would be an ideal time to signal to the Iraqi people in a concrete way that the U.S. has no long-term designs on their country. While the President ignored my advice earlier this year, I renew my call and ask that following the December elections in Iraq, the U.S. negotiate a timeline to withdraw from Iraq next year.

While some have argued that announcing a timeline for withdrawal would undermine our troops and allow the insurgents to wait us out, I disagree.

Negotiating a timeline for withdrawal with the Iraqi government elected next month would show that democracy ended the U.S. occupation of Iraq, not terrorist or insurgent violence, and would allow our troops to come home with honor.

Announcing the termination of the open-ended U.S. military commitment in Iraq and

providing a concrete plan, including a timeline negotiated with the Iraqi government, for withdrawal could also undermine support for insurgents who have stoked the wide variety of grievances of ordinary Iraqis arising from the occupation to generate popular support for their cause. Most importantly, establishing a withdrawal plan and timeline would remove one of the chief causes of instability in Iraq, the occupation itself, by separating nationalist Iraqi insurgents trying to end the occupation, both Sunni and Shia, from foreign elements in Iraq for their own reasons. To the extent that a specific withdrawal plan, with benchmarks for measuring success in stabilizing Iraq, would turn Iraqis, both Sunni and Shia, against the foreign terrorists operating in Iraq, it could be a key turning point in stabilizing the country. Remember, the insurgency is made up of two primary camps—nationalist Sunnis and foreign terrorists. These two camps have different motivations and different goals.

A timeline and withdrawal plan negotiated with the Iraqi government would also boost the Iraqi government's legitimacy and claim to self-rule and would force the Iraqi government to take responsibility for itself and its citizens.

Just as importantly, a specific plan and timeline for withdrawal would provide much needed relief to over-burdened military personnel and their families and provide some certainty to U.S. taxpayers regarding the ultimate financial burden they'll be forced to bear.

A plan for withdrawal could also help the United States in our broader fight against Islamic extremists with global ambitions, most notably al-Qaeda, by taking away a recruiting tool and training ground. Porter Goss, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, testified to Congress earlier this year that, "Islamic extremists are exploiting the Iraqi conflict to recruit new anti-U.S. jihadists. These jihadists who survive will leave Iraq experienced and focused on acts of urban terrorism." He went on to say, "The Iraq conflict, while not a cause of extremism, has become a cause for extremists." And, the Commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, General George Casey, testified to Congress earlier this year that "the perception of occupation in Iraq is a major driving force behind the insurgency. "

Finally, establishing a firm timeline for withdrawal could accelerate the development of Iraqi security forces and deepen their commitment to defending their own country and their own government by eliminating the conflicted feelings they now feel by working with an occupying force. It would allow them to be defending a sovereign Iraqi government, rather than fighting on the side of an occupation force.

The House should be debating this important issue and strategies for moving forward in Iraq instead of politically motivated straw man resolutions.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I want our troops home as soon as anyone here, but I will not let the sacrifices of those who will never come home from Iraq and Afghanistan be wasted or forgotten.

Our brave men and women went to battle to bring freedom to Iraq and Afghanistan, and to take the fight to the terrorists so that we do not have to fight them here at home. This is a fight for the free world. It is a fight that we must win, and it is a fight that we will win only when we support our troops.

Let us work across the aisle to help them succeed and get them home safely, and let us honor their sacrifice by continuing to support their vital mission.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in disgust at the level of cynicism that is represented by this resolution.

This exercise by the House Republican leadership is about as un-American and contemptuous as it gets.

I support Mr. MURTHA's resolution to bring about an end to U.S. operations in Iraq in—and I quote—"at the earliest practicable date."

The resolution before us is not about that.

This resolution is a blatant political effort to make it look like the President's Iraq policy has broad support in Congress and among the public—which it obviously does not.

Worse, it transforms the sacrifice of our brave troops into crass political exercise.

Mr. Speaker, I have opposed this war from the beginning.

I wasn't convinced of the need for it and deeply concerned about the potential fallout that it could precipitate.

Sadly, many of my concerns have been borne out, as nearly 2,100 brave Americans have lost their lives and many thousands more have been wounded.

Today, the insurgency continues unabated and now Iraq is a hotbed of terrorist activity.

We are less secure today than before we invaded.

As a result, America's position and influence in the world have suffered greatly in the process.

I believe it is long past time that the administration produce an exit strategy for Iraq and am deeply disappointed that all we have seen is more of the same arrogance and incompetence that got us here in the first place.

I am not surprised by Representative MURTHA's statement yesterday.

Mr. MURTHA's distinguished military career, and his decades of public service, have given him a level of expertise on defense issues virtually unparalleled in today's Congress.

He understands the troops and their leadership, and the challenges faced by the military in times of war and peace far better than most.

I am sure his announcement is the result of long and careful consideration and demands the attention of all thinking Americans.

I am shocked, but not surprised, by the shameful response of some of my Republican colleagues in Congress and by officials in the White House who have sought to besmirch Mr. MURTHA's motivations and accumen.

Today's action by the House leadership is more of the same—an attempt to smear a man of honor who commits the unpardonable sin of disagreeing with them.

Fortunately, I know that as time goes on Mr. MURTHA's call for a serious reassessment of our position in Iraq will be recognized as thoughtful analysis of a policy in deep trouble and need for change.

I only hope that President Bush and his administration will discover that truth before more lives are lost in this very tragic situation.

Speaker J. DENNIS HASTERT declared: "MURTHA and Democratic leaders have adopted a policy of cut and run. They would prefer that the United States surrender to the terrorists who would harm innocent Americans. To add insult to injury, this is done while the President is on foreign soil."

Majority Leader ROY BLUNT informed MURTHA that his views "only embolden our enemies" and lamented that "Democrats undermine our troops in Iraq from the security of their Washington, DC, offices."

At a rival news conference called four hours after MURTHA's appearance, Representative J.D. HAYWORTH, who like HASTERT and BLUNT does not have military service on his résumé, alerted the 73-year-old MURTHA that "the American people are made of sterner stuff." And Representative JOHN CARTER said the likes of MURTHA want to take "the cowardly way out and say, 'We're going to surrender.' "

The White House accused a senior House Democrat—and a decorated Vietnam veteran—who called for a swift withdrawal from Iraq of advocating surrender, comparing him to anti-war filmmaker Michael Moore.

In a broadside issued Thursday night, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said that it is "baffling that [Pennsylvania Representative JOHN MURTHA] is endorsing the policy positions of Michael Moore and the extreme liberal wing of the Democratic party."

MURTHA, whose brand of hawkishness has never been qualified by the word "chicken," was expecting the attacks. "I like guys who've never been there to criticize us who've been there. I like that," the burly old marine said, hands in pocket. Referring to Vice President CHENEY, he continued: "I like guys who got five deferments and never been there, and send people to war, and then don't like to hear suggestions about what needs to be done."

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I am disappointed by the limitation placed on debate on the U.S. role in Iraq.

Congress needs to have a real and meaningful debate on the future role of the U.S. military in Iraq as we approach the third anniversary of our invasion of Iraq. Congress should take seriously its obligation to oversee our military forces.

I voted against giving the President the authority to go to war in Iraq. I have been an outspoken critic of the President's handling and planning for the Iraq War, and have criticized both the pre-war intelligence used by the President and the failure of the President to plan a realistic transition from a dictatorship to a democracy in Iraq with our allies.

I commend the Senate for the debate it had this week in which real policy options were reviewed in a serious and responsible manner. I agree that 2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, and that Iraqi security forces must take the lead in protecting its citizens. U.S. military forces should not stay in Iraq any longer than required, and Congress must insist on measurable benchmarks for bringing our troops home.

Our soldiers have paid the heaviest price in Iraq: thousands are dead, and tens of thousands are wounded. The American taxpayer has already invested hundreds of billions of dollars. Mr. Speaker, our soldiers deserve better than the resolution we are considering this evening. The American people deserve a Congress that will give serious consideration to how we can safely bring our soldiers home.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution, which is nothing more than an effort to politicize one of the most serious policy issues facing the United States today. It is nothing more than an effort to disguise—in a cloak of partisan rhetoric—the fact that our Iraq policy is failing.

The facts are clear: Even as our brave men and women in uniform have done their best,

the Administration has failed at every turn to execute the war in Iraq competently. The President rushed to war based on false and faulty intelligence against the protests of the vast majority of our allies. Warnings from U.S. commanders about troop levels and equipment went unheeded, haphazard decisions were made at the earliest stages which seriously damaged our efforts to restore peace and security in Iraq. Our troops have become targets of an ever-strengthening insurgency. This Administration's horrendous judgment has put us in an untenable situation—damaging our ability to deal with other emerging threats around the world and threatening the stability of the Middle East.

The solution to Iraq's problems will be political in nature, not military. The various factions in Iraq need to come together to decide what shape the future of their country will take and to execute that decision. Every diplomatic avenue must be pursued to engage the international community in bringing stability and security to Iraq and reconstructing critical infrastructure. We must assure the Iraqi people that we do not intend to stay in Iraq indefinitely, and that we will redeploy troops in a way that assures their safety and on a schedule pegged to successes in security force training and other criteria. Iraqi security forces must take control of their own country as soon as they are able.

This redeployment must be carried out in a way that does not leave Iraq as a playground for Iran, Syria, and al-Qaeda. It must be carried out at the earliest possible time we are reasonably assured that the conditions exist to ensure redeployment will leave U.S. interests in the Middle East and around the world more, rather than less, secure.

Mr. Speaker, hasty decision-making is what got us into this mess in the first place. The war in Iraq, and the men and women in uniform who are fighting the war, deserve more than ad hoc, 11th-hour debates over political power plays. I urge my colleagues to oppose the resolution.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, this Republican withdrawal resolution was drafted in haste.

No matter how you felt about getting into this war, our kids are there now. They're in the middle of harm's way, right now. As many thousands of families, friends and loved ones can tell you—they've been over there a long time.

I'm a member of the Armed Services Committee. I voted against going to war with Iraq without exhausting all our diplomatic efforts. But here we are. We didn't do that.

I've been to Iraq. I've sat through scores of hearings on Iraq. I've spoken to the Secretary of Defense. I've spoken with our military commanders. Like everyone here tonight, I've lost sleep over it. I've given it a lot of thought. I know my colleagues have too. I know that.

Let's calm down for a second. Let's look at the choice before us tonight.

On one hand, House Republican DUNCAN HUNTER is asking us to withdraw our troops immediately without protection or support. On the other hand, the White House is asking us just to keep our troops on the same course.

I can't choose either of these options in good conscience. Honestly, I don't see how any of us can.

To put it simply, we have more options than "all or nothing" here tonight.

We should be looking for the "better course" not the "same course."

There is no military solution to Iraq. We've got to look to diplomacy and joint civilian-military efforts. This war has demonstrated the need for trained civilian professionals who can provide continuity and hand-in-glove partnerships with Iraqi citizens.

Everywhere I've gone and everyone I've talked to has cited the need for this.

It was obvious early on that the future of Iraq depends on Iraqis. And yet, the administration is only now beginning to place an emphasis on training Iraq's own security forces.

James Fallows of the Atlantic Monthly wrote recently, "an orderly exit from Iraq depends on the development of a viable Iraqi security force. But the Iraqis aren't even close. The Bush administration doesn't take the problem seriously—and it never has."

We have other options besides this draconian resolution. It's too bad we're not able to have hearings on those. It's too bad we're not able to consider these other options tonight.

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the men and women who are so bravely serving our country in Iraq and around the world.

Our best and bravest continue to perform selflessly and admirably. We owe them our deepest respect and appreciation.

We also have an obligation to provide them, and the American people, with a clear set of objectives, a comprehensive strategy to achieve these objectives, and a roadmap to return home once these objectives are achieved. But, the Bush Administration has not done this.

