

were chosen to play the 2007 Orange Bowl. The reigning ACC champs traveled down to Miami, with their fans in tow, to face the champions of the Big East Conference, the Louisville Cardinals. Wake Forest came into the game well prepared and played like the champions they are. While Louisville emerged victorious, Wake fans and players alike left Miami with their heads held high, proud of a season full of accomplishments.

The Orange Bowl culminated a magical season for the Demon Deacons, one that Wake fans will never forget. Finishing the regular season 11–2, serving Florida State its first-ever shutout at home under the leadership of Coach Bobby Bowden, winning the ACC championship and appearing in the Orange Bowl can be considered highlights. But by no means could these achievements capture the spirit and the emotion of this phenomenal season for the Wake Forest Demon Deacons. The sentiments of this season can best be summed up in the 10 minutes following the Orange Bowl on January 2. Even though the Deacons lost, Wake fans remained in the stands after the game, standing and cheering in support of the team that brought them so much joy this season as Wake players walked to their side of the stadium to thank the fans for their steadfast support.

This relationship underlines what it means to be a Deacon fan. Wins and losses ultimately aren't all that matter, but rather the sense of pride and family that comes along with being a Deacon is what makes the Wake Forest team and the fans such a special group.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say, Go Deacs.

There may have been a few tears shed in Dolphins Stadium following this year's Orange Bowl, but they were not tears of sadness. They were tears of pride and accomplishment, and they were very hard earned.

Congratulations to Wake Forest, and best of luck next season. We know it will be every bit as exciting as this one. Go Deacs!

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2007 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2007 and for the five-year period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 401 and 501 of H. Con. Res. 376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House under H. Res. 6. This status report is current through January 1, 2007. An additional report will be filed to reflect any changes in committee jurisdictions.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2007 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for discretionary action by each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under H. Con. Res. 376 for fiscal year 2007 and fiscal years 2007 through 2011. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2007 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for 2008 of accounts identified for advance appro-

priations under section 401 of H. Con. Res. 376. This list is needed to enforce section 401 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

The fifth table provides the current level of the nondefense reserve fund for emergencies established by section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376. The table is required by section 505 of the budget resolution, and is needed to determine whether an increase in the reserve fund, allocations and aggregates will be necessary for any pending legislation that contains emergency-designated discretionary budget authority.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 376

Reflecting action completed as of January 1, 2007—(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
<b>Appropriate Level:</b>		
Budget authority .....	2,283,029	1
Outlays .....	2,325,998	1
Revenues .....	1,780,666	10,039,909
<b>Current Level:</b>		
Budget authority .....	2,266,002	1
Outlays .....	2,273,560	1
Revenues .....	1,771,853	10,146,069
<b>Current Level over (+) / under (–) Appropriate Level:</b>		
Budget authority .....	–17,027	1
Outlays .....	–52,438	1
Revenues .....	–8,813	106,160

<sup>1</sup> Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2007 in excess of \$17,027,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2007 in excess of \$52,438,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures that would reduce revenue for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause revenues to fall further below the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 in excess of \$106,160,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JANUARY 1, 2007

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
House Committee				
Agriculture:				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:				
Allocation .....	45	45	45	45

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JANUARY 1, 2007—Continued

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current level .....	-35	150	34	213
Difference .....	-80	105	-11	168
Education and Labor:				
Allocation .....	0	1	0	30
Current level .....	16	119	178	-1,733
Difference .....	16	118	178	-1,763
Energy and Commerce:				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	-63	72	39	49
Difference .....	-63	72	39	49
Financial Services:				
Allocation .....	0	0	2	2
Current level .....	0	0	-5	-5
Difference .....	0	0	-7	-7
Foreign Affairs:				
Allocation .....	1	1	5	5
Current level .....	0	-5	0	-12
Difference .....	-1	-6	-5	-17
Homeland Security:				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	106	7	0	0
Difference .....	106	7	0	0
House Administration:				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Judiciary				
Allocation .....	19	16	116	113
Current level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	-19	-16	-116	-113
Natural Resources:				
Allocation .....	0	0	6	6
Current level .....	26	26	133	133
Difference .....	26	26	127	127
Oversight and Government Reform				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	-6,384	-6,384	-21,500	-21,500
Difference .....	-6,384	-6,384	-21,500	-21,500
Science and Technology				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Allocation .....	13	13	22	22
Current level .....	0	-3	-4	-19
Difference .....	-13	-16	-26	-41
Veterans' Affairs				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	-2	-2	1	1
Difference .....	-2	-2	1	1
Ways and Means				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current level .....	4,622	4,538	6,338	6,282
Difference .....	4,622	4,538	6,338	6,282

