

with the United States in every major international conflict of the 20th century. In the Balkans, Greece has played a steady hand of democracy in the face of regional unrest and instability.

Now, in the wake of September 11, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece. Greece's role as a stable democracy and key NATO ally is critical as the international community fights against global terrorism.

On this special occasion, I commend and thank the Greek people for their spirit and their ongoing pursuit of peace. To Greece, a free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, Greece celebrates its 181st year of independence. I am here tonight to praise a society that represents, in a historical sense, the origins of what we call Western culture, and, in a contemporary sense, one of the staunchest defenders of Western society and values. There are many of us in Congress, on both sides of the spectrum, who are staunchly committed to preserving and strengthening the ties between Greek and American people. I would particularly like to thank the co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Congressman BILIRAKIS from Florida, and Congresswoman MALONEY from New York for their fine leadership and their tireless efforts to strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Just two years after the Greek people began the revolution that would lead to their freedom, one of our predecessors in this Chamber, Massachusetts Congressman Daniel Webster, referring to the 400 years during which the Greeks were ruled by the Ottoman Empire, observed, "These Greek people, a people of intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise, have been for centuries under the atrocious and unparalleled Tartarian barbarism that ever opposed the human race."

The words Congressman Webster chose then to describe the Greek people—intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise—are as apt today as they have ever been.

In the years since, Americans and Greeks have grown ever closer, bound by ties of strategic and military alliance, common values of democracy, individual freedom, human rights, and close personal friendship.

The qualities exhibited by the nation of Greece, Madam Speaker, are a reflection of the strong character and values of its individual citizens. The United States has been greatly enriched as many sons and daughters of Greece made a new life in America. They, and their children and grandchildren, have enriched our country in countless ways, contributing to our cultural, professional, commercial, academic, and political life.

The timeless values of Greek culture have endured for centuries, indeed for millennia. As Daniel Webster noted, 400 years of control by the Ottoman Empire could not overcome the Greek people's determination to be free. But, I regret to say, Madam Speaker, to this day, the Greek people must battle against oppression. For almost 27 years now, Greece has stood firm in its determination to bring freedom and independence to the illegally occupied nation of Cyprus.

Given instability around the world, now is a good time to heal the wound in Cyprus that

has poisoned the relations between Greece and Turkey for so many years.

I am concerned, however, that Turkey is once again not negotiating in good faith. Over the years, I have become quite familiar with the Turkish side's well-known negotiation tactics. The Turkish side agrees to peace negotiations on the Cyprus problem only for the purpose of undermining them once they begin and then blames the Greek Cypriots for their failure.

The time has come for Denktash to realize his demands for recognition of a separate state are not acceptable. The framework has already been laid by the United Nations Security Council's Resolutions establishing a bizonal, bicomunal federation with one single international personality and one single citizenship.

Like their forefathers who were under the control of a hostile foreign power for four centuries, the Cypriot people hold fast in defiance of their Turkish aggressors with every confidence that they will again be a sovereign nation. They will. And the United States will be by their side in both the fight to secure that freedom and the celebration to mark the day when it finally arrives.

I will continue to work with my colleagues here in Congress to ensure that the United States government remains on the right side of this issue—because there is no gray area when it comes to this conflict.

In closing I want to congratulate the Greek people for 181 years of independence and thank them for their contributions to American life.

INTRODUCTION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about a resolution which I have had drafted and will be introducing very shortly, and I hope my colleagues will join in supporting. I would like to read it tonight. It is a resolution supporting the people of Iran:

"Concurrent resolution, expressing the sense of Congress in support of the people of Iran and their legitimate quest for freedom, economic opportunity, and friendship with the people of the United States.

"Whereas, the first day of spring, celebrated by millions worldwide as Nowruz, the Persian Iranian New Year, symbolizes renewal, birth and new beginnings;

"Whereas, the people of the United States respect the Iranian people and value the contribution that Iran's culture has made to the world civilization over three millennia;

"Whereas, the United States recognizes the legitimate aspiration of the Iranian people for democratic, civil, political and religious rights and the rule of law;

"Whereas there exists a broad-based movement and desire for political change in Iran that represents all sec-

tors of Iranian society, including youth, women, students, military personnel and religious figures and that is pro-democratic, seeking freedom and economic opportunity;

"Whereas, the Iranian people have increasingly expressed their frustration at the slow pace of reform while still pursuing nonviolent change in their society;

"Whereas, in four consecutive elections the Iranian people have opted for nonviolent reform;

"Whereas, following the tragedies of September 11, 2001, thousands of Iranians filled the streets spontaneously and in solidarity with the United States and the victims of the terrorist attacks; and

"Whereas, the people of Iran deserve the support of the American people.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United States expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the courageous people of Iran for their brave expressions of support following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States;

"Two, recognizes and supports the people of Iran in their daily struggle for democracy, reform, human rights, economic prosperity and the rule of law;

"Three, makes a clear distinction between the peace-loving people of Iran, endowed with a rich culture and history and the unelected officials of Iran; and

"Four, urges the President of the United States to:

"A, engage and support the people of Iran in their legitimate aspiration for freedom and democracy;

"B, to continue to pursue areas of common interest with the people of Iran while taking an uncompromising stance on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the human rights of Iranian citizens; and

"C, to use available diplomatic means to support the Iranian people's demand for an immediate release of all political prisoners and for the removal of the ban on the freedom of the press."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important resolution. We need to send a clear message that we stand with the freedom-loving people of Iran.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in the memory of our former beloved colleague, Claude Pepper of Florida, who fought at our side in 1938 to preserve the Social Security system, I rise this evening to make my remarks.