My colleagues, people all across the country, Republicans and Democrats, want to know why our intelligence was wrong. They want to know why our troops don't have the necessary body armor. They want to know what our objectives are and what progress has been made in achieving them. And, they want to know what concrete steps must be taken to achieve troop withdrawals.

Yet, the Administration's only response to these legitimate questions is to criticize those that ask them as unpatriotic and provide the empty rhetoric of "stay the course". This is irresponsible, morally reprehensible and shameful—to our troops, to the American people, and to our democracy. It demoralizes our mission and is a direct challenge to the freedom and liberty that so many of our troops have fought and died for.

It is Congress's fundamental responsibility to investigate whether faulty intelligence led us to war; to provide our troops with the necessary training, equipment, and supplies; and to ensure that our nation has a clearly defined strategy to achieve success in Iraq and provide for the return of our troops.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that Congress fulfills our obligations. Our troops have shown time and time again that when presented with a challenge, they will achieve it. They have done their part; it is time we do our part.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the sham piece of legislation before us. It is not designed to express the will of the House on Iraq. It is a political stunt intended to avoid a deeply serious, much-needed debate on the most pressing issue facing our country today.

Yesterday, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, introduced a resolution calling for the redeployment of American forces from Iraq. The resolution would require us to maintain a sizeable quick reaction force in the region, and to reinvigorate our diplomatic efforts to bring about peace and security for the Iraqi people by truly internationalizing our efforts there.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, has correctly observed that at present, our policy in Iraq "is a flawed policy wrapped in illusion," and that we cannot continue on this present course, because to do so is to court disaster. Based on visits to Iraq, discussion with military leaders there and in Washington, he said that the continued presence of our troops does not advance our security nor that of Iraq. He also said that the American people are way out in front of the Congress on this issue. In all of these things, he spoke the truth.

But in the eyes of the majority and the Bush White House, the gentleman's resolution is, in the words of White House spokesman Scott McClellan "a surrender to the terrorists." They have accused him—as they have others who dare to question their failed policy in Iraq—of being unpatriotic. Sadly, this is a tactic we have seen before. But it is deeply corrosive and it must stop. Every American has the right to question their leaders, period.

There is a reason the majority and the President don't want to be questioned about Iraq. There are several reasons, in fact. This war was started based on faulty and misrepresented intelligence. It has been prosecuted without the number of troops or the amount of equipment that was known to be necessary before it started. And today, it continues without broad international cooperation or an exit strategy. Answering questions about any and all of these is admittedly difficult. But hiding from the answers is not only cowardly, it is irresponsible. I too have visited our troops in Iraq, and they are best served if we face the truth—with the humility that come from recognizing their valor, dedication, and sacrifice.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania has said, things are not going as advertised in Iraq, and the American people know it. Three years of mistakes and even falsehoods—about the threat Saddam posed, about the ease of total victory, about how Iraqi oil would pay for reconstruction, about the cost to America's military and budget, among others—have finally caught up with this Administration and the Congressional leadership. The gentleman from Pennsylvania offers a plan for getting us out of Iraq strategically, methodically, and successfully. It outlines a way forward for our country to deal with the number one moral and political issue confronting our nation today. We should be debating his proposal, not mocking it.

Meeting the challenge that faces us in Iraq requires courage and honesty. The actions of the majority show neither today. I am sorely disappointed that they have chosen to act so irresponsibly.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, there has never been a time like this in America's history.

Never before has a full-scale assault been launched on Americans who offer a different point of view about the policies of an administration, especially when it concerns a war on foreign soil.

Almost 3 years ago, I went to Iraq as part of a humanitarian delegation. When I said in

response to a media question that the President would mislead America into war, the White House immediately launched a relentless attack on me. They spared no political or public relations weapon, surrogate or ploy, in their attempt to silence me.

Republicans, at the direction of the White House, launched a full-scale assault on me, because they feared what might happen if the American people actually had an opportunity to consider an alternative point of view. If they could shout me down, they could silence anyone's question about the evidence before waging war.

In the last 24 hours, a similar campaign has been launched against Representative JOHN MURTHA of Pennsylvania. Here is an esteemed Member of Congress, a decorated combat veteran, a conservative known for his strong stand on defense, and the Republicans and their cronies launch an offensive that, itself, is offensive.

Representative JOHN MURTHA stood up yesterday and spoke on behalf of the American people. He called for the deployment of U.S. soldiers out of Iraq, beginning immediately. He called for a diplomatic solution. And Republicans and their surrogates have called him every foul and offensive name imaginable.

The conduct of the Republican Party and its surrogates is despicable, but it is out in the open for the first time. Now, the American people understand the lengths to which the Republican Party will go to silence dissent in America. Now, the American people know that there is a war being fought in America over the war in Iraq.

The American people are demanding an end to the presence of U.S. soldiers in Iraq because the American people know there is no such thing as a military victory in an urban, guerilla warfare. There is only occupation, and the American people want no part of that flawed and futile mission.

The American people overwhelming want a solution for Iraq that is negotiated by diplomats from the Arab world, not dictated by a President from the western world.

Representative JOHN MURTHA has set forth a plan that resonates with the American people, and that's what frightens the White House. Therefore, the attacks will not stop unless and until Republicans can silence dissent in America.

There is a plan now for winning the peace in Iraq. It may have been submitted by a Member of Congress, but it is the voice and will of the American people. The American people get it: You are not strong on defense, by strong arming a defenseless—and senseless—war.

I support the Murtha plan to win the peace in Iraq.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, for over 2 years, the Bush administration has failed to offer the American people a truthful and meaningful dialogue on the war in Iraq. We have lost thousands of troops and we have spent billions of dollars, and yet the President refuses to offer a credible strategy for success. The President has misled the public and he refuses to acknowledge the truth of the reality in Iraq.

Hundreds of Members of Congress and millions of Americans have voiced very serious and very real concerns with the decisions being made by the White House. Although I voted against the war, once the President took us to war, I have supported the men and women in uniform who are serving our Nation. However, I continue to believe that unless we have a clear strategy, we will continue to see the loss of American lives in Iraq with no end in sight.

Unfortunately, today, instead of having a legitimate debate about strategy and consequences, the majority has chosen to waste the time of this body and the American people by bringing forth a blatantly political resolution that is difficult to take seriously. My colleague from Pennsylvania, a Vietnam veteran decorated with two Purple Hearts and a Member of the House for three decades, Mr. MURTHA, yesterday offered a well thought out, principled resolution calling for the redeployment of the forces in Iraq at the ''earliest practicable date.'' In addition, despite what some in the majority have characterized during today's debate as cutting and running, Mr. MURTHA's resolution calls for a continued military presence in the region through the deployment of a quick-reaction force and an over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines. Also, the resolution states that the U.S. shall continue to pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomatic means.

It is important to note that the word ''immediate'' does not appear anywhere in Mr. MURTHA's resolution. Yet we find ourselves today debating a resolution introduced by the chair of the House Armed Services Committee that calls for the ''immediate withdrawal'' of American troops. The fact that this was introduced by the House Armed Services Committee and the fact that he along with colleagues in the majority will be voting against his own resolution demonstrates not only the lack of clear ideas from their side of the aisle but also a lack of willingness to have a true debate.

Today, the majority once again shunned their responsibility in having an open debate on the war in Iraq, and instead they and the President continue to attack those who disagree with them by questioning their patriotism. Rather than engaging in an open dialogue to debate the issue, the majority chose to engage in personal destruction and politicized the issue by voicing empty rhetoric. They chose to question the patriotism of those who have served in uniform and who have honorably served their country. And they chose to continue to hide from the American public the facts of this war.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, 2005, my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, the ranking Democrat on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee—a 27 year Marine and a veteran of 3 tours in Vietnam—announced that he was introducing a resolution that was meant to stimulate a thoughtful and profound debate on how we salvage a failed policy in Iraq.

Recently, a Texas soldier became the 2,000th member of the U.S. armed forces to die in Iraq since the conflict there began in March 2003. Like any milestone, the death of that soldier is an occasion to look back and see what lessons can be learned from our country's bitter sacrifice in Iraq over the past 2½ years. One such lesson, underlined anew by the continuing deaths of Americans and Iraqis, is the need to limit our country's commitment to Iraq.

Instead of creating a significant dialogue on this issue, Republican leadership has chosen to divide this House by generating phony, cynical, political, outrageously tricky and sneaky maneuvers like this.

Mr. Speaker, too often, so many of my colleagues are reluctant to challenge this Administration's policies in Iraq for fear that anything other than staying the course will somehow appear weak. But the President's course is misguided, and it is doing grave damage to our extraordinarily professional and globally admired all-volunteer United States Army. To stand by while this damage is done is not patriotic. It is not supportive. It is not tough on terrorism, or strong on national security.

Because I am proud of our men and women in uniform, and because I am committed to working with all of my colleagues to make this country more secure, I am convinced that we must change our course and I commend Mr. MURTHA for standing up for what is right.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what the Republicans have done today is nothing more than a cheap political trick . . . a clever but appallingly undemocratic way for the Republican majority to trash an honorable American—and decorated war veteran—simply because he disagrees with them on the war in Iraq.

Yet, no one should be surprised. My 5-year old grandson could have written this tired script: whenever a Democrat criticizes a Republican policy, they attack your character and question your patriotism.

And while we're on the subject, let's just ask: what is more patriotic than opposing an unjust war? What is more patriotic than trying to save the lives of America's soldiers? What is more patriotic than questioning the Bush Administration's failed Iraq policy?

The American people deserve better than this. They deserve a thorough and substantive debate on the war and a debate on the Murtha resolution . . . not a bill that can't be amended and has been brought to the House floor for purely political reasons.

Mr. Speaker, a group of Democrats has written a discharge petition to bring the Homeward Bound legislation, H. J. Res. 55, to the House floor.

The discharge petition will allow 17 hours of debate on this vitally important issue. And, in sharp contrast to the bill the Republicans introduced today, it would be brought up under an open rule that allows amendments to be introduced to the bill.

The fact that the other party refuses to have this debate—and the insults that have been hurled at Mr. MURTHA over the last 24 hours—are an affront to our very democracy. I urge my colleagues on the other side to repudiate these appalling tactics and hold a real debate on this issue.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and oppose the underlying resolution.

Calling for an immediate withdrawal, or even a detailed planned phased withdrawal, from Iraq is a recipe for disaster, a dangerous defense policy, the wrong message for our soldiers and Marines who are truly doing the 'work of freedom.'

Frankly, I am concerned that such talk will only embolden the terrorists and demoralize our warfighters—those who put their lives on the line, literally every day.

Domestic politics should not trump our promises to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan that we would be loyal to their aspirations for freedom—that we would see them through

the difficult steps of constituting a new government, laying the groundwork for free elections.

Our only 'exit strategy' from Iraq should be victory. Anything less than that virtually guarantees the next battleground may be closer to home!''

Mr. Speaker, we have to choose where we want to fight the global war on terrorism—in Iraq and Afghanistan or on Main Street in America.

And we must never forget that it is our brave young warfighters—men and women of the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force—who are taking the fight to the terrorists overseas!

They are all volunteers—doing the unheralded work of rebuilding shattered nations.

If not for their service, Saddam Hussein would still be in power with all his trappings—the secret police, the torture chambers, the mass graveyards. God bless these young people.

If not for their service, Iraq would be a nation engulfed in civil war or in the hands of fanatical terrorists.

The targets of these terrorists are more often than not other Muslims—worshippers at Friday prayers inside their mosque slaughtered by suicide bombers—today—and moderate Muslims who reject their extremist views and work to provide for their families, run businesses or serve in the government. Indeed, the terrorists' victims include thousands of Muslims in Iraq—many killed simply because they've chosen to be free.