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) Suballocations as of June 6, 2006 (H. Rpt. 109–488)		Current Level Reflecting Action Completed as of January 1, 2007		Current Level minus Suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA .....	17,812	19,497	17,803	19,402	-9	-95
Defense .....	377,357	393,165	377,357	394,244	0	1,079
Energy & Water Development .....	30,017	31,411	28,926	30,751	-1,091	-660
Foreign Operations .....	21,300	23,441	19,609	23,144	-1,691	-297
Homeland Security .....	32,080	38,711	31,905	38,714	-175	3
Interior-Environment .....	25,889	26,902	25,471	26,566	-418	-336
Labor, HHS & Education .....	141,930	145,631	150,573	147,619	8,643	1,988
Legislative Branch .....	4,030	4,013	3,756	3,797	-274	-216
Military Quality of Life-Veterans Affairs .....	94,705	88,728	86,260	84,457	-8,445	-4,271
Science-State-Justice-Commerce .....	59,839	62,143	7,709	60,479	-2,130	-1,664
Transportation-Treasury-HUD-Judiciary-DC .....	67,819	130,069	67,124	128,714	-695	-1,355
Unassigned .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation) .....	872,778	963,711	866,493	957,887	-6,285	-5,824

Statement of FY2008 advance appropriations under section 401 of H. Con. Res. 376, reflecting action completed as of January 1, 2007

[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]

	Budget authority
Appropriate Level .....	23,565
Current Level .....	0
Elk Hills .....	0
Corporation for Public Broadcasting .....	0
Employment and Training Administration .....	0
Education for the Disadvantaged .....	0

	Budget authority	Current Level over (+)/under (-) Appropriate Level	
School Improvement .....	0		
Children and Family Services (Head Start) .....	0		
Special Education .....	0		Statement of nondefense reserve fund for emergencies under section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376, discretionary budget authority for FY 2007, reflecting action completed as of January 1, 2007
Vocational and Adult Education .....	0		
Transportation (highways, transit, Farley Building) .....	0		[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]
Payment to Postal Service .....	0		
Section 8 Renewals .....	0		Budget authority
Total .....	0		Appropriate Level .....
			6,450

Current Level .....	<i>Budget authority</i> 0
Current Level over (+)/under (-)	-6,450
Appropriate Level	

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, January 4, 2007.  
Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,  
Chairman-Designate, Committee on the Budget,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through January 1, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives. Although the House and the Senate have not reached

agreement on a concurrent budget resolution for 2007, pursuant to House Resolution 818, H. Con. Res. 376 has the force and effect in the House for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as though adopted by the Congress.

Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes certain amounts that affect 2007 spending (see footnote 2 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated November 15, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007:

an act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007 (Public Law 109-383);

an act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts (Public Law 109-386);  
the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);  
the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435);  
the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-458);  
the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461); and  
the Social Security Trust Funds Restoration Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-465).

In addition, the Congress has cleared for the President's signature the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (H.R. 5946) and the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 (H.R. 6164).

