

than in November. So we still await recent pictures and statements from Martin and Gracia.

The tape is noteworthy, however, because for the first time the Abu Sayyaf Group, or the ASG, indicates that it regards itself as part of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, something we have long suspected. This admission should give the Philippine government and their military added incentive to quickly track down and capture the ASG. It should also embolden our government to do as much as they can to free our fellow Americans.

As always, I ask you to join me in prayer for Martin and Gracia and their loved ones, so that this nightmare may soon be over.

#### RAIDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the President's budget and the Republicans' budget.

Some months ago, this House stood almost unanimously and said we would put the Social Security monies in a lockbox. The lockbox is smashed. We are spending Social Security, \$1.6 trillion of it, in this budget resolution that is before us today. In addition, Medicare is being cut billions of dollars.

Our seniors, who have built this country, have no medical insurance. Our health care industry is about to crash. This budget resolution is a sham.

Come on, Republicans, we can do a lot better. Let us take care of America's people and America's seniors.

#### KEEPING FISCAL DISCIPLINE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work of the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE), and the Republican members of that Committee on the Budget. As we all know, this year has been very challenging as the results of the attacks of September 11 and the downturn in our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we will hear a lot of people talking about this budget today. As always, a great deal of rhetoric will emanate from this House. There is one thing that seems to frighten the members of the Democratic minority here more than anything else.

There are a couple of words that absolutely petrify them, apparently; it is called "balanced budget." They do not know what it is, they had never had one during the time they were in charge of this body, but we are pre-

sending them with one today. It is a scary thing for them, unfortunately.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that if we accepted all of the 17 amendments offered in the Committee on the Budget this year by members of the minority, we would increase spending over the next 5 years by \$205 billion and require \$175 billion in additional taxes. That is the old way of doing business. There is a better way. It is called a balanced budget. It is called defending America, and that is what this budget does.

#### CESAR CHAVEZ, A GREAT AMERICAN HERO

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an historic event in San Diego, the renaming of Crosby Street in Barrio Logan to Caesar E. Chavez Parkway.

Guided by local leaders Councilman Ralph Inzunza, Rachel Ortiz, Luis Natividad, Sam Duran, Carlos and Linda Legerrette, and pushed along by the San Diego Cesar Chavez Commemoration Committee, the Parkway paves the way for the renaissance of Barrio Logan.

Chavez's commitment to fair wages, better working conditions, decent housing and quality education is still alive and well in San Diego. I am proud of my constituents and the efforts of local leaders to honor this humble yet great man.

Cesar Chavez deserves to be honored as a great American hero. His dedication to human rights and justice warrants his birthday being seriously considered a national holiday.

I hope my colleagues will join me in giving Chavez his rightful place in American history.

#### CELEBRATING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY HEIGHT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 90th birthday of Dorothy Height. We will be celebrating this wonderful event tonight. She is the President and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women. She grew up under the tutelage of Mary McCleod Bethune and is a member of my great sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and I am so pleased to stand up.

But, see, Dorothy Height would want me to stand on the floor today and talk about a what? He said a balanced budget? This is not a balanced budget. I cannot believe the man even had the nerve to stand there and say that. Balanced budget on the back of seniors

who need Social Security, and Dorothy Height, a 90-year-old woman, needs Social Security. Balanced on the backs of seniors who need Medicare. Dorothy Height needs Medicare. Balanced on the back of seniors who need housing. Fortunately, Dorothy Height has housing.

Mr. Speaker, give me a break. Balanced budget? I do not even believe he had the nerve to let those words come out of his mouth. We are balancing it on the back of the senior citizens who need it most.

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#### SEEKING INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF MIRANDA GADDIS AND ASHLEY POND

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to once again alert those who may be watching in Oregon and across the Nation to the disappearance of two young girls from my district. Miranda Gaddis and Ashley Pond, both 13 years of age, students of Gardiner Middle School in Oregon City and teammates on the school dance team, have been reported missing.

Ashley disappeared January 9, and Miranda vanished March 8. Both were last seen by their mothers early in the morning as they left their homes at the Newell Village Creek apartments to catch the bus to school on South Beaver Creek Road.

Investigators continue to hold out hope that the girls will come home. They believe that the girls may have been abducted by a person or persons that they knew.

If Members have any information regarding Ashley and Miranda's whereabouts, I ask them to please contact the FBI office or the Oregon City Police Department at 503-657-4964.