Mr. Speaker, with our support, the Iraqis have made great progress. They established an interim government. They elected members of a constitutional conference. They've drafted a constitution and conducted a referendum to endorse that constitution. And in 3 weeks, they will hold a full-fledged parliamentary election.

None of this would have been possible without the contribution of our young warfighters.

Of course, at times like these, we are reminded that freedom is not free. America has paid a heavy price.

Many of us visit soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Bethesda Naval Medical Center on a regular basis. Many of us have attended painful funerals and comforted grieving families. Time and again, those families of wounded soldiers speak proudly of their loved ones' service in Iraq—their humanitarian efforts to protect the innocent, rebuild schools and hospitals, repair the infrastructure of a civil society.

Let's support our troops—and their families. And let's applaud their service and heroism.

I urge adoption of this rule and the underlying resolution.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership today demonstrates that they have no sense of decency left. No question before Congress requires a more measured, thoughtful discussion than matters of war and peace. Our national security and the lives of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines depend on our ability to fulfill our constitutional responsibilities with dignity and respect.

That measured, thoughtful discussion will not occur today, because the Republican leadership does not want it to occur. They want a quick vote, with limited debate, on a same-day resolution that they hope will divide Democrats. They have taken Representative JACK MURTHA's proposal, rewritten to make it irresponsible, and brought it to the floor for a vote.

Almost everything we were told by the advocates of invading Iraq before the war has turned out to be false. This administration and its congressional allies hyped the threat and manipulated American intelligence about Iraq's nuclear program and its alleged connection to al Qaeda.

Today, there is only one question about our occupation of Iraq. It weighs on the minds of almost all Americans, especially those with loved ones in the military. That question is, simply, when and under what conditions will we withdraw our troops and bring them home?

Opinions differ. After 2½ years, over 2,000 deaths and 15,000 wounded, millions of Americans and many Members of Congress believe it is time for us to start the process of withdrawal from Iraq. Some believe in a date certain for beginning or completing the withdrawal. Some believe our withdrawal should be tied to achievement of certain benchmarks of progress. President Bush appears to believe that only total ''victory over the terrorists,'' whatever that is, would justify withdrawal.

The historic task of this Congress in foreign policy is to participate in a constructive debate that will inform the decisions of the administration and others.

The Republican leadership has dishonored the people's House by foregoing debate on alternatives, not just debate but hearings, in favor of bringing one resolution to the floor in the hope of dividing critics of the administration's ''stay the course'' war strategy.

I voted against giving President Bush the authority to invade Iraq without building a broad international coalition and obtaining explicit U.N. authority. I did not believe he would do anything, given the authority from Congress, but rush to war. And that is what he did.

No Member of Congress is more respected or more knowledgeable about the American military than JACK MURTHA of Pennsylvania. His statement yesterday calling for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq, including his conviction that we cannot accomplish more militarily, deserves thoughtful consideration. He will not get that today.

Instead, JACK MURTHA, decorated Marine, distinguished Member of Congress, has been vilified by the Speaker of this House, who wrongly accused him of adopting ''a policy of cut and run'' and preferring that ''the United States surrender to the terrorists.'' The White House spokesman accused Mr. MURTHA of endorsing ''Michael Moore and the extreme liberal wing of the Democratic Party.''

I doubt that JACK MURTHA knows Michael Moore, and no one here that I know ever called him a liberal. We call him Mr. MURTHA because he is one tough Marine.

If I were the author of his resolution, I would have written it somewhat differently. I would have called for the withdrawal of American forces to begin next year and be concluded except for a very small training force of advisors in 2007. We cannot allow Iraq to become a failed state where al Qaeda forces can be trained with impunity. Therefore, some rapid reaction force in the region, as JACK MURTHA suggested, should be available.

But on the big picture, JACK MURTHA is right. Our troops have become not only the targets of the insurgents, but the inspiration for the insurgency. Political success for the Iraqi government and people is still possible, but it will have to be won largely by political means. The Administration is, as he said, pursuing ''a flawed policy wrapped in illusion.''

The Republican Leadership has rigged this debate to serve their own political interests. I believe that the Murtha resolution calling for withdrawal is the right policy going forward, though we should continue to debate timing and benchmarks. A vote against the Murtha resolution, if it were offered, could be interpreted as support for the Administration's flawed and failed ''stay the course'' policy.

JACK MURTHA is on the right track. The President is not. Our national security and the lives and well-being of our troops depend on changing course, not doing the same old thing in Iraq.

If the Murtha Resolution had been brought to the floor today, I would have voted in favor of it.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I voted to give President Bush the authority to go into Iraq. I'm not on the left; I'm not on the right. I'm on the side of our country and I'm on the side of our troops. I can't imagine why the Republicans have brought this Bush-Hunter resolution to the floor. How does this help our troops serving in Iraq? How does this help make our Nation safer?

For the past two years, the Republicans have taken any criticism of this war and labeled it as unpatriotic and as an attack on our troops. Criticizing the way the war has been prosecuted—criticizing the way it has been bungled—is not unpatriotic. It is the ultimate act of patriotism.

JOHN MURTHA is a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps. He served in Vietnam. He was awarded the bronze star. He received two purple hearts. Now Mr. MURTHA has provoked an important debate—one we should be having in this body. Mr. MURTHA has the right to have these ideas discussed. Our troops have the right to have these ideas discussed. The American public has the right to have these ideas discussed.

We send young men and women to war. We are responsible for them. We must be diligent in our oversight. That's our duty.

What we are doing here tonight is a waste of time and does a tremendous disservice to our troops. Talk about patriotism—this is not patriotism. This is a cheap political stunt and an affront to those serving our Nation so far from home.

The President wants to stay the course. What does that mean? 700 attacks a week against our troops; no winning strategy; no plan; no end in sight.

Let us not embarrass ourselves any further, and vote against the Hunter resolution.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am disgusted by the course of events today. As the daughter of a veteran of two wars I am offended and outraged by this personal assault on decorated war veteran Congressman JOHN MURTHA.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has lost any sense of decorum or decency. Their abuse of power is obscene. There will be a reckoning though. Because the American people want accountability, not more Republican cover-ups. The American people want honesty, not more misleading and manipulation. They want to end this unnecessary and senseless war, not a policy of 'stay the course' that has no goals, no benchmarks, no plans, and no end.

The Republican majority's effort in distorting and politicizing the resolution offered by a decorated war veteran is nothing short of despicable. The reality is that these are desperate actions by a desperate majority and a desperate administration. This last minute effort isn't about a debate on the issues the Murtha resolution raises. It isn't about how intelligence was misused by the administration. But it should be. It isn't about how we are going to bring our troops home. But it should be. This resolution is just about politics.

I support the Murtha resolution and this is not the Murtha resolution. Reject this cynical and disgraceful stunt from a party devoid of ideas on ending the war in Iraq and how to safely bring our troops home. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule and ''no'' on the resolution.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today's House debate on Iraq was sharply partisan and not what our soldiers deserve. Our future course in Iraq must be determined thoughtfully and strategically. The partisan shouting match that broke out was unnecessarily launched by House leaders who rushed to the floor a flawed resolution which was more of a political stunt than a serious reflection of views in the Congress.

Our brave soldiers have put their lives on the line in serving in Iraq. Each of them deserves so much more from Congress by way of effective leadership than the shrill squabbling that broke out on the House floor today. We need to come together on an exit strategy for our soldiers based upon the transition of security to the Iraqis themselves in order to give the new democratic government of the people of Iraq a fair chance of success.

It is my hope the partisan screamers holding forth on the House floor today would lower their voices, travel to the area, learn as much as possible and then participate constructively in the difficult decisions we face on Iraq.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives is sinking to a new low today. What is happening on the floor is not intended to be an open and honest debate on our policy in Iraq. It is about the politics of personal destruction—a swift-boat attack by Congressional Republicans on a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps for giving his honest assessment about the situation in Iraq.

Republicans will try to claim—falsely—that this is about an idea, not a person—but everyone here in this room—whether or not they will admit it—knows the truth of what is going on today. This is about changing the subject and dodging responsibility. House Republicans are exposed and embarrassed by the Senate's recent vote to demand benchmarks from the White House. The President refuses to level with the American people on Iraq, or present his ideas, and apparently House Republicans are of the same mind. They would rather tear someone down.

Our troops—putting their lives on the line—deserve better from this country. Today is clearly not about these brave men and women. It is about political attacks.

JACK MURTHA is one of the most respected members of the U.S. Congress on U.S. military policy—an expertise he has built from his first-hand knowledge of military and defense issues. He is a 37-year veteran of the Marine Corps, who retired at the rank of colonel in 1990. He is one of the most respected members of the U.S. Congress on the U.S. military, on a bipartisan basis. To question JACK MURTHA'S commitment—his patriotism to this nation—or our troops is ludicrous. No one has been as devoted as JACK to our men and women in the military—he's made weekly visits to Walter Reed, visits to Iraq and has poured over the Defense Department's own assessments of the situation on the ground in Iraq.

I will vote against the GOP's characterization of Congressman MURTHA'S opinions on Iraq, because I cannot support personal, political attacks and I believe that we should have a free and open debate on this issue.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this Republican stunt and their efforts to embarrass a decorated Vietnam War Veteran.

Yesterday, Congressman JOHN MURTHA, a Democrat with impeccable military credentials and an honored military record, suggested that U.S. troops leave Iraq at the earliest practicable date. Today, I cosponsored that resolution. His knowledgeable and respected voice joins the loud and clear pleas of the Out of Iraq Caucus—of which I am a proud member. His voice joins former generals, intelligence officers, Presidents, and mothers and fathers across America who know that we are mired in a war that cannot be won and to truly honor our troops, we need to bring them home.

Unfortunately, tonight the Republican leadership refused to bring Mr. Murtha's resolution to a vote. I can only presume because Mr. Murtha's resolution made too much sense. Instead, the Republican leadership is offering a sham-resolution in an attempt to embarrass and insult a member of Congress who has served his country nobly in uniform—something most of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle know nothing about.

Perhaps the Republican Leadership's time would be better spent in an effort to finish the business of this country instead of wasting hours attempting to besmirch the record of a decorated Vietnam War Veteran and demagogue an issue that demands honest consideration.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I served in a war during which too many national leaders played too much politics. Tonight is a disgraceful period in the history of our great country and this House of Representatives.

To wage a political war against one of the greatest military champions Congress has known is no less than unpatriotic. Advocates of this measure are cheapening the job our brave men and women serving in Iraq are doing; the men and women putting their lives on the line to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, those who dreamed up this strategy are derelict in their duties, absent without leave from their duty station; and people I wouldn't want to share a foxhole with.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 571 completely dishonors our troops by politicizing an issue that deserves careful deliberation. The GOP leadership of this body has brought this counterfeit legislation to the floor not to benefit our brave men and women in uniform, but to score cheap political points.

I fully support legitimate initiatives which present a thoughtful strategy for withdrawing our troops from Iraq in a manner that secures their safety and Iraq's future. I am a cosponsor of two resolutions which would support this urgent objective. Yet this phony bill chooses politics over policy at the expense of real debate on a critical national issue.

Over 2,000 troops have been killed and over 15,500 have been seriously wounded. Reports indicate that at least 30,000 Iraqi civilians have lost their lives due to this conflict. It is a sad day for this country when, in response to this crucial issue, the best the GOP leadership can do is resort to backhanded political stunts.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, I argued against the Bush Administration's proposal to attack Iraq for the very reasons we have seen emerge from this troubled region. We were prepared to defeat Saddam Hussein's military but the administration and congressional leaders were never prepared to win the peace.

Not only was the premise for the war flawed, but the administration has made the wrong military, political, and diplomatic choices at every turn. The members of our armed services make up the finest fighting force in the world and they have done their duty with great distinction and honor, yet the administration has failed them as well.

