will increase in the final days leading up to the election. But in spite of the efforts of those that hate freedom, the elections will take place; and it will begin a new period in Iraq’s history, a beginning that will lead to freely elected leaders, a national assembly and a constitution founded on freedom and equal rights.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues and the people of this great country to join me in awe and admiration for the Iraqi people as they show the world the power of liberation to their determination to forge a path towards lasting freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL AND FRANCINE DEMMA

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding labor of love and faith in my district.

Carl Demma of Oak Lawn had a vision nearly 20 years ago of expressing his Catholic faith by creating a larger-than-life statue of the Virgin Mary. His goal was to encourage people to reflect on their religious faith at the beginning of the new millennium. Mr. Demma’s vision was realized in a 33-foot-tall statue of the Virgin Mary. Our Lady of the New Millennium was blessed by Pope John Paul II in 1998, and, since that time, hundreds of thousands of the faithful have been able to view the statue.

Since Carl passed on in 2000, his beloved wife Francine has dedicated her time and energy to ensuring that the statue continues to be transported from parish to parish for all the faithful to experience.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. and Mrs. Demma for their dedication and their many years of service to the community.

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in the year 2018, Social Security will start paying out more money than it is bringing in. In the years 2035 to 2042, somewhere in that range, it will be out of money, and it will force a benefit cut of 27 percent.

Now, that is not a burning crisis today, but it is a slow-burning problem that we in the U.S. Congress need to address. We should do it with a couple of parameters: that we are not going to cut the benefits, we are not going to increase taxes, we are not going to change Social Security for retirees or near retirees. But we should act responsibly in a bipartisan manner to protect and preserve Social Security and not use it for our advantage in the next election, but come up with long-term solutions for the next generation. I invite my Democrat colleagues to come in with their ideas. And I would say to Independents and conservatives, and let these ideas on the table, let us address this situation together in a bipartisan fashion, and let us do it for the sake of my parents, my dad is 87, my mom is 80; and for your parents; and also, again, for the next generation.

MORE FUNDING AND ATTENTION TO SECURE OUR PORTS

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has made tremendous strides in securing our homeland since the 9/11 attacks. Americans have performed amazingly well in staying alert and aware, while the Federal Government has done an excellent job in making travel safer for airline passengers.

Nevertheless, our achievements merely highlight how much more work remains. Before we can truly be safe, we must direct more funding and attention to securing our ports.

America’s seaports have become the locomotives of economic growth, receiving 95 percent of our Nation’s imports. Florida alone has 14 deepwater seaports handling 20 percent of our imported oil comes through the Gulf of Mexico border region. Thus, terrorists know what devastating death and destruction would be wrought through the detonation of one dirty bomb in one of those containers bringing international commerce to a screeching halt.

We spend a great deal of time debating how to secure our land border. We must start devoting the same amount of time and energy to the security of our water border, starting today. Through the Gulf of Mexico States Caucus, we will work to ensure that the House accomplishes this goal.

TIME TO ABANDON RISKY SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION SCHEME

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this week we had another reality check on how politically devastating Republican fiscal policies are on our Nation. Yesterday the Bush administration announced that the budget deficit is set...
to hit another record this year, a whopping $429 billion.

The President also had to admit that thanks to these new projections, he is already behind in his campaign pledge to cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years. Yet the President has no plans to alter his misguided policies that took us from record surpluses when he arrived in Washington to record deficits now.

But the President is still not finished. He has a plan that would use an additional $2 trillion in Federal funds to privatize Social Security. Enough is enough. Congressional Republicans need to stop blindly following this President that is too late, and it is time that they abandon this risky Social Security privatization scheme.

ELECTION AS MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 49), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 49

Resolved, That the following named Members and Delegates be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Holden, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Etheridge, Mr. Baca, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Herseth, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Costa, Mr. Salazar, Mr. Barrow.

(2) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mr. Murtha, Mr. Dicks, Mr. Sabo, Mr. Hoyer, Mr. Mollohan, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Visclosky, Mrs. Lowey, Mr. Serrano, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Olver, Mr. Pastor, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Polis, Mr. Edolphus, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Kennedy of Rhode Island, Mr. Clay, Mr. Watson, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California, Mr. Buppersberger, Mr. Higgins.

