

Moreover, this resolution uses overly optimistic Administration budget estimates rather than the usual non-partisan estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. Furthermore, it assumes unacceptable cuts in key domestic priorities such as education, housing, health care, job training and environmental protection, even though Congress will likely restore the needed funding. While this resolution provides \$350 billion in additional Medicare spending, it would place a Medicare prescription drug benefit in competition with Medicare "modernization," as well as provider givebacks that the Republican Leadership has estimated will cost as much as \$174 billion. The projections also leave out an assessment of the lost revenue from extending expiring tax credits and modifying the individual minimum tax that will impact 39 million middle-income taxpayers over the next 10 years. And these five-year projections fail to disclose the cost of making last year's tax cuts permanent, as the Administration's budget proposes. Over the customary ten-year budgetary window, extending the tax cuts cost \$400 billion. A more realistic set of assumptions would show that the 10-year budget surplus has already vanished.

The disappearance of the 10-year surplus compels us to consider not just a one-year but also a long-term budget plan. The American people have the right to know how the Congress proposes to restore fiscal discipline while enacting additional tax cuts, boosting spending for the military and meeting commitments to a growing number of retirees. The Administration and Congress should devise budgetary rules that make tax cuts and spending contingent on the realization of specified targets for the budget surplus and the federal debt. Unfortunately, this budget fails on all those counts.

I am also deeply concerned about the draconian cuts to the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes cutting funding for the 7(a) loan program in half. Last year, this loan program provided over \$94 million in assistance to Rhode Island's small business community. Additionally, the Administration proposed cutting funding for employment and training programs by \$685 million. With more than 1.4 million workers laid off over the last year, we need this funding now more than ever. The budget would also slash the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$300 million. This program is crucial for all New England states and particularly for our seniors, who might otherwise be forced to choose food over heat. Finally, the budget would cut \$417 million from Public Housing Capital Fund, which helps provide 1.2 million families nationwide—40 percent of whom are elderly or disabled—with affordable housing. Housing needs are especially acute in Rhode Island, where 38 percent of renter households pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent.

I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided budget and to develop one that will ensure security at home and abroad, without dramatically increasing our debt, borrowing against Social Security and Medicare, or abandoning our commitments to children, workers, senior citizens and all Americans.

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong solidarity with Israel during this time of crisis.

Built on the backs of international Jewry, consisting largely of pogrom and Holocaust survivors, modern Israel has weathered many battles against her existence. Our sole democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel is no larger than the state of New Jersey, and is situated amid enemy nations. These countries and their leaders have objected to Israel's existence since her declaration of Independence in 1948. It wasn't until 1979 that Israel entered into a peace treaty with Egypt, and 1994 with Jordan. Nevertheless, the Israeli people defied all odds; the army won countless wars and small battles, and the western society flourished.

After the Intifada of the late 1980s, Israel took a monumental step by joining Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, in signing the Oslo Accords. This agreement laid out specific steps to be taken by both parties to ensure a lasting peace in the region. The PLO renounced terrorism, and Israel recognized it as the representative of the Palestinian people. At the same time, guidelines were given for the election and creation of a Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the redeployment of Israeli troops from those regions.

The period since 1993 can be characterized as a struggle between those who were committed to peace and the necessary steps to maintain the peace, and those who weren't. Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism was never realized; suicide bombings and terrorist attacks peppered the peaceful landscape in Israel. Obviously, there are two sides to every situation. Although Israel took steps to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jewish settlements were continually built and populated. This undoubtedly contributed to the sense of unrest.

In 2000, the situation combusted. We called it the second Intifada, but wasn't it just a continuation of the first? The use of terror as a political tool never ended; the current crisis is merely a culmination of the inevitable. The situation reached a detrimental turning point with the reprehensible act of terror we now call the Passover Massacre. This was followed with a string of suicide bombings perpetrated against different populations in Israel.

