

just think about it. America has drugs, rape, even murder in our schools, but God is not allowed to enter, not even a moment of silence. Beam me up.

A nation that denies God defies God and invites disaster like we are seeing week after week, month after month. I yield back the fact that school prayer may not solve all problems, but school prayer is a start in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE STILES

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a totally different kind of situation at school than the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) mentioned. I rise to pay tribute to a young lady who has brought praise and honor on the sport of basketball and to Southwest Missouri State University by becoming the Nation's all-time leading scorer in women's NCAA Division I basketball.

Jackie Stiles has been among the leading scorers in women's college basketball for 4 years. She scored 20 or more points in college games 86 times; 30-plus points 35 times; 40-plus points 10 times, and in 2 games she broke the 50-point mark. She is one of only two players in NCAA women's basketball history to break the 50-point mark twice. She broke the 12-year-old NCAA Division I scoring mark of 3,103 points in a game last week with Creighton University.

Jackie Stiles grew up playing basketball in Claflin, Kansas, where she was highly recruited by colleges and universities nationwide. She has also been on the all-American academic team every year of her college career. She is a great role model for students and young athletes and young women.

Madam Speaker, I wish her and her team well as they go on to finish this season and to add new points to that overall record.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE STILES

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I join the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) in recognizing the achievement of a remarkable athlete that comes from the First District of Kansas. Claflin, Kansas, population 700, native Jackie Stiles, who averages around 30 points per game, is one of college basketball's most outstanding scorers.

On March 1, she made history by breaking the NCAA Division I women's career scoring record of 3,133 points. She increased that record by adding another 35 points on March 3 during Southwest Missouri's final regular season game. Jackie's hard work and dedication to basketball is unparalleled.

She remains the leading scorer in Kansas high school basketball history.

Her practice routine includes shooting 1,000 baskets each time. While in high school, Jackie's right wrist was broken during a game. Days later, the right-handed shooter was training herself to shoot with her left hand. These examples demonstrate her natural talents and desire to achieve perfection.

Jackie has received so many well deserved honors. Among them include twice being named Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year, in addition to being a member of the United State's Gold Medal-Winning Jones Cup Team. This year she was nominated for an ESPY, and is a hopeful for another Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year award, in addition to being named Naismith Player of the Year.

Jackie is quick to acknowledge the contributions of others in her success, particularly her parents, Pat and Pam Stiles, of Claflin, Kansas. She always places her team first and herself second. She maintains an undying devotion to her fans and it is common for her to stay hours after the game until each person who wants an autograph has seen her.

Seldom does an individual come along whose character and skill transcend beyond the court. In Kansas and Missouri, Jackie is a role model. Now the rest of the Nation can discover how special she is. Jackie Stiles is truly deserving of her most recent honors and accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, congratulations to her and her hometown of Claflin, Kansas.

PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH MUCH NEEDED RELIEF

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, American families deserve to share in the rewards of this economy they shaped and the surplus they created. At the same time recognizing the slower economy of the last 6 months, we need to get some help, and tax relief would do that.

Critics of tax relief cannot have it both ways. They argued against tax relief when the deficits were more than \$250 billion in the 1990s; and now they argue against tax relief again when the deficits have turned into surpluses.

So many families are still struggling today to pay their credit card and utility bills. Ending the marriage penalty tax and phasing out the death tax will create a fair Tax Code that would benefit all Americans.

Madam Speaker, allowing all Americans to keep more of their money is a good policy for the economy as a whole. Clearly there is room within the surplus to pay down the debt, fund priority programs, and enact President Bush's tax cut.

ISSUES CONCERNING VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize my constituents from Puerto Rico, many of them from Vieques, that have come to Washington to share with Members their concerns involving the U.S. Navy's bombing exercises on Vieques.

For the last 60 years, the people of the island of Vieques have suffered from the Navy's bombing exercises. They have seen their children get ill and die of cancer and have suffered from numerous diseases. Residents of Vieques have a mortality rate 40 percent higher than that of Puerto Rico and a 27 percent higher risk of dying from cancer.

This is a nonpartisan issue. In Puerto Rico, all political parties stand united. We welcome the support and commitment of Governor Pataki of New York and Governor DiFrancesco of New Jersey.

Despite what my colleagues may have heard, our military preparedness does not rest in the balance of training at Vieques. Jack Shanahan, retired Admiral of the U.S. Second Atlantic Fleet, has stated that there are alternative sites and that training on Vieques is outdated. Further, we are encouraged by the Secretary of Defense's decision to suspend exercises that were scheduled to take place on Vieques in March.

