

Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;

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;

H.R. 3853, 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, 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It is with a heavy heart that I submit to you my resignation as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005. I am forwarding to you a copy of my letter of resignation to Governor Schwarzenegger.

I am resigning from the House of Representatives because I have discredited my high office and the party that I love. Not only have I compromised the trust of my constituents, I have misled my family, friends, and colleagues, staff and even myself. Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost respect for you and our colleagues and I am deeply sorry that I have shamed our great institution in this way.

Please accept my resignation as one of the many steps I now take to atone for my crimes.

Sincerely,
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,
U.S. Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, the whole number of the House is 433.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from David Thomas, Chief of Staff of the Honorable TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 28, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, 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 subpoena for documents, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DAVID THOMAS,
Chief of Staff.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor and privilege to host President George W. Bush in North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District. The President spoke about our country's impressive economic growth at the John Deere-Hitachi manufacturing plant in Kernersville.

We all have a lot to be grateful to our President for. Under his leadership, our economy is flourishing and getting stronger. In a report issued last week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our economy created 250,000 new jobs during the month of November. Over 4.4 million jobs have been created since May 2003.

Unemployment is down to 5 percent, which is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This is due to the hard work of the American people, lower taxes, legal reform, and less government interference into the lives of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

I am proud of President Bush's leadership and agenda for a strong economy. I will continue to work with him and the rest of my colleagues in the Congress to make tax relief permanent and exercise spending restraint.

UNWAVERING RESOLVE FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the American Revolution arrived, Thomas Paine published these words in "The Crisis." In 1776 he talked about the Americans who go to war, the causes for which they fight, the conditions under which they wage war. He exhorted the soldiers and all Americans with these words: "These are the times that try men's souls: the summer soldier, the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of this country. But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to set a proper price on its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

So to America, we must have this unwavering resolve to finish the task before us. And to our troops, stand firm. Stand tall. Stand for freedom. Because we over here support you over there. And come home victorious for freedom when it's over over there. That's just the way it is.

ECONOMIC NUMBERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the third-quarter economic numbers released last week are worth noting. When you consider the total devastation inflicted on our gulf coast region, combined with the temporary spike in petroleum prices, the fact that our economy remains robust is a strong testament to our free-market policies and commitment to reducing the tax burden on all Americans.

The overall growth of the economy, measured in total gross domestic product, was even better than expected, growing at a rate of 4.3 percent, the 10th consecutive quarter of GDP growth above 3 percent. Heading into the Christmas shopping season, the consumer confidence index rose to 98.9 in November, up 14 points from the previous month.

In November alone, we added 215,000 jobs to our Nation's payrolls, a total of more than 4.4 million new jobs added since May. These numbers, along with the other positive indicators, should provide strong incentive to us this week as we take up legislation to extend expiring tax cuts.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the defeat of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, we have seen political, security, and economic progress in a country that has suffered under tyranny for decades. In January, 8.5 million Iraqis voted in Iraq's first democratically elected government.

In October, the constitutional referendum, the turnout neared nearly 10 million; and since April 2003, Iraq has registered more than 30,000 new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, no war is without challenges, and the war on terror is no different. But to cut and run, as many of our colleagues are suggesting, would not only encourage our enemies; it will disillusion the Iraqi people, our allies, and the brave men and women in uniform risking their lives for this country every day.

The security of our Nation should be bigger than inside-the-Beltway partisan politics. We need to learn from the mistake of the past, stop talking about exit strategies, and keep talking about freedom, democracy, and victory.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY FOR IRAQ

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Democrats' plan for Iraq. Last week, following the Thanksgiving holiday, I spent a considerable amount of my time with constituents listening to their concerns and discussing a whole array of issues from gas prices, to the new prescription drug benefit, to the war in Iraq.

However, Mr. Speaker, some on the other side of the aisle used their time parading on comedy shows decrying the current operation in Iraq and scoring big laughs at the expense of our troops. I believe this further undermines the argument of those who would claim that an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a noble course of action.

During her big debut on "Comedy Central," the minority leader bragged that "60 percent of the House Democrats voted against the war to begin with," and compared to other Democrats, were "way ahead of the issue."