I take no satisfaction in my worst fears having been proven correct. The administration's spectacular failures in executing this war have set back our efforts against terrorism and left America with no good options in Iraq. But, as our military is being not just frayed but damaged and Iraq faces increasingly difficult prospects for democracy and stability, staying the course is simply not an option.

Until now, I have resisted advocating for an accelerated pullout because of my fear of the downward spiral that could occur in the aftermath. Yet this is a question that must be faced sooner rather than later, and it's hard to imagine a policy that would be more destabilizing than the administration's current mismanagement of the war effort and continued estrangement from reality.

There is no longer any basis for the hope that a sustained American military occupation will stabilize Iraq. Instead, we continue to lose credibility and influence in the region and with our allies, as well as strengthen the hands of those extremists who wish to do us harm. Even many of those who initially supported military action have come to admit that the administration's strategy has failed and that a large United States military presence inhibits the development of a stable and democratic Iraq. Iraqis in key positions are arguing for at least some withdrawal of US. forces. Most telling is a recent poll of Iraqis themselves, commissioned by the British Ministry of Defense, which showed that 82 percent of Iraqis were ''strongly opposed'' to the presence of foreign troops and less than 1 percent believe the their presence is helping to improve security.

Iraq's future depends on creating a secure space for politics and the rule of law to replace violence. This is a process at which only Iraqis themselves can succeed, with America and the international community playing a supporting role. Elections scheduled for December provide the perfect opportunity to begin the withdrawal of American troops, a refocused U.S. effort, and transfer of responsibility to Iraqis.

American forces should be redeployed out of Iraq in two phases. First, let's bring the 46,000 National Guard and Reserve forces home immediately. These elements in our total force have been most overburdened by

ever-increasing deployments and are most needed here in the United States.

Continued U.S. aid and military support must be tied to performance objectives for the Iraqi government and military. On that basis, the rest of the American forces should be withdrawn over the next one to two years, based on a detailed plan for the sector by sector transfer of security responsibility. The majority of these troops should be brought home. Others should be redeployed to Afghanistan to create a larger security footprint and help prevent the reemergence of the Taliban. A small rapid-reaction force should be left in Kuwait that can protect against any destabilizing coups.

The administration must reengage diplomatically by seeking a new United Nations resolution that supports international efforts to stabilize Iraq and by beginning a regional security dialogue with Iraq's neighbors. We should also work with the Arab League to facilitate a renewed effort towards a political solution within Iraq by engaging with nationalist faction leaders who might be a force for stability in that country if U.S. troops were withdrawn.

We must also change the nature of our economic assistance. By shifting reconstruction aid to Iraq away from large projects undertaken by foreign contractors towards small, locally oriented projects run by Iraqis, we create jobs, give Iraqis a greater investment in their success, and minimize corruption and price-gouging.

President Bush's model of ''go it alone, do it cheap, and put it on a credit card'' has not only led to grave instability in Iraq, it is crippling our ability to deal with the more serious strategic threats, from Iran and North Korea to a terrorist movement that we have inadvertently strengthened. We must now do our best to salvage what we still can of American credibility, military readiness, democratic ideals, and Iraqi stability through a change in strategy and the beginning of a responsible phase-down of American troops and the orderly transfer of authority to Iraqis.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the definition of ''immediate termination of United States forces in Iraq'' must mean the following as set forth by Representative JOHN MURTHA:

''My plan calls:

—To immediately redeploy U.S. troops consistent with the safety of U.S. forces.

—To create a quick reaction force in the region.

—To create over-the-horizon presence of Marines.

—To diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq.''

You may call this a position, a program, or an exit strategy but this is the Murtha message which set in motion the current proceedings on the floor of the House of Representatives. This is the declaration heard from Representative MURTHA by the American people and around the world. By all standards of decency and by popular decree the Republican leadership is mandated to respect the precedent setting language of this most detailed of all proposals for new and creative action in Iraq.

For this reason I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the resolution before us. ''That the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.''

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution and in the strongest possible opposition to the Republican smear campaign against my friend and colleague, Congressman JACK MURTHA.

JACK MURTHA is a patriot. He has served this country in wartime and peacetime and has earned an unparalleled record as a champion for our troops and their families.

JACK MURTHA is a retired Marine Colonel with more than thirty years of distinguished military service. He earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for action under enemy fire in Vietnam. He served as a USMC drill instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina boot camp. And as a foremost Congressional expert on defense matters, he has spent more than three decades helping to build a military force that is second to none in the entire world. I have been proud to serve in Congress with JACK MURTHA for nearly ten years, and I had the honor of hosting him in my Congressional District and of joining him in visiting wounded veterans of the Iraq war at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital.

Yet despite his standing and stature, Congressman MURTHA has been viciously attacked by the Republican partisans for having the temerity to raise important questions about this Administration's policies regarding Iraq. Yesterday, the Republican Speaker DENNIS HASTERT, who never served in the military, called JACK MURTHA a coward. Other Republicans in Congress and the White House have called JACK MURTHA a traitor and accused him of giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican attack machine has gone too far. Regardless of one's view of the Administration's Iraq policies, Members of this Congress deserve to offer their viewpoints without having their patriotism questioned. Indeed, the American people deserve the benefit of vigorous debate about a war that has cost us more than 2,000 soldiers killed, thousands more maimed and several hundred billion dollars of public treasure expended.

The Hunter Resolution is a cheap political trick. It is not a serious attempt at crafting public policy since Mr. HUNTER has said he intends to vote against his own resolution. Rather than engage in this petty and deceitful charade, the American people deserve a Congress that conducts the people's business in a professional manner to address the challenges facing our country here at home and around the world.

I will vote against the Hunter Resolution.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep dismay over the resolution being brought before the House tonight. The leadership of this House has responded to criticism of the war in Iraq by forcing a meaningless vote in order to shame the man who offered that critique, my good friend JACK MURTHA.

JACK is a patriotic American of the highest order, contrary to the way our colleagues on the other side of the aisle may try to portray him. He has dedicated his life to the service of his Nation, defending it for 37 years as a marine and striving to make it a better place through his 31 years as a Member of this institution. During that time, he has earned two purple hearts, a bronze star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and become one of the most respected leaders on military and Veterans issues from either party.

Rather than listening to the wise words of a man who knows better than almost any of us what our soldiers need in a time of war, many of my colleagues have taken to questioning his motives and even his character, and now House leadership has twisted his words and offered this resolution as a vehicle to humiliate this proud, honorable, and decent man. They are holding this House hostage and answering his principled and heart-felt proposal with a mean-spirited and empty resolution that is only one sentence, was not considered or debated, and was offered under the most egregious terms.

I will not be participating in this charade tonight; if I were, I certainly would vote against this resolution. It is not meant to spark a legitimate debate over the Iraq war. It is a personal attack rather than a policy statement. I find it reprehensible to subject this great and humble man to such indignity.

While I do not necessarily agree that immediate withdrawal from Iraq is the best course, I respect the conclusion reached by Mr. MURTHA through his soul-searching. Despite any disagreements any of us may have on policy, we should not come together tonight to single him out as the object of ridicule. I will not be a part of it, and I would hope that my colleagues would not either. I urge them to vote ''no'' on this shameful resolution.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague from Pennsylvania, a man whom I deeply respect and admire for his lifetime of service and sacrifice to the Nation, made a serious statement about the prosecution of the war effort by the President. His speech yesterday morning and the resolution that he introduced were heartfelt expressions that he no longer believes that we can stay the course in Iraq. Mr. MURTHA believes that the continued presence of American troops in Iraq has retarded Iraqi efforts to unify the country and that Iraqis will not take the necessary steps to restore security as long as American troops remain in the country in large numbers.

But instead of addressing the serious deficiencies in the Administration's military strategy, the majority offers this counterfeit resolution that precludes any debate on how we can improve our chance of success in the war effort.

Although there are differences within our caucus as to what our course of action in Iraq should be, we are united in our belief that the present course being followed by the administration is not working, and we must find a new course.

But how have the Vice-President and the Republican Majority in this House treated the sincere misgivings of a man who has shed blood for his country and been a staunch supporter of our men and women in the military? They have launched a vicious smear attack on Mr. MURTHA's patriotism. Indeed they have gone so far as assert that anyone who questions the wisdom of any aspect of their handling of the war is unpatriotic, and willing to give aid and comfort to the enemy. Unfortunately, the administration's inability to communicate a clear strategy for success in Iraq has caused a great many Americans to question the Nation's prosecution of the war—including some of the most devoted, most patriotic and most courageous of Americans. People like former Senator Max Cleland, and now JACK MURTHA.

But I believe that Senator CHUCK HAGEL has it right—the willingness to question, to prod and to probe our government is what produces the best policy and leads to the best

outcomes, in war as well as in peace. The courage to question a powerful but imperfect government is much more the essence of patriotism than a coerced silence.

The administration's prosecution of the war effort has suffered from deficient planning that took the maxim of preparing for the worst and hoping for the best and turned it on its head. It failed to consider how the Sunni minority would react to being stripped of its privileged status, even as they underestimated the consequences of decades of totalitarian rule and the atomization of Iraqi society under Saddam Hussein.

Many of my colleagues and I have repeatedly called upon the President to do what should have been done a long time ago by laying out a strategy and vision for success in Iraq that will not condemn the Iraqi people to anarchy or turn Iraq into a haven for jihadis. We have called for proper oversight of the war effort by Congress to make certain that our troops in Iraq are properly equipped and that we are doing everything in our power to ensure their safety and success.

This House, this Congress and this Nation stand for the proposition that reasoned debate can produce wise policies that will best "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Mr. Speaker, this resolution should be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 572, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 3, noes 403, answered "present" 6, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 608]

AYES—3

McKinney
Serrano
Wexler

NOES—403

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

Capuano
Clay
Hinchey
McDermott
Nadler
Owens

NOT VOTING—22

Beauprez
Berman
Boswell
Boyd
Camp
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Flake
Fossella
Gallegly
Hall
Jindal
Kind
LaHood
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Northup
Paul
Peterson (PA)
Shadegg
Towns
Young (AK)

□ 2333

Mr. BOEHLERT and Mr. LINDER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 571. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the vote on final passage of H. Res. 571, the resolution that calls for an immediate withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. I strongly oppose this resolution and its underlying sentiment. Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 571.

PREDISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4324) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster mitigation program, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4324

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Predisaster Mitigation Program Reauthorization Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

Section 203(m) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(m)) is amended by striking "December 31, 2005" and inserting "September 30, 2008".

SEC. 3. STUDY REGARDING COST REDUCTION.

Section 209 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note; 114 Stat. 1571) is

amended by striking ''3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''September 30, 2007''.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to commend my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chairman YOUNG, Subcommittee Chairman SHUSTER and Subcommittee Democratic Ranking Member NORTON, for all of their work on this important bill. H.R. 4324, Predisaster Mitigation Act Reauthorization Act of 2005, provides funding for a competitive grant program to assist States and local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.

The Predisaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) will provide funds to states, and local governments and communities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. This program funds activities like, the seismic strengthening of buildings and infrastructure, the construction of levees and the building of ''safe rooms'' in houses and other structures to protect against high winds. It is important to note that this program complements another Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act post mitigation program—the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) which provides fund to reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss or suffering in any area affected by a major disaster.

Over the last twenty-five years, this country has had over one thousand presidential disaster declarations in the United States and the Insular Territories. These disasters have cost our nation billions of dollars and taken an untold number of lives. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma, we have all become acutely aware of the devastation natural disaster can bring. We know that these natural disasters will continue to occur and bring damage and destruction but we also know that mitigation programs like the Predisaster Mitigation Program will help save lives and property.