I stand here today to call on President Bush to order the permanent cessation of all bombing exercises on Vieques. Vieques is not a national security issue. It is a health and human rights issue. If compassion has any meaning, I cannot think of any more compelling case. I urge my colleagues to support our letter to the President.

Elie Weisel said: Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction. The people of Vieques are very real and their suffering very concrete. Indifference on this issue is unacceptable.

AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT

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

Mr. ROEMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss what the American people need and want and that is fair tax cuts based upon a real surplus. I disagree with the President's proposal that he has laid before us that is based on a Ouija board prediction, a crystal ball and a magic wand. We do not know if these surpluses are going to materialize. As a matter of fact, from our State in Indiana, we used to have a surplus 2 years ago. It is gone. We do not know if this Federal surplus is going to be there in 2 years, let alone 10. Yet the

President's proposal asks for \$1.6 trillion in tax cuts. Let us make sure it is something the American people get and we do not pull the rug out from underneath them in 3 years.

Secondly, it should be fair, targeted at people making \$80,000 and \$70,000 a year, not \$800,000 and \$900,000 a year. I hope the President, as he has said to Democrats throughout the last 2 months about the spirit of bipartisanship and asking us to come down and meet with him at the White House, that he would now practice bipartisanship and, beyond the spirit of bipartisanship, work with us for a fair tax cut and one that is based on real surpluses.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS TO CARRY OUT PART B OF TITLE I OF ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT RELATING TO STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 724) to authorize appropriations to carry out part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, relating to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 724

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.

Section 166 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6246) is amended—
(1) by striking “for fiscal year 2000”; and
(2) by striking “, to remain available only through March 31, 2000”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include therein extraneous material on H.R. 724.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 724 makes a technical correction to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act that is necessary for Congress to authorize future appropriations for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It contains a date correction that was incorrectly referenced when EPCA was reauthorized during the 106th Congress. In the last EPCA reauthorization, Congress instructed the Department of Energy to continue operating the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through September 30, 2003. However, we failed to make a conforming date change to a related section of the act. This was a technical error and H.R. 724 corrects this situation.

EPCA authorizes the Department of Energy to operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The SPR contains approximately 541 million barrels of oil stored along the Gulf Coast. It costs about \$165 million a year to operate the Reserve. As a practical matter, last year's Interior appropriations bill appropriated funds to operate the SPR through fiscal year 2001. Given that more than half of our demand for oil is met through imports, the importance of a Strategic Petroleum Reserve to protect against supply disruptions is now greater than ever. The majority of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was reauthorized through fiscal year 2003 during the 106th Congress.

Section 166 of EPCA provides authorization for, quote, such sums as may be necessary, end of quote, to be appropriated for operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Due to a technical error in the most recent EPCA reauthorization, section 166 provides authorization for appropriations only through March 31, 2000, the end of last year. In contrast, section 191 of EPCA provides the authority for the Department of Energy to operate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through September 30, 2003.

H.R. 724 will eliminate the March 31, 2000 limitation on appropriations for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, allowing future appropriations for the reserve. With this change and pursuant to section 191 of EPCA, the Reserve would not have to be reauthorized again until September 30, 2003.

The correction in H.R. 724 also simplifies future reauthorizations of EPCA by placing the effective date in one section, that is section 191, as opposed to two sections. Maintaining a strong Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an important part of our Nation's energy security. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 724 since it is a necessary technical correction to ensure the continued authorization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 724, a bill that makes a needed technical correction to H.R. 2884, legislation which Congress enacted last year to reauthorize the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. It is particularly important that EPCA be extended at this point because it provides for the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a frontline protection against an interruption in our Nation's energy supplies.

H.R. 724 ensures that the authorization for appropriations for the SPR is extended through September 2003. This measure conforms with the extension of the Department of Energy's authority to operate the SPR made by last year's legislation, and in so doing corrects a drafting oversight.

I am pleased to support the passage of H.R. 724 and urge its approval by the House.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 724.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BASS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMENDING CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT TO PROVIDE THAT LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES ARE CONSUMER PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO SUCH ACT

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 727) to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to provide that low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products subject to such Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 727

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.

The Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

“SEC. 38. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, low-speed electric bicycles are consumer products within the meaning of section 3(a)(1) and shall be subject to the