Sincerely,  
DONALD B. MARRON,  
Acting Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
<b>Enacted in previous sessions:<sup>1</sup></b>			
Revenues .....	n.a.	n.a.	1,819,599
Permanents and other spending legislation .....	1,400,673	1,333,068	n.a.
Appropriation legislation .....	0	409,185	n.a.
Offsetting receipts .....	-549,710	-549,710	n.a.
<b>Total, enacted in previous sessions:</b> .....	<b>850,963</b>	<b>1,192,543</b>	<b>1,819,599</b>
<b>Enacted this session:</b>			
<b>Authorizing Legislation:</b>			
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006 (P.L. 109-204)	-1,000	-520	0
Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-221) .....	11	11	11
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222) .....	0	0	-32,674
Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act (P.L. 109-227) .....	0	0	-4
Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-233) .....	-3	-3	0
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-235) .....	0	0	1
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-236) .....	1	0	5
Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-241) .....	0	-3	0
Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-250) .....	0	1	0
An act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 109-251) .....	0	0	-1
An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109-268) .....	0	-5	0
Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-280) .....	15	119	363
United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 109-283) .....	1	1	-15
Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-286) .....	7	7	0
Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-288) .....	0	-10	0
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-314) .....	1	1	0
National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-338) .....	3	3	0
Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-347) .....	106	7	0
John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (P.L. 109-364) .....	-35	150	0
Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-373) .....	4	4	0
An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts (P.L. 109-386) .....	1	1	0
Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-432) .....	3,323	3,248	-15,600
Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (P.L. 109-435) .....	-6,384	-6,384	0
Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal Land Conveyance Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-458) .....	-1	-1	0
Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-461) .....	1	1	0
Social Security Trust Funds Restoration Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-465) .....	1,298	1,298	0
<b>Appropriations Acts:</b>			
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234) <sup>2</sup> .....	0	-14	168
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-289) <sup>2</sup> .....	377,571	252,047	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-295) <sup>2</sup> .....	32,968	20,406	0
<b>Total, enacted this session:</b> .....	<b>407,888</b>	<b>270,365</b>	<b>-47,746</b>
<b>Passed, pending signature:</b>			
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (H.R. 5946) .....	2	2	0
National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006 (H.R. 6164) .....	-65	70	0
<b>Total, passed, pending signature:</b> .....	<b>-63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Continuing Resolution Authority:</b>			
Continuing Resolution, 2007 (P.L. 109-383) .....	436,112	262,309	0
<b>Entitlements and mandatories:</b>			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted .....	571,102	548,271	n.a.
<b>Total Current Level 2,3</b> .....	<b>2,266,002</b>	<b>2,273,560</b>	<b>1,771,853</b>
<b>Total Budget Resolution</b> .....	<b>2,283,029</b>	<b>2,325,998</b>	<b>1,780,666</b>
Current Level Over Budget Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution .....	17,027	52,438	8,813
<b>Memorandum:</b>			
<b>Revenues, 2007-2011:</b>			
House Current Level .....	n.a.	n.a.	10,146,069
House Budget Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	10,039,909
Current Level Over Budget Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	106,160
Current Level Under Budget Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes.—n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

<sup>1</sup> The effects of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-173) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions. In addition, the scoring for the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 includes savings from corrections to two provisions (in sections 8006 and 10002) not yet enacted, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated are as follows:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234) .....	48	39,863	0
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-289) .....	70,000	40,473	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-295) .....	1,829	943	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements: .....	71,877	81,279	0

These amounts are generally excluded from the current level. However, section 402 of the 2007 budget resolution specifies that upon enactment of funding for the global war on terrorism, amounts included in the budget resolution for such purpose shall be considered current law when preparing the current level. Therefore, the current level includes \$50,000 million in budget authority and \$33,500 million in outlays assumed in the budget resolution.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

**OUR MISSION IN IRAQ**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor to talk a little bit about national security and where the Nation's defense apparatus stands as of now. But I thought I also might comment on the comments that were made by two of my wonderful colleagues, Ms. WOOLSEY of California and Mr. PAUL of Texas, who preceded me and commented about their position to the effect that we should bring our troops home immediately from Iraq. And implicit in their comments was the message that somehow Saddam Hussein's continued rule of Iraq would have been preferable to the American intervention.

I disagree with that theme, and let me tell you why. In listening to Ms. WOOLSEY talk about the wounded, the KIA, the suffering in that part of the world, and the burden that has been borne by American soldiers, I think it is also important to remember the Iraq that was represented by Saddam Hussein.

