

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the individual bill on the Private Calendar.

BELINDA MCGREGOR

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 452) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

A TRIBUTE TO CINCINNATI POLICE OFFICER STEVEN WONG

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, my hometown, Cincinnati, is saying goodbye to one of its most respected public servants, and I am saying goodbye to a good friend. After a lengthy battle with cancer, Cincinnati Police Sergeant Steve Wong has passed away at the young age of 45. He will be sorely missed by his family, his wife, Christy, and his sons Jared and Bret, and his parents, Tom and Anna, and by his colleagues and his friends.

Steve Wong was one of those individuals who earned the respect of everyone who knew him. Upon Steve's death, Cincinnati Police Lieutenant Colonel Richard Biehl said, "I do not think I have ever known anyone who was so universally liked in the police division." So much so by his colleagues that the Cincinnati Police Department raised funds to help pay his medical bills and donated their sick leave in order to help Steve and his family through their long ordeal. That says something about the quality of the Cincinnati Police Department as well.

Mr. Speaker, Cincinnati will miss Steve Wong. His commitments to his community were unparalleled. Even while battling cancer himself, Steve volunteered to assist other cancer patients and their families during their time of need. He was truly a great American. We all extend our condolences to his family. Steve is gone, but he will never be forgotten.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE SUMMIT

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and the Orange County delegate to the Voices Against Violence Summit this week. As my colleagues know, our Democratic leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is sponsoring a youth summit to combat teen violence, and I am proud to be participating in this event.

Michelle Aceves is in Washington as a result. She is a recent graduate of Century High School of Santa Ana, and now she attends Orange Coast College, where she is studying psychology and broadcast journalism. She plans to complete her studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In addition to her academic commitment, Ms. Aceves works part-time and volunteers at McFadden Middle School in my district. Hundreds of teenagers like Michelle from across the country are here this week to share their ideas on youth violence. Michelle and her fellow delegates have proven what many of us have long known, that our teenagers believe that helping our children and young adults stay safe is a top priority and that they want to help solve this crisis.

This conference will lay the foundation for local projects to prevent violence in our schools. Our teens can contribute to the congressional debate on youth violence, and they can help to find solutions. But we must listen.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL STUART

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday the University of Nevada's athletic department and the Wolfpack supporters suffered an enormous loss when their sports information director, Paul Stuart, passed away.

Stuart was an avid sports enthusiast and became the Wolfpack's biggest fan when he took the job in 1981. His career at the University of Nevada, Reno, was decorated with numerous awards and citations for simply being one of the best. Whether it was designing the next media guide or providing radio and television commentary, Paul Stuart succeeded in providing a shining light on the Pack's athletic achievements.

Stuart, a 1975 graduate from the University of New Mexico, went on to become the information service director at New Mexico Highlands University. Soon after, he left for Nevada and became one of the hardest working individuals in the Wolfpack athletic department, sometimes working well late into the night.

And though Paul Stuart was perhaps the largest promoter and fan of the Nevada athletic teams and individuals, he was an even larger fan of his family. Mr. Speaker, as both a Nevadan and a Wolfpack alumnus, my thoughts and

prayers go out to Paul's wife Annie and his four children, Calvin, Lindsay, Kara, and Kelsey. He will be sorely missed.

RUSSIAN POLITICAL LEADERS ARE STEALING AMERICAN FOREIGN AID

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, \$7.5 billion Russian dollars turned up in a bank in New York. Now, what is going on here? Russia is so poor they cannot buy toilet paper. When asked about it, fumbling, bumbling, stumbling Boris said, "I'm no criminal. It's not my money."

Who is kidding whom? Two and a half million of those dollars were traced back to Boris's son-in-law. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Russian politicians are stealing American foreign aid. Boris does not need American cash; Boris needs Alcoholics Anonymous.

I yield back all the bleeding hearts in Washington and all around America that keep pumping money into Russia.

ENACT H.R. 2420, INTERNET FREEDOM AND BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 1999, AND ELIMINATE THE WORLD-WIDE-WAIT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, broadband Internet access promises to revolutionize the way Americans live, play, and learn. However, only 2 percent of Americans have access to broadband communications.

Today, consumers must settle for slow Internet access. Most of us have experienced the worldwide wait of too many consumers trying to get on and surf the Net at the same time through slow dial-up connections overloading the system.

Is there anything Congress can do to clear the traffic jam? Yes. Congress can pass H.R. 2420, the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 1999. That will encourage companies to build out the Internet backbone and allow the benefits of broadband to flow freely to all consumers rather than the current trickle down to a lucky few.

H.R. 2420 will remove the regulatory barriers erected by the FCC that are hindering the deployment of broadband services by the Bell companies. These companies should be encouraged, instead of discouraged, to invest in broadband services.

This legislation already enjoys broad bipartisan support. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2420 today.

