

in commanding Imogene "Moby" Matthews for her lifetime of dedication, service and compassion to the residents of northwest Indiana. She has touched the lives of many residents and she will be sorely missed not only by those she has helped with her outstanding service and uncompromising dedication but by myself and my staff who have seen her extraordinary expertise and felt her deep compassion and love. She will never be replaced.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DAY

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day to American citizens and not just because it is Valentine's Day but because the President has also declared it National Guard and Reserve Day. I am encouraged that our national leadership is finally paying tribute to the citizen soldiers that play such a vital role in the protection of democracy and of our Nation's defense.

The National Guard has been there in every war and conflict that this Nation has ever fought. They were there in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, both World War I and World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm and, most recently, Operation Allied Force in Kosovo. The National Guard is an integral part of America's military today, serving side by side with its active duty counterparts all over the world. They meet the security needs of our Nation, both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard is the only component in our military that has a dual mission. Their Federal mission is to serve as an essential partner with the country's Army and Air Force, responding to security needs worldwide. Just as important is their State mission of meeting the needs of our citizens during emergencies and disasters. The Guard, with its long history of assisting and protecting local communities, is well prepared to play this critical role in this critical mission area.

I would like to take this opportunity today, Mr. Speaker, to highlight the accomplishments of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard. 4,452 people strong, the individuals of the South Dakota National Guard are some of the finest citizens in my State. They have served their Federal mission dutifully through deployments. As personnel from the 109th Medical Battalion deployed to Jamaica to perform medical readiness training, the 153rd Engineering Battalion worked on vertical construction in Hohenfels, Germany, and the 109th Engineer Group participated in warfighter exercises in Gafenwoehr. In just 3 years, the 147th Field Artillery's two battalions completed conversion to the multiple launch rocket system, and I have

just gotten word that the 1085th Medical Company has been given the order to prepare the unit for full deployment to Bosnia. In addition, the 114th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard has deployed more than 500 people in support of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force and is getting ready for their fourth deployment enforcing the no-fly zone in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary individuals have also responded to their State mission, being called on just this past summer to fight the Jasper fire in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This fire was the biggest ever in the history of my State. The 285 soldiers and airmen that were called to active duty to help fight this fire were there to meet the challenge just like they have always been. Their quick response is a credit to the hardworking individuals and their dedication to their job as citizen soldiers.

One can see by looking at the call of duty of the South Dakota National Guard that their responsibilities are escalating. However, at the same time we have unfortunately witnessed a decline in fully funded personnel accounts and end strengths. As the National Guard's number one priority, we must continue to devote attention to full-time manning. Adequate personnel and support are absolutely necessary to ensure a ready and accessible Guard.

Following these lines, we must take steps to ensure that our Nation's forces are capable of fighting and winning two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts. Procurement and modernization play a central role in this. They are crucial elements to our ability to respond to multiple engagements and threats to our national security. Unfortunately, the Army and Air Force are currently wearing out weapons systems and support mission equipment. This is a direct result of the rate at which we have deployed on peacekeeping missions. As we begin to work through the defense authorization and appropriations cycle this year and in the future, more attention must be given to procurement of new weapons systems and to combat capability for all forces.

It is critical that Congress and the new administration provide funding levels sufficient to ensure that America's military capabilities are in line with our superpower responsibilities. We also must take steps to reassess our deployment strategies. Currently there is a great mismatch between U.S. force levels and overseas commitments. In the past decade, U.S. forces, which have included members of the South Dakota National Guard, have been deployed 35 times to places like Panama, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo and even East Timor.

In the 40-year span of the Cold War era, our military was only deployed 10 times. Today, the U.S. Armed Forces are 40 percent smaller but 30 percent busier than they were just 10 years ago. A national strategy that clearly indi-

cates where and under what circumstances deploying American servicemen and women is necessary needs to be developed.

In addition to this increased operations tempo, Congress continues to identify new roles for the National Guard. These include defense against domestic terrorism, national missile defense, and defense against cyber-terrorism.

Members of the South Dakota National Guard form an essential part of our national security team. They are active participants in the full spectrum of operations, from the smallest contingencies to major theater conflicts. They are indispensable forces who truly embody our forefathers' vision. Their dedication to service, Mr. Speaker, and the outstanding manner in which they perform their duties exemplify the notion of the American citizen soldier. And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you to them today.

REGARDING AMERICA'S MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Washington sometimes speaks with its own language. We talk in this town of taking risks, laying it on the line, or getting out on the edge, when the only cost of failure is to our pride or perceived prestige.

Out there beyond the Beltway, in many cases beyond America's shores, are people who really do take risks. They lay their lives on the line every day and they do so because we ask them to. They are, of course, America's finest, our men and women in uniform. And while some in this town may spare them a passing thought now and again, they are thinking of us, and Americans like us, every day. That is what devotion to duty means.

It is unfortunate but correct to note that those soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are never more prominent in our thoughts than when something goes wrong. Our hearts went out to the families of the sterling sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Cole*. We mourned the loss of brave Marines lost in recent aviation mishaps. And today our thoughts are with the families of soldiers killed and injured in an Army helicopter accident.

There is a message in these events, if we care to hear it. It is that even in times of greatest peace, the profession of arms is fraught with hazard. The world demands that we train hard, and realistic training brings real dangers. American interests require that our forces be forward, and those distant waters can mask unseen threats. And the requirement for technological leadership means that flaws in new systems can occasionally take a fearsome price.