And while she has, obviously, the images that have compelled her to take her philosophical position, the image that I have, and I keep in my desk drawer, is the photograph of the hundreds of mothers whose bodies are strewn across the hillside in northern Iraq, holding their children, some of them newborn babies, some of them four, five, 6 years old, dead in mid-stride where they were hit by poison chemical, poison chemical that was delivered into those villages at the order of Saddam Hussein.

And I have taken, as a guy who sometimes watches the History Channel, to tuning in when I see the History Channel reviewing the exhuming of bodies in these mass graves and putting together this story, this mosaic of Iraq history under Saddam Hussein and the story of how hundreds of people, men, women and children, would be herded across fields and they would be executed and their bodies would be pushed into mass graves. And now we are uncovering those mass graves.

And just like the mass graves that we found in Europe, especially those that were filled by bodies that had been people who had been executed by the Nazis, there are more people now in those mass graves, we find, than what we had projected.

And as I watched the exhuming of some of those bodies on the History

Channel, I noticed that the anthropologist who was doing the particular work noted that the mother, in some cases, who was executed would often have a .45 bullet hole in the back of her head, and her small baby that she was holding would also have a bullet hole in the back of his or her head. So the monstrosity that was Saddam Hussein, the mass execution, the killing of people with chemical weapons, is what the American troops displaced when we moved into Iraq.

Now, it is tough to stand up a free nation and stand up a military that is able to protect it, but that is the challenge that we are meeting right now. And we are following the same basic pattern that we have followed for 60 years. Whether you are talking about Japan or the Philippines or El Salvador in our own hemisphere, first you stand up a free government. Secondly, you stand up a military that is capable of protecting that free government, and third, the Americans, not coveting anything that that country has, the Americans leave.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I thought I also might speak just a little bit, as we turn over the control of Congress to the Democrat leadership, not only in the full House, but also the committee chairmanships, and my own committee chairmanship now has been relinquished to the gentleman from Missouri, IKE SKELTON, my good friend and a wonderful person and a person with a real heart for the troops. I thought that I might just comment about where we stand right now. I think it is important for the American people to know where we stand and what this Congress that is going out has accomplished for national security.

First, what have we done for the troops? Well, over the last 8 years we have increased the pay for the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines, and the National Guard by right at 40 percent, a 40 percent pay increase. We have increased family separation pay, the amount of money that we deliver to our military families when they are separated when people are deployed overseas. We have increased that from \$100 a month to about \$250 a month. We have increased our combat pay.

Mr. Speaker, I know I have only got 5 minutes, so I will elaborate on some of the accomplishments that occurred during this last Congress in the next hour.

**DEFINING EARMARKS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, again, thank you for the leadership given today and yesterday by Speaker PELOSI and the House leadership for putting us on the right course. And it is interesting to listen to my good friends, and they are good friends, who are on the other side of the aisle and to listen to the conversation on the Nation's headline stations about the commitment Democrats have made to come to work. And we are delighted that in the last couple of votes we saw almost unanimous votes as relates to our open government.

But let me, as a Member who comes from a district that depends a lot on the interests and concern of this Congress about issues of empowerment of nonprofits and charitable organizations who struggle every day to mentor children, to provide economic empowerment. Sometimes they provide assistance where government cannot. And they are the recipients of earmarks. And I think it is important that we define earmarks so that the maligning that has occurred because of some inappropriate use of earmarks really doesn't hide the value of allowing these tax dollars to go back, not through government bureaucracy but right to the people.

□ 1430

An example of that is the Texas Southern University Laboratory School, a school that is placed in a public housing complex that educates the children and other surrounding children in that neighborhood in a progressive and op-educational system, so much so that their test scores have excelled beyond public school. It is, in fact, formerly a school that had been embraced by the public school system, and now has been spun off to Texas Southern University, a teaching college, and the housing authority.

We have an earmark, of which I am very proud to have all of the scrutiny that anyone might want, that would provide dollars to continue this interesting and provocative way of teaching our children so that inner city children, children that would be pegged as not being able to be creative, are actually passing their science tests, their math tests, and they rush to school because they have a lust for learning. That is an earmark.