

join MSU in congratulating a student athlete for his on-the-field achievements.

Senior running back Jerious Norwood of Brandon, Mississippi, was awarded the Cellular South Conerly Award this year, earning the honor of Mississippi's top college football player of 2005. Norwood ran for 1,136 yards and six touchdowns this season, 204 yards and three scores coming in the Bulldogs' season-ending, 35-14 win over rival Ole Miss in the Egg Bowl. That performance also earned him the Southeastern Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

Norwood is only the second Bulldog ever to rush for 1,000-plus yards in back-to-back seasons. He follows James "JJ" Johnson (1997-1998) both in that distinction and in earning the Conerly Award. Norwood and Johnson are the only two Bulldogs to win this recognition in its 10-year history.

Midway through this season, Norwood became State's career rushing leader with a final achievement of 3,222 total yards on the ground, eclipsing Walter Packer's previous mark of 2,820 yards set in the 1970s. Norwood also finished with the most 100-yard games in MSU history.

Norwood, along with senior defensive end Willie Evans, was named to the 2005 Coaches' All-SEC team and was named second-team, All-SEC by the Associated Press.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Norwood on his achievements and join with Bulldog head coach Sylvester Croom in wishing him many future successes.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 196, to recognize the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, providing the final blow to eradicate the system of slavery in this great nation.

The history of slavery in North America traces back to the early-1500s. Through various European colonies, continuing through the early years of the United States, around 6 million Africans were forcibly removed from their home and brought to North America to work as slaves. The years, however, wrought on and the conscience of this Nation came to realize the profundity of inequality that this system perpetuated. Not only were people born and raised in this country forced to work as indentured servants, but even their status as human beings was reduced to that of three-fifths of a person. This system could not continue.

Brave abolitionists working tirelessly to bring about the downfall of this inherently unjust system, many of them sacrificing their lives and their own freedoms, the tensions surrounding this issue provided one of the major breaking points for the American Civil War. With the advent of a nation turned upon itself, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, freeing all slaves within the Confederate States. Two

years later, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution was proposed on the House floor and was met with cheers in support resounding from the House Gallery. Less than one year later, on December 6, 1863, Georgia's state legislature became the 27th State to pass the measure, meeting the requirement for ratification. On that day, the 13th Amendment was passed, slavery had been abolished, and our great Nation could finally put this dark period of history in our past.

Over the next five years, the remaining Civil War Amendments would be passed, including the 14th Amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, and the 15th Amendment, which granted voting rights regardless of race. Although slavery itself had been abolished, these historic achievements would set the foundation for a long struggle towards abolishing discrimination and injustice.

The 13th Amendment set a firm base for the modern-day civil rights movement, many aspects of which continue on with us today. The legacy of those who ended slavery and started us on the path to equality for all people must continue to inspire us to reach for greater tolerance, greater understanding, and greater compassion for our fellow human beings.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the Chamber on Thursday, December 15, to cast my votes on rollcalls 636 through 641. Had I been present I would have voted in the following ways: Rollcall 636—Nay; Rollcall 637—Yea; Rollcall 638—Yea; Rollcall 639—Yea; Rollcall 640—Nay; and Rollcall 641—Yea.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO JENNY GRAVES AND ASHLEE MANN

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to two outstanding young women from Littleton and Aurora, CO. Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann graduated from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps 10-month program in Perry Point, MD.

Through this program these young women learned the critical role that AmeriCorps\*NCCC plays in disaster relief. These young women now have a stronger understanding of the role that volunteers play in assisting areas affected by natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Jenny Graves and Ashlee Mann and their achievements here today, and wish these young women all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE COMMAND, CREW AND AIR WING OF THE U.S.S. "RONALD REAGAN"

#### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, the newest carrier in the United States Navy is engaged in final training and preparation in the Pacific Ocean and will soon be deployed to the Middle East to support our national interests, defend freedom and spread liberty to a more stable world. Nearly 6,000 Navy personnel call the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* home and serve both day and night in her courageous mission to provide "peace through strength."

Many of the personnel on the *Reagan* hail from Mississippi, and we our proud of our men and women who serve from the magnolia State. I often tell my colleagues that Mississippi has the full military package: Our citizens serve bravely in our Armed Forces, our bases train top pilots and protect important facilities, our universities provide cutting edge military research and technology, while companies and manufacturers earn top military contracts to produce the equipment our modern soldiers need for today's battles. I take personal honor in sharing the title "Mississippian" with these soldiers. We at home are proud of the Mississippians serving on the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*.

Many of the aviators and crew onboard the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* trained at Naval Air Station Meridian in my district in Mississippi. NAS Meridian is an essential, necessary and critical component of our national security network. This valuable and effective facility, and the community that supports it, adds strength to the character and performance of the United States Navy. We send these personnel to the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* and to our Navy forces around the world to serve with honor, courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Congress joins me in saluting the command, crew, and air wing of the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*. Their training and preparation allows the United States to advance our priorities around the globe, and remain secure at home. The U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan's* designation is CVN 76 and the crew practices daily the "Spirit of 76" in honor of their ship and the year of our independence, 1776. Their service will continue to keep us free. For the next half-century, the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan* will serve the American people in times of peace and times of war, and I take this time to honor her and the forces on board as they prepare for her maiden deployment.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the irresponsible Republican tax giveaways proposed in

H.R. 4297. The Republican bill provides tax cuts for the wealthy few in our society by slashing critical services for vulnerable Americans and adding to our already exploding deficit.