(3) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Watt, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Mr. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Watt, Mr. Delahunt, Mr. Meek of New York, Ms. Lee, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Berkley, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Schifft, Ms. Watson, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. McGovern of Minnesota, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Cardoza.

(4) COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Payne, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Minta, Mr. Delhant, Mr. Meek of New York, Ms. Lee, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Berkley, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Schifft, Ms. Watson, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. McGovern of Minnesota, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Cardoza.

(5) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Kind of Nebraska, Ms. Big Hill of New Mexico, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Costa, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Boren.

(6) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Waxman, Mr. Markey, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Towns, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Rush, Mr. Eshoo, Mr. Stupak, Ms. Pelosi of Oregon, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Solis, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Betsy, Mr. Balin, Mr. Ross.

(7) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Kanjorski, Ms. Waters, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Watt, Mr. Ackerman, Ms. Polis, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Sheraman, Mr. Meeks of New York, Ms. Lee, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Ford, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Clay, Mr. Israel, Mr. Delhant, Mr. Baca, Ms. Matheson, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Davis of Alabama, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Bean, Mr. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin.

(8) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Lantos, Mr. Owens, Mr. Towns, Mr. Kanjorski, Ms. Maloney, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Perney, Mr. Clay, Ms. Watson, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California, Mr. Buppersberger, Mr. Higgins.

(9) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INSPECTION.—Ms. Millender-McDonald, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania.

(10) COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Payne, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Minta, Mr. Delhant, Mr. Meek of New York, Ms. Lee, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Berkley, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Schifft, Ms. Watson, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. McGovern of Minnesota, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Cardoza.

(11) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Berman, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Watt, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Mr. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Waters, Mr. Meek, Mr. Delhant, Mr. Meexler, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Schifft, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California.

(12) COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Christensen, Mr. Kind of Nebraska, Ms. Big Hill of New Mexico, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Costa, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Boren.

(13) COMMITTEE ON RULES.—Mr. McGovern, Mr. Hasec, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Wright of Texas, Mr. Berman, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Payne, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Brown of Ohio, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Minta, Mr. Delhant, Mr. Meek of New York, Ms. Lee, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Berkley, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Schifft, Ms. Watson, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. McGovern of Minnesota, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Cardoza.

(14) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE.—Mr. Costello, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Rush, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Stupak, Mr. Blackburn of Tennessee, Ms. Hooley of Oregon, Ms. Carson, Mr. Waxman, Mr. Dobbs, Mr. MacGill, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Bean, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California.

(15) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Millender-McDonald, Mr. Udall of New Mexico, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Costa, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Boren.

(16) COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT.—Mr. Hoyer.

(17) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Rahall, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Costello, Ms. Norton, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Menendez, Ms. Corrine Brown of Florida, Mr. Finkenauer, Mr. Ed Black of California, Mr. Taylor of Mississippi, Ms. Millender-McDonald, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Tauscher, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Boswell, Ms. Waters, Mr. Honda, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Lipinski.

(18) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS.—Ms. Butterfield, Ms. Corrine Brown of Florida, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Herseth, Mr. Higgins.

(19) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Stark, Mr. Levin, Mr. Cardin, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Lewis of Georgia, Mr. Neal of Massachusetts, Mr. McNulty, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Pomery, Mrs. Jones of Ohio, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Emanuel.

Mr. MENENDEZ. (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaHood). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 50) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 50

Resolved. That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Sanders (to rank immediately after Ms. Waters).

(2) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Sanders (to rank immediately after Mr. Kanjorski).

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE DURING 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the requirement of clause 11(a)(1) of rule X, during the 109th Congress, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be composed of not more than 19 Members, of whom not more than 11 be from the same party.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 54, CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 42 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 42

Resolved. That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Holden, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Etheridge, Mr. Baca, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Herseth, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Cuellar, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Costa, Mr. Salazar, Mr. Barrow.