So let us give thought on this Valentine's Day, this day dedicated to love,

to those men and women who put love of country above all. We are free to speak our minds in this Chamber because, out there, they have accepted the job of keeping us free. We are able to run what we call political risks because they take on mortal risks.

We talk at some length about how to properly compensate our men and women in uniform. That debate goes on. But I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we owe a humbling debt to America's servicepeople that goes far beyond the monetary. Indeed, it is not too much to say that, in the framers' phrase, they defend our lives and our sacred honor. Such a gift is truly beyond price.

LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day and the 10th anniversary of freedom from Soviet occupation. I am especially proud of my Lithuanian heritage at this time of the year.

From the first Independence Day on February 16, 1918 until their reassertion of their independence on February 16, 1991, freedom from foreign domination has been a hard-earned dream for the Republic of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian people withstood unspeakable abuse under Soviet military forces that occupied Lithuania from 1940 to 1991 with dignity and restraint. In Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, there are many reminders kept of the sacrifices made for freedom. The Vilnius KGB museum consists of a basement jail that has cells and torture chambers where secret police detained and interrogated Lithuanian prisoners before sending them into Siberian exile. The Lithuanian parliament building hosts a section of bullet-scarred barricades that were used in 1990 to ward off Russian tanks. Also, the Vilnius TV tower, which is the tallest structure in the city, has a monument to the 14 unarmed, freedom-loving Lithuanians who were murdered on January 13, 1991 by Soviet soldiers during their attempt to take over the tower.

In the 10 short years since the reestablishment of its independence, the Republic of Lithuania has restored democracy, ensured human rights, secured the rule of law, developed a free market economy, cultivated friendly relations with neighboring countries and successfully pursued a course of integration into the European Union. 2001 will be another critical year for Lithuania as it works to attract foreign investment and gain admission into NATO. Lithuania deserves our recognition for its perseverance in the face of immense challenges. It has proven not only to be a faithful friend

to the United States but also a tenacious ally, as demonstrated by their recent assistance in our peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia. I hope we will not jeopardize their future security by withholding NATO membership beyond 2002.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing Ambassador from Lithuania, Mr. Stasys Sakalauskas, for his service in Washington, D.C. and his dedication to improving U.S.-Lithuania relations. I also welcome the new Ambassador who will be named at the end of this month, and I look forward to working with him.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 83rd anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight, I missed the vote last night on H.R. 2, the Social Security and Medicare Lock-box Act of 2001. Had I been here, I would have voted in favor of the bill.

This legislation signifies our commitment to protect seniors' benefits. It ensures that Medicare and Social Security funds will only be used for their intended purposes and not be spent on other government programs. I believe this is a major step toward long-term reform that will assure all workers and retirees that these programs will be there for their future.

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REPEALING THE 5-YEAR LIMITATION ON INTEREST DEDUCTIBILITY FOR STUDENT LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to re-introduce a bill important to all students—H.R. . In the 105th Congress, we passed legislation that allows students to deduct interest paid on student loans. We did this to make it easier for all Americans to bear the enormous costs of higher education, and I supported this effort whole-heartedly.

My bill improves this law by removing the current 60 month limitation period for deducting student loan interest. As the law currently stands, if your student loan is older than 5 years from when it came due, you are not eligible for a tax deduction.

This limitation needs to be removed. Higher education has become increasingly expensive and is creating a financial burden on graduates well beyond the first five years of graduation. According to the General Accounting Office, the average student loan in 1980 was \$518; in 1995, it rose to \$2,417, an increase of 367%. Tuition at 4-year public and private colleges and universities has risen nearly three times as much as median household income in the past 15 years. As a result, it is becoming harder for students to graduate from college or graduate school without the help of student loans.

Students that graduate with student loans start out a few steps behind those without it.

It is harder for them to save for emergencies or to invest money for their future. It is also harder for them to meet day-to-day expenses. This tax deduction will help.

All interest accrued on student loans should be deductible. Congress can send the message that we value higher education and recognize the financial responsibility students have made by allowing the student loan deduction for the life of the loan.

This will do two things: It will encourage individuals to go to college or graduate school, and it will reduce the cost of an education. Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that the way to achieve the American Dream is through education, and that everyone should have this opportunity.

It is absolutely essential that we continue to invest in our most important hope for our children—education. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. .

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, 107TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the attached Committee on Ways and Means rules for the 107th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 2(a)(2).

The Committee adopted these Rules on February 7, 2001.

If you have any questions please contact John Kelliher at x69150.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—MANUAL OF RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 7, 2001

(Prepared for the use of the Committee on Ways and Means by its staff)

FOREWORD

This manual has been prepared to assist Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, its staff, and the public. It presents in two parts various rules that affect the organization and procedures of the Committee on Ways and Means. Part I contains rules adopted by the Committee for the 107th Congress. Part II contains selected Rules of the House of Representatives, which are also a part of the rules of the Committee, affecting all standing committees of the House.

PART I.—RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 107TH CONGRESS

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provides in part:

* * * 1. (a)(1)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), the Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) A motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, each shall be privileged in committees and subcommittees and shall be decided without debate.

(2) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.* * *

* * * 2. (a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure. Such rules—

(A) shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in