Today, Israel finds herself in an unbearable situation. Despite Israeli trust, Yasser Arafat allowed terrorism to invade Israeli society. He failed to keep his promise, and as the elected leader of the Palestinian people, he must take responsibility for his inaction. Israel has every right to enter Palestinian cities and refugee camps to root out terror. What other choice does Israel have? Is Israel supposed to wave suicide bombers through the checkpoints, allow wanted terrorists to go without arrest? Are we to expect Israel to sit by and watch her country crumble, and her people be murdered in groups of 20 while they sip coffee at cafes?

The answer is an unequivocal no. And as a Member of Congress, I will support Israel's decision regarding security and self-defense in any way possible.

IN HONOR OF MIMI SILBERT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mimi Silbert, President, Chairman and CEO of the Delancey Street Foundation, on the occasion of her 60th Birthday and the 30th Anniversary of Delancey Street.

Mimi Silbert is the cofounder and director of Delancey Street; a San Francisco-based self-help residential education center where drug addicts, criminals, and the homeless go to turn their lives around.

Since 1971 more than 14,000 people have successfully been through the Delancey Street program and are now leading crime-free, drug-free lives in mainstream society. Residents have learned to read and have acquired skills; they attend college and are part of the work force, they are raising families, they are clean, they are sober, they are reborn. And each and every one of them has the extraordinary Mimi Silbert to thank for changing their lives.

All of this is done at no cost to the taxpayer or client. One of the most unique features of Delancey Street is that they have never accepted government funds nor do they have any staff. Delancey Street has started over 20 business training schools which generate income and train the residents in marketable skills.

The psychiatrist Karl Menninger has called Delancey Street "the best and most successful rehabilitation program in the world." There are now five facilities throughout the country: San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina.

Mimi Silbert is an inexhaustible dynamo who does what she does not of love, commitment and belief in the value of humanity. She has been called the "Mother Teresa of America's down and out". In San Francisco she is our treasure who has touched and miraculously changed so many lives. We love her and are forever in her debt.

I am proud to join my constituents to thank and praise Mimi Silbert for her marvelous achievements, indomitable spirit, and her inexhaustible service to San Francisco and our nation. As we celebrate her birthday we will keep in mind all those who have been reborn through her extraordinary life work. Happy Birthday Mimi!

HONORING 90 YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts organization. In the past 90 years, this organization has grown to a 3.8 million membership, making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Girl Scouts is a worldwide family of 10 million girls and adults in 140 countries. This organization should be honored for all the wonderful things it does to help empower our young girls.

Specifically, I would like to share with you the contributions of the Girl Scouts Fair Winds

Council that serves over 11,000 girls in my congressional district. The Fair Winds Council has two programs that I would like to talk about today. Both of these programs help empower young girls to rise above the status quo and become better citizens.

The first program I would like to talk about is Faces, a program developed in my hometown of Flint, MI. This program serves inner city girls, who come from single-family households and Faces attempts to break these young women out of the cycle of living in poverty by mentoring and doing community activities. Most notably, the young girls get to choose as a group two colleges or universities they would like to visit. Then through corporate sponsorships, these girls get an all expense paid trip to their choices. Last year 40 girls went on this trip. After the trip, these girls get help with filling out applications forms for college and with finding scholarships. Since this program began, 80 percent of its members have gone to college.

The second program, Fostering Issues, takes Girl Scouting to girls who are in foster care. Many of these young girls in foster care feel alone and afraid, and through this program, girls in the foster care system develop friendships. Through these friendships, these girls begin to develop social skills and trust in other people. They begin to develop self-esteem and believe that they too can become an important part of society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the truly amazing contributions the Fair Winds Council makes in my community. I invite my colleagues to find out all the wonderful things the Girl Scouts organization is doing in their own districts and commend them for 90 years of service to our communities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HERSCHEL WISEBRAM FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH WBHF RADIO

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a milestone which has recently occurred in the Seventh Congressional District in Georgia.

On April 5, 2002, Herschel Wisebram of Cartersville, Georgia, celebrated 50 years of service with WBHF Radio.

In 1946, shortly after World War II ended, the WBHF began to broadcast in Northwest Georgia. In 1952, Herschel Wisebram started at WBHF as a radio announcer, beginning a long distinguished career in the field of broadcasting.

WBHF Radio is a proven leader and has served the Cartersville area with distinction under Herschel's ownership.