I want to talk about fiscal responsibility, responsibility to our Nation, responsibility to the future, responsibility to our children, responsibility to our senior citizens.

Hubert Humphrey used to place particular emphasis on those Americans who are in the dawn of life and those who are in the twilight of life. I also rise to talk about fiscal responsibility to our veterans who have sacrificed and are sacrificing so much to keep freedom's flame burning brightly in America and throughout the world.

Last week the Congressional Budget Office reported that the President's budget spends \$1.63 trillion of the Social Security trust fund surplus over the next 10 years. That is \$261 billion more than the administration initially claimed. The budget office also reports that the President's policies spend Social Security trust fund money in every single year for the foreseeable future.

We have heard the administration officials, and some Republican leaders are extremely unhappy with the Congressional Budget Office for telling the truth; but that is why we have a Congressional Budget Office, to provide nonpartisan information, whether we like the results or not. We rely on it to be factual.

Tomorrow, Madam Speaker, this body will take up the President's budget for fiscal year 2003, and the unfortunate reality is that the President's policies will lead to the exhaustion of the entire Social Security trust fund surplus for the next 10 years and then some, according to the House Committee on the Budget minority staff.

The administration does this by using off-the-books accounting. We learned from the Enron-Arthur Andersen scandal that off-the-books accounting can get us into big trouble in a hurry. Indeed, even the administration admits that it spends some of the Social Security surplus despite Republican promises last year they would protect 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund surplus.

Remember the lock box promise? Well, the Republicans have picked the lock and are proceeding to take our money out of the lock box every day, money that belongs to the senior citizens of this country.

The Bush administration inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus; but now 8 months later, \$4 trillion is gone and that jumps to \$5 trillion next year if we take their budget on its word.

Madam Speaker, this is the most radical fiscal reversal in American history. The budget surplus is exhausted, deficits are back, and the lock box is gone.

What does it mean? For one thing it means that Congress may not be able to provide relief for the Medicare providers who are facing deep cuts in reimbursement.

□ 2000

It means veterans will have to pay more for prescription drugs. The Veterans Administration is proposing to raise the copayment for veterans by 250 percent.

It means the wealthiest Americans will continue to get giant tax cuts, but

American's 35 million senior citizens will not get a prescription drug benefit.

It means that programs for women, infants, and children will be endangered. For the people in the dawn of life and the twilight of life, this budget gives the back of its hand, and it is not right.

Over the 5-year period from 1996 to 2000, Enron paid no taxes for 4 of the last 5 years and received a net tax rebate of \$381 million. This includes a \$278 million rebate in the year 2000 alone. Over the same period, the company's profits, before Federal income taxes, totaled \$1.785 billion. Just their profits. In none of those years was the company's pretax profit less than \$87 million. At the 35 percent tax rate, Enron's tax on profits in the last 5 years should have been \$625 million. But the company was able to use tax benefits from stock options and other loopholes to reduce its 5-year tax to substantially less than zero. Among the loopholes that Enron used to avoid tax liability was the creation of more than 800 subsidiaries in tax havens such as the Cayman Islands.

Madam Speaker, is it any wonder that we cannot do the right thing for America's children, for America's veterans, and America's seniors? Is it any wonder that this Congress cannot act responsibly? Is it any wonder that the Social Security trust fund is being violated every day, even as I speak here?

As long as the big campaign contributors call the shots in Washington, we are going to see continued raids on the lockbox, and the American people are going to have to pay the bills that Enron, with an assist from the politicians, avoided.

The responsible vote tomorrow on the budget resolution is "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROHRABACHER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FISCAL YEAR 2003 BUDGET

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, this week we in the U.S. Congress will debate the budget resolution for fiscal year 2003. Last year, after almost a decade of work, we finally had a budget surplus. This year, we will again plunge into deficit spending and raid the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

No Member of Congress is opposed to paying the necessary cost of defending our country, securing our homeland, and supporting our military personnel. However, this defense did not have to come at the expense of other important

domestic programs. We are in this fix because the trillion dollar tax cut over 10 years, enacted last year, left us no room to deal with the emergency we are now facing.

I want the people of the 15th District of Texas to know what the 2003 budget will mean to them. It means that people in my district will not get vital assistance to combat our decade-long water drought because the President has eliminated the Drought Assistance Program from the 2003 budget.

It means the "One Stop Capital Shop" that helps small minority businesses stay in business in the poorest county in the Nation will have to close.

It means there will be even less funding to combat the epidemic of tuberculosis, hepatitis, and HIV/AIDS that is rampant on the southern border and, if not checked, will spread throughout the country.

Finally, it means that the bipartisan education bill, of which we were all so proud because President Bush signed it in January 2002, will not be fully funded, and poor and minority children will again be shortchanged. That is not right.

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CITIZEN SOLDIER AND AMERICAN PATRIOT RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Oregon National Guard's 42nd Air Ambulance Company, headquartered in our State capital, Salem, Oregon, received word it had been activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Air Ambulance is no stranger to call-ups. They were last activated to serve in Bosnia, where they garnered heavy acclaim. Nor is the Oregon Guard a stranger to call-ups. Although we have just over 6,000 Guardsmen and women, Oregon trails only Texas and Georgia in the number of activated troops, and each of those States has 20,000-plus soldiers and airmen.

That is a testament to the Oregon Guard's military readiness, especially in light of the fact that we do not have any active duty military bases in our State, except for Umatilla Depot, which is largely a repository for chemical weapons.

As I speak, F-15s from the Oregon Air Guard are patrolling the skies above North America, being assisted by air traffic control units. All this is happening while an additional 500 Guardsmen are preparing for a lengthy deployment in the Sinai Desert, and a