

the House and Senate both passed veterans funding with overwhelming support. The fiscal year ends on Saturday.

Unfortunately, it has become clear that the top Democratic aides intend to hold our veterans hostage. A spokeswoman for the House Appropriations Committee called our letter and efforts to pass veterans funding immediately just "a cute diversion."

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing cute about withholding funding for veterans benefits. There is nothing cute about withholding funding for veterans health care. There is nothing cute about Democrats using veterans as political pawns in their appropriations strategy.

I urge my colleagues not to let veterans funding be held hostage any longer. Our veterans are saying, don't betray us. Pass the fiscal year 2008 appropriations.

#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote for legislation supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

For nearly 100 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has served a straightforward and noble mission, honoring the dead by helping the living and by providing friendship.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we have nearly 10,000 VFW members, another 4,500 members of the Ladies Auxiliary. I'm honored to be their representative in this House and to work with them to ensure that all of our veterans and their families receive the full support and benefits they have earned.

The VFW has been an outspoken advocate for veterans rights. It has called for expanded health care for veterans, increased funding for research into traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. It has also asked for improved access to health care and for veterans support for mental illnesses and treatment.

When I met with my veterans advisory committee last fall, one prominent member of the VFW asked me to support a sufficient budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am happy to report that the 110th Congress passed the largest budget in the 77-year history of the Veterans Affairs.

The House of Representatives has heard the call of the VFW and other veterans organizations and has passed bills to support and fund these critical issues.

#### STOP THE SALE OF MURDER-ABILIA TO PROTECT THE DIGNITY OF CRIME VICTIMS ACT

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, later today I will introduce legislation, the

Stop the Sale of Murderabilia to Protect the Dignity of Crime Victims Act. And I will introduce that legislation with my good friend and former sheriff from Indiana, Congressman ELLSWORTH.

Before coming to Congress, I served 33 years in the King County Sheriff's Office. I have seen the pain on the faces of victims and victims families, unexplainable, unimaginable pain that covers their faces and their families for the rest of their life.

And, unfortunately, criminals today who are in our State and Federal prisons are using their fame and notoriety to make a buck. The Internet has become a gateway to an industry coined as "murderabilia," where tangible goods owned and/or created by convicted murderers are sold for their profit.

Today, on the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, I'm privileged and honored to honor the memory of all victims. And my bill aims to shut down this business.

#### STRENGTHENING THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush was running for re-election in 2004, one of the major promises he made during his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention was to strengthen the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Back then, the compassionately conservative President vowed to, and I'm quoting now, "lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance program."

That's exactly what this Congress has done. A bipartisan agreement that comes to the floor today would enroll more than 4 million more children in the Children's Health Insurance Program who are already eligible. And based on his past statement, you would think that President Bush would be praising this agreement. He is not. In fact, he's threatening to veto the bill because he says that we are trying to expand the program beyond its original intent. That's just wrong. Our bipartisan agreement does nothing more than what he vowed to do back in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. The President should follow through with his promise and support our efforts to ensure 10 million children have access to health care.

#### ALAN GREENSPAN AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in Alan Greenspan's new memoir, "The Age of Turbulence," the

former Fed Chair criticizes Republicans for abandoning fiscal discipline.

It's no wonder: the current Bush administration has racked up over one-third, about \$3.2 trillion, of our nearly \$9 trillion total national debt. In fact, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush are responsible for incurring almost three-quarters of our total national debt, according to a new analysis from the Joint Economic Committee.

Republican administrations over the last 30 years have made us a Nation of debtors, vulnerable to the economic and political decisions made half a world away. We need a new direction.

Democrats in Congress are committed to getting our fiscal house back in order.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a) and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:

Mr. DINGELL, Michigan  
Mr. GILCREST, Maryland

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL AWARD BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Congressional Award Board:

Ms. SHELLA JACKSON-LEE, Texas  
and, in addition,  
Mr. Paxton Baker, Maryland  
Mr. Vic Fazio, Virginia  
Mrs. Annette Lantos, California  
Ms. Mary Rodgers, Pennsylvania

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
June 28, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)) I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis of Florida to the Congressional Award Board.

Mr. Bilirakis has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Republican Leader.