According to the Multihazard Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences which conducted an independent study on the costs benefits of mitigation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—mitigation saves lives and tax dollars. For every $1 spent from the United States Treasury for mitigation, we will save $3.65 for taxpayers when disaster strikes. Mitigation reduces property damage, reduces business interruption, reduces environmental damage and most importantly, it reduces societal losses, including causalities and homelessness. Moreover, the benefits of FEMA hazard mitigation grants significantly exceed their costs—by a 4 to 1 margin. In addition to providing broad-based benefits to society, FEMA hazard mitigation grants more than pay for themselves. Mr. Speaker, it is unmistakably clear, mitigation is essential to reducing the loss of lives and property in future natural disasters.

In October 2000, Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), which reauthorized the Stafford Act and created several new programs. One of those new programs was a Predisaster Mitigation Program that tasked FEMA with awarding grants to states on a competitive basis to implement predisaster mitigation plans. Again, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina as the Gulf Region begins the long and difficult process of rebuilding we can truly appreciate the importance of predisaster mitigation planning. Today, this bill extends the authorization of this program for another three years and directs the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to conduct a study on the program's effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a good bill that will save both lives, property and taxpayer funds. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to tender my resignation as Clerk effective upon the appointment of my successor November 18, 2005.

It has been an honor to serve this Institution, its people and the Nation for more than 20 years. I leave knowing the incredible ability of the people who serve here and their commitment to the people they represent.

I will especially depart with a deep sense of admiration and respect for the individuals working in and with the Office of the Clerk. I wish to thank them for their efforts over the last seven years during my tenure as Clerk of the House.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS CLERK OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 208 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 75a–1), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment as Clerk of the House of Representatives Mrs. Karen L. Haas of Maryland.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

If Mr. Vans should not be able to act in my behalf for any reason, then Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk, should similarly perform such duties under the same conditions as are authorized by this designation.

These designations shall remain in effect for the 109th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TOM DAVIS AND HON. FRANK R. WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DAVIS and the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through December 6, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Nicole Venable, Chief of Staff of the Honorable WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
November 18, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

NICOLE VENABLE,
Chief of Staff.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday

rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

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

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF TRANDAHL

(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, obviously with the very exciting day that we have had, to the Clerk, my 1-hour Special Order changed to a 5-minute Special Order, now to a 1-minute.

I just want to say thank you for the work you have done. The 32nd Clerk of the House, a native of Spearfish, South Dakota, again over 20 years of service.

We had a great reception last night where your loyal supporters and friends and folks that have worked for you were there to say thanks for a tremendous effort. You give great credit to the professional staff and working in what has to be a very challenging environment, dealing with politicians and our whims and our foibles.

□ 2340

We want to thank him for that. He has brought great credit to that in a long line of Clerks who served honorably, and we just wish for his successor great success and blessings as she takes on this great challenge in this new role.

BACKGROUND

32nd Clerk of the House.

Native of Spearfish, South Dakota.

Twenty years of House service.

Aide to: James Abdor (R–SD) in House and Senate; Virginia Smith (R–NE); Pat Roberts (R–KS); Committees on Appropriations and House Administration.

Assistant to the Clerk, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Deputy Clerk; appointed Clerk December 1998 and elected Clerk 106th through 109th Congresses.

Graduate of University of Maryland.

Begins appointment as Executive Director of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on November 21, 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS AS CLERK

Guided major House information technology initiatives to including introduction of XML technology to standardize creation and exchange of legislative information.

Oversaw creation and management of first permanent and professional House curatorial and archival services.

Oversaw flourishing of House Page Program with construction of new Page Residence Hall, and enhanced academic status and national recognition of the House Page School.

Instrumental in creation of House Office of Emergency Preparedness and leader in establishing and improving continuity of operations planning for the House.

Implemented program to expand House portraiture collection of historical House figures, including the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Hispanic-American elected to Congress.

Implemented the first electronic filing program for the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to Jeff Trandahl, the departing Clerk of the House. We are going to miss Jeff who has given over 20 years of faithful service to the United States Congress.

After rising through the ranks in Member and committee offices, in 1994 Jeff became a principle assistant to the transition team of the new Republican majority, helping to set up the first new majority in almost five decades. Jeff served as an assistant to the Clerk and then as the Acting Chief Administrative Officer of the House. In December 1998, I selected Jeff as my first officer appointment and the 32nd Clerk of the House. Jeff was subsequently elected by the House to four consecutive 2-year terms. He served on four occasions as the presiding officer for the opening of the House, overseeing the seating of Members and the election of the Speaker.

As the chief legislative official of the House, Jeff has been responsible for the daily legislative operations of the House from the day's Journal to our voting system. He has led the House Page Program, which under Jeff's leadership was recognized as a top educational institution, and he has managed the House's historical, curatorial, and archival needs.

Jeff has also been very instrumental in the development of the Capitol Visitor Center project, especially the future exhibit space. Jeff has provided valuable leadership to the House Fine Arts Board, the Capitol Preservation Commission, and the National Archives Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

Jeff's tenure as Clerk has coincided with extraordinary events, including 9/11 and anthrax. Thanks to Jeff and the other Officers of the House, the House was prepared with contingency plans. Jeff was also instrumental in making the ceremonial session in New York City to mark the 1 year anniversary of 9/11 a tremendously moving and historical event.

On both sides of the Capitol building and on both sides of the aisle, Jeff is known for his fairness, his dedication, and his hard work. As I have said before, Republican and Democratic Members of Congress alike have enormous respect for Jeff's vast institutional knowledge, his utter professionalism, and his ability to get things done—traits which have made him a very effective and successful Clerk.

I join my colleagues in wishing Jeff all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, I express our sincere gratitude for Jeff's long and faithful service.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

TROOPS IN IRAQ AND DIRE CONSEQUENCES

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it has been a meaningful and historic night. But it still deeply concerns me that there are Members of this body that have been constantly misinforming the public about pre-war intelligence on Iraq and demanding timetables for troop withdrawal. They seem to be wholly unaware of the dire consequences of even talking about pulling our troops out, let alone demanding it.

Our brave men and women in uniform have always fought desperately to preserve those unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness endowed by the Creator Himself. And that is exactly what they are doing now in Iraq, and we should all be deeply grateful for that.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I am so desperately worried about is whether the people in this body and in this Republic truly understand what we are facing, not only as a Nation, but as Western Civilization.

The question we must ask ourselves is not whether we can win this war. We must win this war. The question now is what will happen if we do not.

Mr. Speaker, I am so concerned that this Nation does not yet understand that we are at war with an ideology, an ideology that threatens the existence of the Free World. This war did not begin on 9/11. This war began many years ago when certain Muslim extremists embraced a divergent Islamist dogma that dictates that all infidels must die.

Our Nation was first attacked during its very early beginnings in the late 1700s by the Barbary terrorists of the day. More recently, we were attacked in 1979 in Iran. Our embassy and our marine barracks were attacked in Beirut in 1983. The first World Trade Center attack was in 1993, Mr. Speaker; and we still did not wake up to what was happening at the time. Our military complexes and soldiers have been targeted throughout the world. The Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996. Our embassies were blown up in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. We witnessed the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000. Mr. Speaker, 1 year later on September 11, terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 American civilians on our own soil, and I wonder tonight have we forgotten that.

Since then our soldiers and our contractors have been kidnapped and executed, their bodies mutilated and dragged through the streets.

And we are not alone, Mr. Speaker. This has taken place throughout the

world. In Serbia and Bosnia, soldiers, POWs, and civilians were beheaded by mujahideen. In Beslan, Russia, 186 children and 158 teachers and parents were slaughtered in a terrorist assault against a grade school. And just weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, in Indonesia, three young girls on their way to school were attacked and beheaded by Muslim extremists. Their names, Mr. Speaker, their names were Theresia, Ida, and Alfrita.

Churches are being attacked. Pastors have been kidnapped, tortured, and beheaded. And it seems there is not a day that goes by without a suicide or a car bomb attack in Iraq.

We have witnessed the horrific bombings in Spain, London, Indonesia, Jordan, and Israel. Rioters have completely disrupted hundreds of cities in France.

We simply cannot deny that we are fighting a war against enemies with an evil ideology that is bent on the destruction of the Western World. They are committed to killing us, Mr. Speaker, and any others that hold in their mind to be infidels.

Mr. Speaker, we truly are at war, and to undermine the sacrifice and blood-bought advancement of our valiant American soldiers who are at this very moment fighting terrorists in Iraq and across the world is unconscionable.

A nation divided against itself simply cannot stand, Mr. Speaker. And those of us in this body, along with all Americans, must unite against this evil. We must win the war in Iraq. We must give our troops unequivocal support and everything else in our power to help them finish this job. Our troops have never failed us, and we must not fail them.

Mr. Speaker, if freedom is to survive, to allow Islamist terrorists to declare war and victory in Iraq is not an option. We must win and we cannot leave before the job is done. Because if we leave too soon, Mr. Speaker, we will not be able to go on with our daily lives as we once did. Because the world has truly changed. And those without conscience are relentlessly seeking to destroy us, and we must not let them ever have even the slightest hope of victory. Not ever, Mr. Speaker.

DIPLOMATICALLY PURSUING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well tonight after a long day of debate on whether or not we should redeploy our troops from Iraq.

A careful reading of the gentleman from Pennsylvania's resolution, had we debated it, would have pointed out that the fourth point that he raised was that we have to diplomatically pursue security and stability in Iraq. It is that issue I want to talk about because the question is always raised, If we leave, will it not get worse? Will it not just explode into civil war? We have already got that. And the question must be answered as we talk about deployment from out of the country.

At the same time, we have to decide to call on the Arab League or the Egyptians, to call together all the members of the community of Iraq: the Sunnis, the Shiias, the Kurds, the Turkomens, the Assyrians. All of them need to come together in a conference to resolve this. We have the idea that we can go with a Western idea of a constitution and that because it works here, we can just insert it into an Arab culture that has never worked under those circumstances.

□ 2350

What we need to do is recognize how Arabs have resolved problems for hundreds, thousands of years, if you will. It is called reaching an atwa.

If two villages, and this story was told to me by an iman, a high ranking Iraqi, he said many years ago two villages had a brother and sister and they married across these two towns. One went to one village, the other went to the other village. In one village the wife was fertile and quickly had three children. In the other, the wife was barren and had no children. The village made fun of her. They ridiculed her. They said she was a terrible woman, and the social pressure was so great that she killed herself by throwing herself into the village well.

Now under Arabic custom, that village that lost this woman has a right to go and extract blood within 24 hours. As those two villages came together for this bloodletting that was going to happen, they called and got them all to sit down and they decided how they were going to resolve this situation.

The decision was made that the village that had had the young woman die in it would give $20,000 to the other village and that there would be no contact between those villages for 20 years. They reached an atwa, A-T-W-A.

What that is in the Arabic culture is an arrangement, not a peace treaty. In the West we think of peace treaties where I agree with you and you agree with me, and we sign a bunch of pieces of paper. In the Arab culture where there is honor, people say I will stay here for 20 years and you will stay there.

The gentleman who told me the story said I was there 20 years later when the money was brought back from the first village back to its original place. He said within 2 years, there were marriages between the young people from the two villages. Even though they were 6 kilometers apart, for 20 years there had been no contact.

Now, Arabs have been resolving these kinds of things for thousands of years in the desert. There is a way for the Sunnis and the Shiias and the Kurds and the Turkomens to come together, but it cannot be driven by the United States. We cannot say you come over here and come to this conference that we are going to have in some hotel somewhere. It has to be called by the Arab League.

This same thing could have prevented the gulf war back in 1991. When Saddam Hussein went into Kuwait, the Arab League said before the Americans attack, let us settle this among the Arab community. This is a fight among us. Saddam Hussein thought he had fought in Iran because he was defending Kuwait and the Saudis, and he thought that they owed him something. He said give me some money, and they said no. And so he said all right, then I am going to move in and take Kuwait.