I imagine that statement probably does not sit well with our troops in the field. And, Mr. Speaker, for the other 40 percent of my Democratic colleagues who might also take exception to this statement, I recommend that they discuss their concern with the minority leader.

IRAQI PROGRESS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, during August of 2003, I was with a bipartisan CODEL in Iraq. We were in one of Saddam Hussein's old bunkers and had a briefing from members of the Coalition Provisional Authority. United States State Department, General Sanchez, was there. They outlined their plan for reconstituting the Government of Iraq and civil society in Iraq.

This plan involved selecting Iraqi citizens to form an interim constitution leading to the institution of a provisional government, which would then set the stage for selecting representatives to the Transitional National Assembly, who would write the final Iraqi constitution which, after ratification, would culminate with the election of the new Iraqi government. All but the last step have now been accomplished, basically adhering to the time line set up by the administration, the only deviation being a somewhat condensing

of the timeline at the request of cleric al-Sistani.

There is no question that there are those in the country of Iraq who feel they would be better served by continued chaos in the region. This is not the position of most of the people who live in the country of Iraq. The insurgency, the terrorists, hold no tactical advantage. They hold no territory. This is a fight that they know they cannot win on tactical grounds.

The only way for us to lose this fight is to lose our political will at home. Our soldiers have done everything which we have asked. Congress should not desert them now.

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PRESIDENT SETS TONE ON WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, some say the U.S. will not win in Iraq, but in the American political debate, we can do better than that.

Last week at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the President of the United States did just that. President Bush delivered a forceful and effective defense of our strategy and the stakes facing our Nation in Iraq.

Along with thousands of other midshipmen, I had the privilege of joining the President that day, and I have to tell you, from inside the arena, it appeared that the President was both at ease and determined. He pounded the facts about enemy, their aims and our progress in Iraq into the American debate.

From the outset, the President set the tone defining the first war of the 21st Century with the declaration that the enemy must be defeated. He cited their war against humanity, while he released a recently declassified national strategy for victory, which Americans can read at WhiteHouse.gov.

For me, the central message came when the President said, "We will stay as long as necessary to complete the mission." This clarion call and the continued determination of the American people was timely and meaningful, and an important challenge to a Nation that believes in freedom and has always demonstrated throughout our history that when the mission is just and the mission is clear, Americans complete the mission.

SECURE BORDERS NOW

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while home over the past 2 weeks, constituents kept asking me, when are we going to do something about illegal im-

migration? When are we going to take this problem seriously?

Congress should act now, and one thing is critically clear: Our borders must be secure. Before we do anything else, we must stop the flow of illegal immigrants, and this must be done now.

A hard deadline is important, a date after which we will tolerate no violation of the border, and that is exactly what H.R. 3693 does. It ought not be too much to ask to bring accountability to the prevention of illegal immigration.

For that is what it is all about, is it not? Accountability. Those who break our immigration laws should be held accountable. Those who hire illegal aliens should be held accountable. Those who turn the other way and claim there is no problem should be held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, we have a large and a growing crisis in our country. It is our responsibility to act on behalf of our constituents and our Nation. Simply put, if our borders are not secure, then our Nation is not secure. The time to act is now.

SUPPORTING HOPE FOR VISION

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Hope for Vision, a dynamic new organization dedicated to raising awareness of retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases, to providing information to help those coping with vision loss and to developing the tools required to support funding for research.

The organization was founded by my dear friends and constituents, the Lidski family. The premise of Hope for Vision is that the American people can help speed the pace of development of treatments so that those losing sight will see again.

Each of the tens of millions of afflicted individuals in our great country has a community of friends and families and colleagues. Hope for Vision seeks to reach those communities and to enlist their support for their mission of vision.

I urge my colleagues to join me in spreading the uplifting mission of Hope for Vision until sight is a reality for all.

PROGRESS 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, while President Bush clearly outlined his strategy for victory in Iraq last week, soldiers of the Second Iraqi Army Brigade were finishing their first day of independently conducting military activities in Hillah, Iraq. After undergoing extensive training and testing by coalition forces,