FY 2000 FUNDING FOR THE GEAR-UP PROGRAM

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell two stories, one of success, and one of failure.

In August, the Education Department awarded a grant to a local coalition dedicated to helping students in Lorain, Ohio, go to college. The grant is part of the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR-UP.

Lorain County has a large number of low-income students and the lowest incidence of postsecondary education in northeast Ohio. The GEAR-UP program provides training and materials to volunteer mentors from local industry and universities. These positive role models will meet with students early, before they internalize negative messages. The program intends to motivate students to ask for, and answer to, increased academic demand.

But here is where we risk failure. Funding for GEAR-UP is eliminated in the current Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Why? Because GEAR-UP supports public-private partnerships to support local students? Because it creates dollar-for-dollar matches between local partnerships and States? Because it provides college scholarships to reinforce the message that hard work begets opportunity?

Mr. Speaker, let us make sure our failure does not deter students from future successes before they have a chance to begin. Let us fund the GEAR-UP program.

CONGRESS SHOULD REPEAL THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

(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, I would like to read a portion of this 21-page report, entitled "The State of Our Union, the Social Health of Marriage in America," by David Popenoe and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead.

It says, and I quote:

Key social indicators suggest a substantial weakening of the institution of marriage in America. Americans have become less likely to marry. When they do marry, their marriages are less happy, and married couples face a high likelihood of divorce.

The report goes on to say many other things. It has many findings. It concludes that marriage is a fundamental social institution; that it is central to the nurture and raising of children. It is the social glue that reliably attaches fathers to children. It contributes to the physical, emotional and economic health of men, women, and children and, thus, to the Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should promote policies that value, endorse, and encourage marriage, not punish it. We should repeal the marriage penalty tax.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT BREAK ADDICTION TO SPENDING

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely astounds me. It astounds me to hear Democrats come to this floor and suggest that a 1 percent across-the-board spending cut would threaten government. I believe, without a shadow of a doubt, that our government still wastes 1 percent or more of its budget.

What those Democrats are actually saying is that they cannot find a way to break their addiction to spending money. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, when the Democrats ran this House, they were so addicted to spending that they raided every trust fund in government. They raided the Highway Trust Fund, they raided the Aviation Trust Fund, they raided the Medicare Trust Fund, they raided the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, they cannot break this addiction to spend, even though it threatens the well-being of our country, even though it threatens the retirement of over 30 million seniors. They lack the willpower to do what is necessary to maintain the discipline we have brought to this House.

We Republicans have the discipline, the willpower, and the commitment to do what is right, and that is to stop the raid on Social Security and to do it now.

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STATE FLEXIBILITY FOR MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, we have an exciting opportunity to give our States greater control over the minimum wage so they can continue to help those struggling to make ends meet. In 1996, we gave the States the responsibility to move people off of welfare and into productive jobs. Today, States need the freedom to tailor the best wage rates to fit the needs of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, State flexibility gives security to those who need it and opportunity to those who want it. It allows each State to choose the minimum wage increase that is in the best interests of its workers and those struggling to find jobs. More importantly, State flexibility recognizes that our governors and State representatives are no less compassionate or committed to improving the lives of our most disadvantaged citizens.

I ask my colleagues to send dollars, decisions and freedom home. Let us support State flexibility for the minimum wage.

PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER FROM IMF

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the IMF fiddles while the world's poorest countries burn, in poverty, disease, ignorance and debt. The International Monetary Fund uses its control over global finances to impose economic and social policies on poor countries. The result: poor people in poor countries have virtually no health care, no education, and crippled economies.

The IMF is not a doctor with a cure, it is a quack selling poison potions. The United Nations just released a report saying that over 800 million people go to bed hungry every night, and the world's three richest people, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Paul Allen, have more than the GNP of all poor countries on the planet combined.

The time to act is now. We must stop the IMF from imposing austerity and poverty on countries too poor and hungry to fight back.

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today is day 145 of the Social Security lockbox held hostage by the Senate Democrats and President Clinton. One hundred forty-five days ago, House Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass my legislation, H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999, by an overwhelming 416-12 vote. The House of Representatives has made a commitment to not spend one penny of the Social Security trust fund on unrelated programs.

Senate Republicans have attempted to bring this bill to the Senate floor seven times and on seven occasions the measure was blocked from even being considered by a straight party line vote. Mr. Speaker, American seniors deserve more from Senate Democrats and President Clinton. They deserve a lockbox for their Social Security.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE KENNETH W. STARR

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Kenneth W. Starr and thank him for more than 5 years of service of investigating and prosecuting crime and corruption at the highest levels of this Nation's government. What started out as an investigation of a land deal soon led down the road to lies and deceptions. For the 5 years of his life Judge Starr devoted in his search for truth and justice, he encountered nothing short of roadblocks,