Herschel has not just seen the changes Cartersville and the entire Atlanta and northwest Georgia area; he has reported the changing history of this small, southern town into what has been called one of the best and most livable small cities in the country. Herschel's strong sense of commitment to his community, is one of the reasons the quality of life in Cartersville and Bartow County is so enviable.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you and all of my Colleagues join me in saluting the motivation, dedication, and resolve that Herschel Wisebram has demonstrated for WBHF, for the advancement of radio broadcasting, for the city of Cartersville, and the people of Georgia.

MADNESS WITHOUT END?

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article. The growing wave of Palestinian suicide bombings, followed inevitably by fierce Israeli military counter-attacks, ought to be proof for anyone that Middle East violence has degenerated beyond the bounds of any possible moral justification and into the realm of cultural psychosis.

Each side in this conflict continues to point a finger at the other, claiming, "You started it," as if the childish refrain were reason enough to continue down what looks more and more like a path to Armageddon.

This is a regrettable characteristic of the Middle East mayhem, one not easily understood in the West. Any inclination to turn the other cheek is almost always overcome by religious and cultural injunctions to crush and grind the enemy into the dust. Charity toward an adversary, it seems, is a sign of weakness.

Arabs and Jews contesting the Holy Land are never going to make peace with each other until both sides have had their fill of the bloodbath. The question facing a horrified, uncomprehending world is "when will enough be enough?"

The relentless procession of young Palestinians willing, even eager, to don explosives and give their lives to kill Jews and regain their historic homeland provides no indication of an early peace.

The so-called "spiritual leaders" of Hamas and other Palestinian movements point to such self-serving verses in the Qu'ran as, "And slay them wherever ye find them and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter."

The Islamic militants who nurture, cultivate, and train the suicide bombers boast that they will send "a million martyrs to Jerusalem," and who can doubt them?

The Israelis, who also claim this territory as a religious and historic right, fall back on the self-perpetuating justification of self-defense. Memories of the Holocaust ("Never again") warn them of annihilation. The shock of the continued bombings neutralizes the nation's calmer voices and nascent peace movement. And violence begets violence.

The question of who is to blame no longer matters to a good bit of the outside world, but in the Middle East it remains pretty much the only issue. Until one side or the other takes responsibility, this burgeoning threat to humanity will continue to monopolize the world's resources and attention.

As much as we in the United States wish it were otherwise, what is happening in Israel and the West Bank cannot be separated from our war on terrorism. The same ancient fears and frustrations fuel both conflicts.

President Bush at first tried to distance the United States from the turmoil, but even he re-

alizes now that inattention for several months last year was a mistake.

An end to the madness that has engulfed the region could be reached in several ways. The preferable one would be through the services of a negotiator of uncommon skill and forbearance, possibly someone who is not yet apparent on the diplomatic stage. Another more horrifying possibility: a cataclysm of bloodshed that would make the current suicide bombings seem tame by comparison.

World leaders, even those without a direct stake in the Middle East, have a responsibility to apply pressure on all the parties involved to see that the path of least violence is the one taken.

HONORING SERGEANT GARY O'CONNOR

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Gary O'Connor who retired from the Lower Gwynedd Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2001 after twenty-seven years of service.

Sergeant O'Connor graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Throughout his career he has displayed a special interest in juvenile justice and headed the Lower Gwynedd Police Department juvenile division for ten years. Currently, he also is a trainer and consultant for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National School Safety Center, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Since 1983, Sergeant O'Connor has also instructed and consulted on police training for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Sergeant O'Connor has received many awards for his fine work including Pennsylvania's Juvenile Officer of the Year, Montgomery County's Police Officer of the Year, and North Penn Area's Outstanding Police Officer. The police force was no doubt stronger because of Sergeant O'Connor.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Sergeant Gary O'Connor to the citizens of Lower Gwynedd.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA GRAND CHAPTER, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of ten members of the Alabama Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star who are celebrating their membership of over 50 years with Athens Chapter #214. I congratulate each of them for their many extraordinary years of charity and human outreach and wish them the best for many years of service to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Geneva Coulter, Juanita Turner, Roy H. Turner, Sr.,