It could have been resolved if we had the patience to let this happen and the mentality in the White House that can allow Iraq to develop its own peaceful society. We have removed Saddam Hussein. We are all glad, but we now must let the Arabs resolve the situation in a way that makes sense to them.

REMEMBERING ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ERLENBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a beloved former Congressman from Illinois who passed away October 30, Representative John Erlenborn. John was a member of this body for nearly 20 years. Throughout his distinguished service in Congress, he became an expert on labor and pension issues and helped shape our Nation during a formative time in our history.

Born and raised in suburban Chicago, Mr. Erlenborn enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a 17-year-old during World War II. He studied at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University, the University of Illinois, and Loyola University in Chicago from which he later received his law degree.

John went on to practice law at a firm he founded before he began his life in public service as an assistant state's attorney for Illinois' DuPage County. This inspired John to run for elected office. He went on to serve for 8 years in the Illinois General Assembly before coming to Congress in 1965.

John earned a spot as the Republican ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee where he became know as Mr. ERISA after avidly working to pass the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which created corporate pension plan standards that continue to protect American workers today.

When John retired from Congress in 1985, he did not leave behind his compassion and motivation to help those less fortunate than himself. Instead of fully enjoying retirement, John continued to give back and was appointed to serve on the board of directors and selected to serve as president of the

Legal Services Corporation Board, committing himself to help those who needed legal services, but could not afford it. He also served as adjunct faculty member of the Georgetown University Law Center.

John represented what is now my congressional district, the 13th district of Illinois. He was committed to helping those in need and represented his constituents with honor and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the service John Erlenborn gave for the State of Illinois and our Nation for so many years.

On behalf of this body, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire Erlenborn family during this difficult time. John Erlenborn lived a rich life. He never stopped giving to others even after his tenure in Congress, a model for all of us. He will be deeply missed.

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

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

STANDING TOGETHER FOR A SOLUTION TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized until midnight.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this was a day when many of us had wished that we could have taken a very serious step toward redeploying our troops and bringing them home. I believe it is very important to speak to the American people for this brief moment by telling them of a story of a young woman I saw in a hospital in Germany who had just been shipped from Iraq. She was burned from head to toe. She laid in a hospital bed; and, yes, as a soldier, she was valiant and courageous, and her only concern was for her mother.

I use that example because we have heard it on the floor tonight, how our soldiers want to go back into battle and how our soldiers want us to have the resolve to stay the course.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility as Members of Congress and policymakers whenever we send our soldiers into battle, we must send them for the right reasons.

We heard tonight that the American intelligence did not prove there were weapons of mass destruction, in fact, there were none; that the troops are in fact fodder for the insurgents, and health care is no longer promised to our soldiers coming home; that we are now sending troops that are at the C–4 level, the lowest state of readiness; 50,000 may suffer from battle fatigue. It is important that we stand together for a solution to bring our troops home.

I voted ''no'' against the Hunter resolution because it was not a serious debate. It was not a serious statement to our soldiers, and I want them to know that I am willing to stay the course, but I want them to come home, and I want them to come home now with a plan. And a plan has been offered by Mr. MURTHA in H.J. Res. 73, a plan that suggests that the troops should be in a small number in the region, but our troops in large numbers should come home from Iraq. We must turn the government of Iraq over to Iraq.

This is the debate we should have:

H.J. RES._____

To Redeploy U.S. Forces from Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Mr. Murtha introduced the following joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on_____

Whereas Congress and the American People have not been shown clear, measurable progress toward establishment of stable and improving security in Iraq or of a stable and improving economy in Iraq, both of which are essential to ''promote the emergence of a democratic government'';

Whereas additional stabilization in Iraq by U.S. military forces cannot be achieved without the deployment of hundreds of thousands of additional U.S. troops, which in turn cannot be achieved without a military draft;

Whereas more than $277 billion has been appropriated by the United States Congress to prosecute U.S. military action in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of the drafting of this resolution, 2,079 U.S. troops have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas U.S. forces have become the target of the insurgency;

Whereas, according to recent polls, over 80 percent of the Iraqi people want the U.S. forces out of Iraq;

Whereas polls also indicate that 45 percent of the Iraqi people feel that the attacks on U.S. forces are justified;

Whereas, due to the foregoing, Congress finds it evident that continuing U.S. military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the people of Iraq, or the Persian Gulf Region, which were cited in Public Law 107–243 as justification for undertaking such action;

Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That:

SECTION 1. The deployment of United States forces in Iraq, by direction of Congress, is hereby terminated and the forces involved are to be redeployed at the earliest practicable date.

SEC. 2. A quick-reaction U.S. force and an over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines shall be deployed in the region.

SEC. 3. The United States of America shall pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ABLE DANGER

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I include material regarding Able Danger for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2005.

Hon. DONALD RUMSFELD,
Secretary, Department of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RUMSFELD: We the undersigned are formally requesting that you allow former participants in the intelligence program known as Able Danger to testify in an open hearing before the United States Congress. Until this point, congressional efforts to investigate Able Danger have been obstructed by Department of Defense insistence that certain individuals with knowledge of Able Danger be prevented from freely and frankly testifying in an open hearing. We realize that you do not question Congress's authority to maintain effective oversight of executive branch agencies, including your department. It is our understanding that your objection instead derives from concern that classified information could be improperly exposed in an open hearing. We of course would never support any activity that might compromise sensitive information involving national security. However, we firmly believe that testimony from the appropriate individuals in an open hearing on Able Danger would not only fail to jeopardize national security, but would in fact enhance it over the long term. This is due to our abiding belief that America can only better prepare itself against future attacks if it understands the full scope of its past failures to do so.

On September 21, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary conducted a hearing on Able Danger which Bill Dugan, Acting Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight, certified did not reveal any classified information. Congressman Curt Weldon's testimony at that hearing was largely based on the information that has been given to him by Able Danger participants barred from open testimony by DOD. Their testimony would therefore closely mirror that of Congressman Weldon, who did not reveal classified information. Therefore we are at a loss as to how the testimony of Able Danger participants would jeopardize classified information. Much of what they would present has already been revealed. Further refusal to allow Able Danger participants to testify in an open congressional hearing can only lead us to conclude that the Department of Defense is uncomfortable with the prospect of Members of Congress questioning these individuals about the circumstances surrounding Able Danger. This would suggest not a concern for national security, but rather an attempt to prevent potentially embarrassing facts from coming to light. Such a consideration would of course be an unacceptable justification for the refusal of a congressional request.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON,
JOHN P. MURTHA.

WHY DID THE 9/11 COMMISSION IGNORE 'ABLE DANGER'?

(By Louis Freeh)

It was interesting to hear from the 9/11 Commission again on Tuesday. This self-perpetuating and privately funded group of lobbyists and lawyers has recently opined on hurricanes, nuclear weapons, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel and even the New York subway system. Now it offers yet another ''report card'' on the progress of the FBI and CIA in the war against terrorism, along with its ''back-seat'' take and some further unsolicited narrative about how things ought to be on the ''front lines.''

Yet this is also a good time for the country to make some assessments of the 9/11 Commission itself. Recent revelation from the military intelligence operation code-named, ''Able Danger'' have cast light on a missed opportunity that could have potentially prevented 9/11. Specifically, Able Danger concluded in February 2000 that military experts had identified Mohamed Atta by name (and maybe by photograph) as an al Qaeda agent operating in the U.S. Subsequently, military officers assigned to Able Danger were prevented from sharing this critical information with FBI agents, even though appointments had been made to do so. Why?

There are other questions that need answers. Was Able Danger intelligence provided to the 9/11 Commission prior to the finalization of its report, and, if so, why was it not explored? In sum, what did the 9/11 commissioners and their staff know about Able Danger and when did they know it?

The Able Danger intelligence, if confirmed, is undoubtedly the most relevant fact of the entire post 9/11 inquiry. Even the most junior investigator would immediately know that the name and photo ID of Atta in 2000 is precisely the kind of tactical intelligence the FBI has many times employed to prevent attacks and arrest terrorists. Yet the 9/11 Commission inexplicably concluded that it ''was not historically significant.'' This astounding conclusion—in combination with the failure to investigate Able Danger and incorporate it into its findings—raises serious challenges to the commission's credibility and, if the facts prove out, might just render the commission historically insignificant itself.

The facts relating to Able Danger finally started to be reported in mid-August. U.S. Army Col. Anthony Shaffer, a veteran intelligence officer, publicly revealed that the Able Danger team had identified Atta and three other 9/11 hijackers by mid-2000 but were prevented by military lawyers from giving this information to the FBI. One week later, Navy Capt. Scott J. Phillpott, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who managed the program for the Pentagon's Special Operations Command, confirmed ''Atta was identified by Able Danger by January-February of 2000.''

On Aug. 18, 2005, the Pentagon initially stated that ''a probe'' had found nothing to back up Col. Shaffer's claims. Two weeks later, however, Defense Department officials acknowledged that its ''inquiry'' had found ''three more people who recall seeing an intelligence briefing slide that identified the ringleader of the 9/11 attacks a year before the hijackings and terrorist strikes.'' These same officials also stated that ''documents and electronic files created by . . . Able Danger were destroyed under standing orders that limit the military's use of intelligence gathered about people in the United States.'' Then, in September 2005, the Pentagon doubled back and blocked several military officers from testifying at an open Congressional hearing about the Able Danger program.

Two members of Congress, Curt Weldon and Dan Burton, have also publicly stated that shortly after 9/11 attacks they provided then-Deputy National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley with a ''chart'' containing preattack information collected by Able danger about al Qaeda. a spokesperson for the White House has confirmed that Mr. Hadley ''recalled seeing such a chart in that time period but . . . did not recall whether he saw it during a meeting . . . and that a search of National Security Council files had failed to produce such a chart.''

Thomas Kean, the chairman of the 9/11 Commission, reacted to Able Danger with the standard Washington PR approach. He lashed out at the Bush administration and demanded that the Pentagon conduct an ''investigation'' to evaluate the ''credibility'' of Col. Shaffer and Capt. Phillpott—rather than demand a substantive investigation into what failed in the first place. This from a former New Jersey governor who, along with other commissioners, routinely appeared in public espousing his own conclusions about 9/11 long before the commission's inquiry was completed and long before all the facts were in! This while dismissing out of hand the major conflicts of interest on the commission itself about obstructions to information-sharing within the intelligence community.

Nevertheless, the final 9/11 commission report, released on July 22, 2004, concluded that ''American intelligence agencies were unaware of Mr. Atta until the day of the attacks.'' This now looks to be embarrassingly wrong. Yet amazingly, commission leaders acknowledged on Aug. 12 that their staff in fact met with a Navy officer 10 days before releasing the report, who ''asserted that a highly classified intelligence operation, Able Danger, had identified Mohammed Atta to be a member of an al Qaeda cell located in Brooklyn.'' (Capt. Phillpott says he briefed them in July 2004.) The commission's statement goes on to say that the staff determined that ''the officer's account was not sufficiently reliable to warrant revision of the report or further investigation,'' and that the intelligence operation ''did not turn out to be historically significant,'' despite substantial corroboration from other seasoned intelligence officers.

This dismissive and apparently unsupported conclusion would have us believe that a key piece of evidence was summarily rejected in less than 10 days without serious investigation. The commission, at the very least, should have interviewed the 80 members of Able Danger, as the Pentagon did, five of whom say they saw ''the chart.'' But this would have required admitting that the late-breaking news was inconveniently raised. So it was grossly neglected and branded as significant. Such a half-baked conclusion, drawn in only 10 days without any real investigation, simply ignores what looks like substantial direct evidence to the contrary coming from our own trained military intelligence officers.