I am appalled that the majority party has slashed food stamps, health care and student loans for vulnerable and middle-income families to pay for tax breaks for the Nation's most fortunate. The top priority—63 percent of the spending—in the Republican tax reconciliation bill is to extend capital gains and dividend tax cuts from 2008 to 2010.

Forty-five percent of the benefits of this provision will go to millionaires. In addition, this bill, even combined with the devastating cuts, will add \$81 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years.

The Republican bill focuses on benefits for their wealthiest contributors and fails to address tax changes that are necessary for the middle class. This bill does not include a provision to protect families from tax increases from the alternative minimum tax. I supported the 1-year fix on the AMT that this House passed because this is a critical issue for families in my district. However, this provision should have been included in this reconciliation package and should have been a priority for this Congress.

In total, the Republican reconciliation package includes tax increases of up to \$3,640 for middle income families due to the alternative minimum tax, increases of \$5,800 per student for their college education, and a loss of access to health care and nutrition for many struggling families. It also adds to a spiraling deficit already projected to reach \$640 billion by 2015. At the same time, Republicans will provide an average tax break of \$32,000 to the wealthy few. This is an outrage and should be an embarrassment for this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, America can do better. Congress should put forward a budget that is fiscally responsible, prioritizes our families, and does not threaten our children and grandchildren's future by increasing the Federal deficit.

I urge my colleagues to reject this irresponsible, immoral budget plan.

#### HONORING A WORLD WAR II HERO

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sherman Dickholtz, a World War II hero, beloved husband and father, and valued member of the Illinois legal community. Mr. Dickholtz passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the age of 80.

As a member of the 17th Airborne Division, Sgt. Dickholtz distinguished himself as an infantryman, paratrooper and parachute rigger. He participated in campaigns in France and Germany including Operation Varsity, the last full-scale airborne drop of the World War II. On March 24, 1945, he and the other members of the 17th parachuted behind enemy lines east of the Rhine River, and capture key points in order to assist the advance of ground troops. Sgt. Dickholtz was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry and meritorious service.

Upon his discharge from military service, Mr. Dickholtz went on to graduate from John Marshall Law School, working his way through school by driving a taxi for the Vets Cab Company. At that time, veterans were not able to obtain taxi medallions, and Mr. Dickholtz participated in a protest "cabalcade" of taxis from Chicago to Washington, DC to protest. Mr. Dickholtz gained national recognition for his participation when his picture was published in newspapers across the country.

Mr. Dickholtz had a successful career as an attorney, and in October of 2005 was conferred the title of Senior Counselor by the Illinois Bar Association. He was also a member of and proctor for the American MENSA Society.

Mr. Dickholtz's wife Darlene was not only legal secretary and office manager for her husband, but also his best friend. Together they raised seven children in a very busy and loving home.

Mr. Dickholtz was the proud grandfather of 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His family has continued his legacy of service and success in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Dickholtz will be dearly missed by his family and community. I am privileged to pay tribute to this great American.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 14, 2005*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote against a democrat motion to instruct conferees on December 14, 2005.

Although President Bush and Secretary Rice have made it clear that under no circumstance will the United States use torture, I am also sympathetic to Senator MCCAIN's wish to establish a clear set of rules to govern interrogations of persons under the detention of the Department of Defense. With this said, I don't believe it is beneficial to instruct conferees on an issue that is already under negotiations between the White House, Senator MCCAIN and the United States House of Representatives. These negotiations could yield a much more favorable outcome than what Senator MCCAIN originally requested and it also undermines the legislative process. However, if no compromise is agreed to, I would support the McCain language as our policy toward torture.

#### IN MEMORY OF MIKE KOUNTOURIS

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on December 4, 2005, a dear and beloved member of the Jackson, Mississippi community passed away.

Mike Kountouris has been as much the landmark to Jackson as his famous restaurant

the Mayflower Cafe, where he had worked since 1935.

An immigrant from Greece, Mike and his family lived the story of America. They came to this land and worked hard to become honored citizens. Mike served in World War II, fighting in the United States Army in his home country of Greece where he was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. He and his family—those before him and now his children—poured their sweat and passion for life into their family business. The Mayflower has been for generations a place where families and celebrities, politicians and journalists, the young and old have come for good food and fellowship. From first dates to wedding anniversaries, Mike made this a center of the Jackson community by making family the focus of his business.

Mr. Speaker, Mike began his journey in this world on the island of Patmos and we in Mississippi were blessed that he ended the journey not only in Jackson, Mississippi, but the hearts of his family, friends and customers. I take this time to remember Mike Kountouris and to remind my fellow Mississippians of the impact that one man can have on a community. He was a special man that we will all miss.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program, an incredible organization located in my Congressional district, and congratulate its founders, Jennifer Valoppi and Don Browne, for being named recipients of Governor Jeb Bush's Points of Light Award.

This award is the State's highest honor given to those who dedicate themselves to the Florida community through acts of volunteerism.

Since its inception in 1997, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program has been a pioneer institution for inspiring at-risk young women to achieve their fullest potential through education and job training.

As a result of the organization's efforts, young women throughout our community can receive positive guidance and mentoring from professional women in South Florida.

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program is a perfect example of individuals uniting to improve the lives of our community's youth, and I am proud of all those who are associated with this remarkable organization.

#### HONORING MATTHEW SCOTT

### HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of a man