#### REPUBLICAN "BALANCED BUDGET" WILL RAID SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND AND CUT FUNDS FOR EDUCATION AND SENIOR HEALTH

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm, particularly for our baby boomers. This budget breaks into the Social Security trust fund, breaks into the lockbox, and raids the trust fund to the tune of \$1.6 trillion. Members remember the lockbox. It was our solemn promise not to touch Social Security trust fund money. Well, that has been obliterated.

My friends on the Republican side of the aisle would be quick to say, well, you have to understand, the deficit is caused by the war. Not so. Only 10 percent of our deficit is caused by the war.

Almost half of that deficit is caused by tax breaks for the very rich.

What happens?

We raid Social Security, creating an insolvency for baby boomers about to enter retirement age.

We underfund education. We make a great noise about passing the Leave No Child Behind Act. What do we do in this budget? We underfund education by 16 percent. That is not right.

We talk about prescription drugs, but this budget underfunds prescription drugs for seniors. This is an unfair budget. It raids the Social Security trust fund, and it should be rejected.

#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF CESAR CHAVEZ, AN AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of March, we approach the birthday of Cesar Chavez, a positive role model for the Latino community, a hero. Caesar Chavez touched the lives of millions with his nonviolent struggle for justice, education, and equality. He was a beacon of hope.

But Cesar Chavez views the challenges he faced as a motivation to help farmworkers whose suffering he shared. In 1962, Caesar Chavez founded the National Farmworkers Association, the predecessor to the United Farmworkers of America.

He organized farmworkers to campaign for fair working conditions, reasonable wages, and decent housing and health conditions. He sacrificed himself for human rights and for dignity. He left a legacy for each and every one of us, and for generations to come.

He has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize, and was nominated for the Nobel Prize.

No one better symbolizes Latino empowerment than does Caesar Chavez. He is a symbol of hope, and we will never forget his words. The challenge of life, justice, and equality will ever ring in our lives: Si, se puede; yes, we can. We should honor his birthday by celebrating it, and I am hopeful we will pass that legislation.

#### CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON TO DIVISION I STATE BOYS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS, THE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, is known worldwide as the birthplace of basketball. It is also where the new Basketball Hall of Fame is being constructed on the historic banks of the Connecticut River. And

today, it is the home of the Division I State basketball champions, the Cathedral High School Panthers.

On Saturday night in the Worcester Centrum, Cathedral defeated Brookline by a score of 75 to 71 to capture their first State crown. Led by coach Gene Eggleston, the Panthers are now the third team from western Massachusetts to earn this coveted State athletics title.

In addition, the boys' basketball team has now won four of the six last western Massachusetts championships.

Mr. Speaker, their accomplishments speak for themselves. As a former teacher at Cathedral, I know the importance the school places on education and athletics, and the great job that the Sisters of St. Joseph do. They should take great pride in the character demonstrated by the boys' basketball team on and off the court this weekend when they earned the right to be called the very best team in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Congratulations on a great season to the Cathedral High School Boys' Basketball State Champions.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING WOMEN FROM THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THEIR ACTIVISM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in acknowledging that the Bush budget does nothing for Americans and it does nothing for women.

This month is a month when we commemorate the history of women in America, and I would like to acknowledge, from the 18th Congressional District, women who are part of the winds of political change and activism: Christie Adair, Irma Leroy, Ninfia Lorenzo, Kathy Whitmire, Eleanor Tinsley, Helen Huey, Christian Hartung, Madge Bush, Esther Williams, Beverly Clark, Judge Betty Brock Bell, Sylvia Garcia, Carol Alvarado, Carol Galloway, Ada Edwards, and Lisa Berry Dockery, all women who realize that we must stand up and be counted for what is right in our community, and stand up and be counted to make sure that for all of the spoils of America, all the issues that deal with a good quality of life, women of this community and women that I have just listed have all been advocates for helping those in their communities.

They are our heroes. They are part of America's history. They are part of the history of women in America.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3924, FREEDOM TO TELECOMMUTE ACT OF 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 373 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 373

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3924) to authorize telecommuting for Federal contractors. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3924, the Freedom to Telecommute Act of 2002.

The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the whole to accord priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, the rule provides for 1 motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today that the House is considered the Freedom to Telecommute Act. Currently, a Federal agency may refuse a bid proposal from a potential contractor that utilizes telecommuting in its work force. This legislation would prohibit agencies from continuing this practice. That a potential contractor would allow its employees to telecommute when appropriate would not disqualify or reduce the chances of that company winning a Federal contract.

The bill also requires that the GAO, General Accounting Office, make a report to Congress within 1 year of enactment on the compliance by agencies with telecommuting regulations.

In the past 25 years, telecommuting has become an increasingly attractive option for employees in the workplace, and, I would also add, a commonsense