No wonder the 9/11 families were outraged by these revelations and called for a ''new'' commission to investigate. ''I'm angry that my son's death could have been prevented,'' seethed Diane Horning, whose son Matthew was killed at the World Trade Center. On Aug. 17, 2005, a coalition of family members known as the September 11 Advocates rightly blasted 9/11 Commission leaders Mr. Kean and Lee Hamilton for pooh-poohing Able Danger's findings as not ''historically significant.'' Advocate Mindy Kleinberg aptly notes, ''They [the 9/11 Commission] somehow made a determination that this was not important enough. To me, that says somebody there is not using good judgment. And if I'm questioning the judgment of this one case, what other things might they have missed?'' This is a stinging indictment of the commission by the 9/11 families.

The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Arlen Specter, has led the way in cleaning up the 9/11 Commission's unfinished business. Amid a very full plate of responsibilities, he conducted a hearing after noting that Col. Shaffer and Capt. Phillpott ''appear to have credibility.'' Himself and former prosecutor, Mr. Specter noted: ''If M? Atta and other 9/11 terrorists were identified before the attacks, it would be a very serious breach not to have that information passed along . . . we ought to get to the bottom of it.'' Indeed we should. The 9/11 Commission gets an ''I'' grade incomplete—for its dereliction regarding Able Danger. The Joint Intelligence Committee should reconvene and, in addition to Able Danger team members, we should have the 9/11 commissioners appear as witnesses so the families can hear their explanation why this doesn't matter.

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 9:21 AM
To: curtpa07
Subject: USS COLE

Our son Kenneth was the 1st killed on the USS Cole when it was attacked. Every since President Bush came into office I've been trying to get a meeting with him and the 17 families and the White House will not even acknowledge. I've been saying things like you are now saying ever since the attacked happened and NO one in government will talk to us. The FBI has lied to us on several facts and my own Congressmen will do anything for me except a meeting with the President. President Clinton did nothing to go after those that attacked the Cole and if he had of they would have uncovered numerous signs out there about what was going to happen on 9/11. We sure would like to talk to you.

JOHN CLODFELTER.

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2005 9:21 PM
To: curtpa07
Subject: Able Danger—9/11 Family Member

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WELDON: I write again to thank you for all you are doing to uncover the ''Able Danger'' story. I lost my brother Pete on 9/11, and over the last 4 years I have done what I could to educate myself on the ''how's, why's and who's'' of 9/11. I attended the Commission hearings both in Washington, D.C. and New York City, and to be frank . . . I thought the Commission was a farce. They may have reached recommendations that may prove worthy, but the agenda of some was all too obvious. I have felt from the beginning that certain Commissioners sat on the wrong side of the table, so to speak. Now that you have uncovered Able Danger, I want them all to sit as witnesses before Congress. Just who knew what and who decided these most important findings to be ''historically insignificant,'' are questions that must be answered.

The loss of Pete on 9/11 is something I deal with every moment, of every day. Now that we are 2 weeks from what would've been his 47th birthday (one he shared with my sister, Kathy), a week away from Thanksgiving, 5 weeks from his favorite day of the year—Christmas . . . well, the heartache of his murder is felt a bit deeper.

On a personal note, Pete's death on 9/11 was one tragedy from that day, but it is not the only one. What his murder has done to our family is quite another. There is no way to explain how those terrorists ruined more than one life that day and there is no way to express my anger at how life for us will never again be the same. We struggle to find joy, we find it difficult to accomplish what once were ordinary tasks . . . but we do, and thanks to our faith. I also believe we do because of public servants like you. Decent

elected officials who actually serve the public instead of themselves. You have my family's backing and full support and we pray to GOD that more and more elected officials join you in your fight to expose Able Danger and in your fight to keep our Nation safe and secure, so no other family has to endure what we did on 9/11, and what we continue to endure since because of the acts of hate filled cowards.

Thank you again Congressman Weldon and God bless! Please keep up the good fight on Able Danger!

You remain in our thought & prayers, as does our President and our Brave Troops!

Sincerely,

A proud American,

JOHN P. OWENS,

Loving brother of Peter J. Owens, Jr.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BERMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today after 4:00 p.m. on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MEEHAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. BIGGERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PEARCE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1418. An act to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States; to the Committee on energy and Commerce.

S. 1785. An act to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the distinction between a hull and a deck, to provide factors for the determination of the protectability of a revised design, to provide guidance for assessments of substantial similarity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1961. An act to extend and expand the Child Safety Pilot Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 1989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the ''Holly A. Charette Post Office''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILL AND A JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill and a Joint Resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4326. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN–70).

H.J. Res. 72. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on November 18, 2005, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 72. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2419. Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006

H.R. 2490. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the ''Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office''.

H.R. 2862. Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006

H.R. 3339. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the ''James T. Molloy Post Office Building''.

H.R. 4326. To authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN–70).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 307, 109th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 307, 109th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

Thereupon (at midnight), pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 307, the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 6, 2005, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5296. A letter from the Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting in response to OMB Memorandum 06-01, a report stating that the Commission has not conducting any competitive sourcing efforts in FY 2004, FY 2005, and are not conducting any competitions in FY 2006; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5297. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 040830250-5062-03; I.D. 093005A] received October 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5298. A letter from the Deputy Asistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction [Docket No. 051014263-5263-01; I.D. 093005A] (RIN: 0648-AU00) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5299. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 100605B] received October 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5300. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackeral in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 100605C] received October 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5301. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 100705B] received October 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5302. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 100705A] received October 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5303. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States;

Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Closure of the Regular B Days-at-Sea Pilot Program [Docket No. 040804229-4300-02; I.D. 100305A] received November 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5304. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Framework Adjustment 17 [Docket No. 050520137-5220-02; I.D. 050905F] (RIN: 0648-AT10) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5305. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No. 050819225-5257; I.D. 080505A] (RIN: 0648-AS59) received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5306. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 101705A] received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5307. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 101405B] received November 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

5308. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, American Trucking Association, transmitting recommendations for an appointment to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5309. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Above Head of Passes, Mile Marker 134.7 to Mile Marker 135.4, extending the entire width of the Laplace Anchorage, LA [COTP New Orleans-05-016] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5310. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Port Valdez and Valdez Narrows, Valdez, AK [COTP Prince William Sound 05-012] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5311. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Knapps Narrows, Maryland [CGD05-05-124] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5312. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Spa Creek, Annapolis, MD [CGD05-05-104] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5313. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, VA [CGD05-05-098] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5314. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Strait Thunder Performance, Port Angeles, WA [CGD13-05-009] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5315. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Event; John H. Kerr Reservoir, Clarksville, VA [CGD05-05-107] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5316. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Choptank River, Cambridge, MD [CGD05-05-105] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5317. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Jet Routes J-8, J-18, J-19, J-58, J-76, J-104 and J-244; and VOR Federal Airways V-60, V-190, V-263 and V-611; Las Vegas, NM [Docket No. FAA-2005-22421; Airspace Docket No. 05-ASW-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5318. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Dodge City Regional Airport, KS [Docket No. FAA-2005-21874; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-28] received October 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5319. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Topeka, Forbes Field, KS [Docket No. FAA-2005-21703; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-19] received October 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5320. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report regarding its efforts in the area of transportation security for the calendar year 2004, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44938(a) and (b); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. Investigation Into Rafael Palmeiro's March 17, 2005 Testimony at the Committee on Government Reform's Hearing: ''Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use'' (Rept. 109–310). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. S. 229. An act to clear title to certain real property in New Mexico associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–311). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GINGREY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 572. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 571) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately and providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 308) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3058 (Rept. 109–312). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 3128. A bill to affirm that Federal employees are protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and to repudiate any assertion to the contrary (Rept. 109–313). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1631. A bill to provide for the financing of high-speed rail infrastructure, and other purposes (Rept. 109–314 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HYDE: Committee on International Relations. H.R. 972. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes: with an amendment (Rept. 109–317 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration of H.R. 972.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 2829. A bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act, with an amendment (Rept. 109–315, Pt. I). Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(e), rule X. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 3699. A bill to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 109–316, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(f) rule X; and to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for consideration of such provisions of the bill and

amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(r) rule X. Ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 921. Referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce extended for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005.

H.R. 972. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than December 8, 2005.

H.R. 1631. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005.

H.R. 2829. Referral to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005.

H.R. 2830. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 6, 2005.

H.R. 3699. Referral to the Committee on Resources extended for a period ending not later than December 17, 2005.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HINCHEY:

H.R. 4387. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to individuals for charitable contributions of services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H.R. 4388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 4389. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exempt news stories, commentaries, and editorials distributed through the Internet from treatment as expenditures or electioneering communications under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CASE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 4390. A bill to ensure greater accountability by licensed firearms dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 4391. A bill to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance for the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a privately-owned power transmission facility damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4392. A bill to provide for the importation of pharmaceutical products under a compulsory license as provided for under the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 4393. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the application of section 584(h) of such Code; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 4394. A bill to alter the composition and terms of the Board of Directors of Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 4395. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit, to provide greater access to affordable pharmaceuticals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 4396. A bill to establish the National Vaccine Authority within the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BACA, and Mr. MCNULTY):

H.R. 4397. A bill to ensure that the two top officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency have extensive background in emergency or disaster relief; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DAVIS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 4398. A bill to provide relief for African-American farmers filing claims in the cases of Pigford v. Veneman and Brewington v. Veneman; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4399. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the annual enrollment periods of the Medicare prescription drug benefit program and under the Medicare Advantage program, and to suspend Medicare prescription drug late enrollment penalties for two years after the initial enrollment period; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RENZI, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 4400. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit which is dependent on enactment of State qualified scholarship tax credits and which is allowed against the Federal income tax for charitable contributions to education investment organizations that provide assistance for elementary and secondary education; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GIBBONS:

H.R. 4401. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public lands in and around historic mining townsites in Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HINCHEY (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

H.R. 4402. A bill to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. HULSHOF (for himself and Mr. TANNER):

H.R. 4403. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the counting of residents in a nonhospital setting under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFERSON:

H.R. 4404. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified equity investments in companies affected by Hurricane Katrina; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 4405. A bill to require that, in cases in which the annual trade deficit between the United States and another country is $10,000,000,000 or more for 3 consecutive years, the President take the necessary steps to create a more balanced trading relationship with that country; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

H.R. 4406. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a criminal penalty for defrauding individuals in connection with enrollment under a prescription drug plan or under the Medicare Advantage Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4407. A bill to prohibit the entry into any bilateral or regional trade agreement, and to prohibit negotiations to enter into any such agreement, for a period of 2 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LAHOOD, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 4408. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LINDER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. RENZI, and Mr. EHLERS):

H.R. 4409. A bill to promote the national security and stability of the United States economy by reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign oil through the use of alternative fuels and new vehicle technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. WU, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4410. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the initial enrollment period for Medicare prescription drug benefits through May 15, 2008, to waive penalties for late enrollment before June 1, 2008, and to provide other additional beneficiary protections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEACH (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BASS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DENT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. AKIN):

H.R. 4411. A bill to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GINGREY, and Mr. GUTKNECHT):

H.R. 4412. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to consolidate existing U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services databases into a comprehensive database that allows real-time access to data, in order to improve customer service and enhance national security and public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4413. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide for enhanced disclosure under an open end credit plan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4414. A bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require notice to the consumer before any fee may be imposed by a financial institution in connection with any transaction for any overdraft protection service provided with respect to such transaction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4415. A bill to establish a fair order of posting checks and deposits to prevent unjust enrichment of financial institutions from fees that accrue only by virtue of the order used by the institution for posting checks and deposits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 4416. A bill to reauthorize permanently the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOLLOHAN:

H.R. 4417. A bill to provide for the reinstatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 4418. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe, affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. RENZI, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 4419. A bill to repeal the perimeter rule for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. KUCINICH):

H.R. 4420. A bill to repeal tax subsidies enacted by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for oil and gas, to repeal certain other oil and gas subsidies in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and to use the proceeds to carry out the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 and to provide weatherization assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H.R. 4421. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4422. A bill to enhance homeland security by preventing unauthorized access to explosive materials stored by State or local agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4423. A bill to encourage and facilitate the consolidation of security, human rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. STUPAK (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PALLONE, and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 4424. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make family members of public safety officers killed in the line of duty eligible for coverage under the Federal employees health benefits program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. HAYWORTH):

H.R. 4425. A bill to amend the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act to apply to charities only if the solicitation of such charities involves fraud or deception; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 4426. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. POE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi):

H.R. 4427. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a database of small businesses for purposes of consultation by Federal agencies prior to awarding contracts relating to declared emergencies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 4428. A bill to clarify the status of retirement benefits provided by the Young Women's Christian Association Retirement Fund under the benefit accrual standards of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H.R. 4429. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to drug safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WELDON of Florida:

H.R. 4430. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that qualified homeowner downpayment assistance is a charitable purpose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 4431. A bill to authorize financial assistance under the community development block grant program for disaster relief and recovery for communities affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H. Con. Res. 308. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a technical correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3058; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BEAN (for herself, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SNYDER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. REYES, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. HERSETH, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIND, Mr. BOYD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. BARROW):

H. Con. Res. 309. Concurrent resolution commending Armed Forces medical personnel for their outstanding care of combat casualties; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FORD:

H. Con. Res. 310. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to unilateral altering, by the European Union, of the standards for imports of certain wood products; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H. Res. 571. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of United States forces in Iraq be terminated immediately; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. SPRATT):

H. Res. 573. A resolution congratulating Mohamed ElBaradei and the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency on winning the Nobel Peace Prize; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD):

H. Res. 574. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Galaxy on their victory in the 2005 Major League Soccer championship; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. WEXLER):

H. Res. 575. A resolution providing that Hamas and other terrorist organizations should not participate in elections held by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H. Res. 576. A resolution celebrating Advancement Via Individual Determination's 25 years of success; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Ms. HART):

H. Res. 577. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the conditions for the United States to become a signatory to any multilateral agreement on trade resulting from the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda Round; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H. Res. 578. A resolution concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania; to the Committee on International Relations.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

203. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a Resolution urging the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to create a postage-free mail program for items sent to Armed Forces Distribution Centers; to the Committee on Government Reform.

204. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to a Resolution requesting a formal and encompassing investigation on the performance of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and its personnel, as well as of other officers of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if any, in the preperation, execution and conclusion of the operation which culminated with the death of Filiberto Ojeda-Rios, a fugitive since September 1990, and self-proclaimed leader of the group denominated Ejercito Popular Boricua, better known as ''Los Macheteros''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. ADERHOLT introduced a bill (H.R. 4432) for relief of the estate of Henry Clay Blizzard; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 282: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 284: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 305: Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 388: Mr. EVANS and Mr. SABO.
H.R. 500: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 515: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 517: Mr. DICKS.
H.R. 550: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 551: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 556: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 601: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 602: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 690: Ms. MCKINNEY and Mr. FORD.
H.R. 698: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. RENZI, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 703: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 769: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 772: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 783: Mr. SABO, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 808: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASE, and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 874: Mr. OXLEY.
H.R. 896: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 898: Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 964: Mr. WYNN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. RYUN of Kansas.
H.R. 968: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 994: Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 997: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1019: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1053: Mr. PITTS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DENT, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 1131: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1182: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1241: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 1243: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.
H.R. 1246: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1259: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1264: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 1372: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1398: Mr. CASE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. SABO.
H.R. 1426: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1445: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1506: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1554: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 1595: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1668: Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1689: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1707: Mr. TERRY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1898: Mr. COBLE and Mrs. KELLY.
H.R. 2014: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 2043: Mr. KIRK and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2052: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2090: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2251: Mr. PENCE and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2356: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. HEFLEY.
H.R. 2421: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 2562: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2637: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2642: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2679: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 2717: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HONDA, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2786: Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 2823: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2861: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2943: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2946: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2989: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 3006: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3011: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 3127: Mr. GILLMOR and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 3187: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3195: Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 3307: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 3373: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. HEFLEY.
H.R. 3430: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3463: Mr. BEAUPREZ and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 3476: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3478: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 3579: Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 3617: Mr. HEFLEY.
H.R. 3621: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 3641: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. REYES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3642: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 3657: Mr. GORDON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3680: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 3714: Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 3734: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3752: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 3778: Mr. CASE and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 3852: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3858: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3861: Mr. OBEY, Mr. FORD, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SABO, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. ROSS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 3883: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. JENKINS, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3949: Mrs. JONES of Ohio and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4010: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4011: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4029: Ms. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 4033: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 4052: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4062: Mr. EVANS and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4063: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 4071: Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 4073: Ms. LEE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4078: Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HALL, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 4083: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 4090: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4096: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 4098: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 4129: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 4147: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4156: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4157: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 4167: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Ms. BEAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PETRI, Ms. FOXX, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 4186: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4190: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4194: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 4197: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4200: Mr. CAMP, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. JENKINS, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 4201: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4212: Ms. HERSETH and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4222: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4223: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4225: Mr. POE, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 4229: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4232: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4259: Mr. SANDERS and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 4263: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4268: Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4272: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4282: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. OTTER, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 4286: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 4298: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4300: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4312: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LINDER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. DENT, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ROYCE, and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 4313: Mr. COBLE, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GINGREY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 4315: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4318: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. MICA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. REGULA.
H.R. 4321: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 4330: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4331: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 4346: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. SODREL.
H.R. 4349: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4351: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4357: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4365: Mr. HEFLEY and Mr. MACK.
H.R. 4378: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.J. Res. 70: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.J. Res. 73: Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. BECERRA.
H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. GOODE.
H. Con. Res. 210: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H. Con. Res. 231: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Con. Res. 278: Mr. BARROW, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H. Con. Res. 280: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 291: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Con. Res. 294: Ms. WATSON, Mr. WELLER, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 296: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. STARK, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. TANCREDO.
H. Con. Res. 298: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. KILDEE.
H. Con. Res. 301: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. SODREL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. FOXX, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HALL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H. Con. Res. 302: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 196: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 200: Mr. REYES.
H. Res. 222: Mr. KILDEE.
H. Res. 223: Mr. HOYER and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 487: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. EVANS.
H. Res. 510: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H. Res. 512: Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 517: Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. WEINER.
H. Res. 526: Ms. BALDWIN.
H. Res. 550: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. WU.
H. Res. 561: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BEAN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. RAHALL.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

77. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Municipal Legislature of Moca, Puerto Rico, relative to Resolution No. 54 expressing opposition to the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

78. Also, a petition of the City of Naperville, Illinois, relative to Resolution No. 05-28 expressing support for the continuation and full funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

79. Also, a petition of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, Michigan, relative to a Resolution recommending and supporting the re-authorization of the Community Services Block Grant for FY 2006 and beyond, and that funding for (CSBG) be continued at its current level; to the Committee on Financial Services.

80. Also, a petition of the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio, relative to Resolution No. 05-49 opposing cutting the Community Development Block Grant Program and other programs as proposed by the Congress of the United States and declaring an emergency; to the Committee on Financial Services.

81. Also, a petition of the City of Rock Falls, Illinois, relative to Resolution 2005-470 requesting rejection by the Congress of United States of limits upon municipal telecommunications franchising authority; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

82. Also, a petition of the Village of Carpentersville, Illinois, relative to Resolution No. R05-94 expressing support of the continued administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program through the Department of Housing and Urban Development at current or increased levels of funding; to the Committee on Financial Services.

83. Also, a petition of the City Council of Santa Cruz, California, relative to Resolution No. NS-27,006 endorsing broad election reform and supporting the restoration of voter confidence; to the Committee on House Administration.

84. Also, a petition of the California State Lands Commission, relative to a Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States to continue the California Oil and Gas Leasing Moratorium; to the Committee on Resources.

85. Also, a petition of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Tennessee, relative to Resolution No. 5 expressing opposition to a few states that allow same sex marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

86. Also, a petition of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Tennessee, relative to Resolution No. 4 expressing support of every American's right to say the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

87. Also, a petition of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, Tennessee, relative to Resolution No. 3 expressing support and appreciation to these brave men and women of the armed forces of the United States of America, who are representing our country, both at home and abroad; to the Committee on Armed Services.

88. Also, a petition of the North Lauderdale Commission, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2005-05-4882 expressing support for amendments to the Florida Constitution requiring the periodic review and approval of all sales tax exemptions and exclusions in the state of Florida; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

89. Also, a petition of City of Gretna, Louisiana, relative to Resolution No. 2005-093 urging the Congress of the United States to revisit the recent legislation passed by both United States House and Senate and include a forgiveness clause in that legislation that allows Louisiana communities to qualify for low interest loans; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2, rule XV the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 3, November 16, 2005, by Mr. EDWARDS, on House Resolution 271, was signed by the following Members: Chet Edwards, Nick J. Rahall II, John W. Olver, Dale E. Kildee, Brian Higgins, Albert Russell Wynn, Michael H. Michaud, Jim McDermott, Kendrick B. Meek, Diane E. Watson, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Julia Carson, Carolyn McCarthy, Dennis Moore, Maurice D. Hinchey, Steny H. Hoyer, David R. Obey, Bernard Sanders, Betty McCollum, Bart Stupak, Jerry F. Costello, Daniel Lipinski, Lois Capps, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Patrick J. Kennedy, Ben Chandler, Russ Carnahan, John S. Tanner, Alcee L. Hastings, Robert Menendez, Joe Baca, Shelley Berkley, Ted Strickland, Lynn C. Woolsey, Tom Udall, Solomon P. Ortiz, Edolphus Towns, John F. Tierney, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Lloyd Doggett, Charles B. Rangel, Stephen F. Lynch, Zoe Lofgren, Chris Van Hollen, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Al Green, Timothy H. Bishop, Corrine Brown, James P. Moran, Carolyn B. Maloney, Mike McIntyre, John Barrow, Mike Ross, William D. Delahunt, Ed Pastor, Donald M. Payne, Jerrold Nadler, Michael E. Capuano, Lane Evans, G.K. Butterfield, Doris O. Matsui, Rush D. Holt, Major R. Owens, Collin C. Peterson, Bob Etheridge, Adam B. Schiff, Nydia M. Velázquez, Henry A. Waxman, James L. Oberstar, Steven R. Rothman, Jim Costa, Emanuel Cleaver, Sherrod Brown, Ellen O. Tauscher, Jim Cooper, Rosa L. DeLauro, Bob Filner, Xavier Becerra, Mike Thompson, Diana DeGette, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael R. McNulty, Gary L. Ackerman, Stephanie Herseth, Artur Davis, Frank Pallone, Jr., James P. McGovern, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Robert C. Scott, James R. Langevin, Ruben Hinojosa, David Scott, Gregory W. Meeks, Cynthia McKinney, Susan A. Davis, David E. Price, Dan Boren, Danny K. Davis, Raul M. Grijalva, Charles A. Gonzalez, Sander M. Levin, Tom Lantos, Grace F. Napolitano, Janice D. Schakowsky, Gene Green, Jim Davis, Melvin L. Watt, Rick Larsen, Barney Frank, Nancy Pelosi, Peter A. DeFazio, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Brad Miller, Mark Udall, Joseph Crowley, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Henry Cuellar, Linda T. Sánchez, Silvestre Reyes, Darlene Hooley, Ed Case, John T. Salazar, Brad Sherman, Thomas H. Allen, Jane Harman, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, John M. Spratt, Jr., Eliot L. Engel, Bennie G. Thompson, Robert E. Andrews, Nita M. Lowey.