

which would have addressed these environmental exemptions in a much more comprehensive manner.

Another provision that is of great concern to me pertains to the DoD's civilian personnel. H.R. 1588 contains broad, sweeping provisions that grant the Secretary of Defense authority to create an entirely new civilian employee system for DoD's 700,000 civilian workers, which strips these employees of some of their basic rights, such as the right to notice before they are fired and the right to join a union. Representatives COOPER, DAVIS, and VAN HOLLEN offered an important amendment before the Rules Committee to make major modifications to these provisions, in order to protect fundamental employee rights in any new National Security Personnel System designed by the DoD. Disturbingly, the Republicans disallowed this important amendment from being considered on the floor today. I wish I could say I was shocked at this action, but unfortunately it has become standard fare for the Majority to stifle debate and discussion on the important issues of the day.

Last, and certainly not least, is my concern over the nuclear weapons provisions in H.R. 1588. This legislation authorizes previously prohibited research on low-yield nuclear weapons and also authorizes \$21 million to study the feasibility of developing a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator.

Our military needs improved capabilities to hold at risk hardened, and deeply buried targets in rogue nations that might contain prohibited weapons of mass destruction programs. However, instead of building new nuclear weapons and sending the signal to our allies and enemies alike that it's okay to build nuclear weapons, I believe we should fund weapons that have just as strong a deterrent capability, but do not encourage new uses for nuclear weapons or encourage a new nuclear arms race.

The military has not even asked for nuclear weapons to do the job because there are already several conventional programs underway that would allow us to get at the same targets. A recent article quotes Adm. James Ellis, head of U.S. strategic command, as saying he wants to "reduce the country's dependence on nuclear weapons by using conventional, precision-guided bombs and missiles."

Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate, I strongly support a strong national defense to address the many national security challenges we face in this uncertain world. Excluding these extraneous, highly controversial provisions, H.R. 1588 contains many important provisions to improve our nation's defenses. I support the important provisions that provide good pay, housing and training for the men and women in uniform and fund important modernization priorities that will ensure that we have the most technologically advanced military in the world. I am very hopeful that the environmental, civil service, and nuclear weapons provisions are addressed in conference in order to make this a more acceptable and bipartisan piece of legislation.

HONORING DON MIDDLETON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our great champions of education in Colorado, Mr. Don Middleton. Mr. Middleton is retiring as Superintendent of Clear Creek School District after 37 years of service in public education.

During his tenure at Clear Creek, he has played a valuable role in raising the District's test scores across the board. The effect of his integrity, honesty and passion for education has been far reaching. In fact, he has been credited with restoring the pride of the educational community in his schools through his tireless efforts and compassionate leadership.

Don has been recognized on numerous occasions for his exceptional work in education. He has been given awards such as the Administrator of the Year Award of Excellence; the Award of Distinguished Service; a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service Adams County #1; and the Hall of Fame Award from the Mapleton Education Association. Interestingly enough, if you ask Don to talk about his long and distinguished career of service, you would most likely find that he would rather talk about the kids he has met along the way. His dedication is evident by his enthusiastic presence at so many school functions and classroom visits.

Don Middleton has been a dedicated leader and an unwavering advocate for excellence in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Middleton for his hard work on behalf of Colorado's children and families. I wish him success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MARY ANN McROBERT

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mary Ann McRobert, recipient of the Lenawee Chamber's 2003 ATHENA award.

Throughout her life, Mary Ann McRobert has distinguished herself both personally and professionally through her commitment to helping those in need. Earning a Nursing Degree from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, Mary Ann went on to earn two degrees in Social Work: a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University and a Masters degree from the University of Michigan. She has shared her experience and knowledge in nursing and social work as an instructor at Siena Heights University and Adrian College.

Mary Ann has made the most of her extensive education and training, serving in a variety of nursing situations, as a social worker, and as an administrator of several social service organizations. In the last 18 years, she has served as: Interim Director of Call Someone Concerned, Executive Director of the Family Awareness Center, Administrative Director of Bixby Medical Center Psychology Unit, Clinical Social Worker in private practice, and Interim

Director of Family Counseling and Children's Services. She also served two terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Family Awareness Center, two terms as Vice President of the Board of Directors for Family Counseling and Children's Services, and the Gerontology Network. Mary Ann has also volunteered for Hospice of Lenawee.

Mary Ann McRobert is well respected in her community, and with good reason. She is well known for her ability to initiate a project, enlist the assistance of others, and see the plan through to completion. Her efforts are not for her own benefit, but for the benefit of others. She has been a fierce advocate and courageous leader for social service causes and, by mentoring and her example, has opened many doors for women and men in community leadership.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, people in New Mexico are hurting. Since January 2001, the unemployment rate in my state has risen to 5.9 percent. While every single person on unemployment would rather have a job, until the economy reverses, we in Congress have a moral obligation to help the jobless make ends meet. The extension will help nearly 5,000 New Mexicans who still have not found jobs, and were scheduled to exhaust their Federal benefits at the end of this month.

We have been calling for this type of legislation for weeks, and I applaud the Majority for finally doing what is right. Unfortunately, although they have done what's right, they haven't done enough in this bill to help all Americans who are out of work.

Last year, because of the failed economic policies of this administration, Congress was forced to enact the Temporary Extension of Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) bill. Sadly, though, the need has only increased since then. The economy has actually gotten worse since Congress passed TEUC in March 2002.

The number of unemployed (8.79 million) is at the highest level in nearly a decade. The unemployment rate rose to 6.0 percent in April, compared to 5.7 percent when TEUC was enacted in March 2003 and when the program was extended in January of this year. The number of payroll jobs fell for the third straight month in April; unemployment is now 2.1 million below its level when the recession began. Long-term unemployment also continues to get worse.

Unemployment benefits provide an economic lifeline for families struggling to find work and boost an ailing economy. People are losing their jobs, looking for work, and finding none.

It is unfortunate that the House leadership waited so long to bring up this bill. It is also unfortunate that the House leadership has refused us a vote on the Democratic alternative—yet again.

While I will vote for this bill because it is critical to the millions of Americans who have lost

their jobs in the last two years, we should be doing more. This plan leaves over one million unemployed behind, and fails to provide them the benefits they need to put food on the table, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads.

We also should be extending this benefit for 26 weeks, not just 13. Although the bill provides that in high unemployment states jobless workers would be eligible for 13 more weeks—in addition to the 13 extra weeks available to all jobless workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular benefits—the entire country is in need of this assistance. Because of the strict requirements for a state to qualify as a high unemployment state under this program, only six states currently qualify—Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington. We should pass the full Democratic package immediately to help everyone seeking work, not just the few.

Research shows that during previous recessions, the stimulative power of unemployment benefits saved an average of 131,000 jobs and slowed the drop in the Gross Domestic Product by 15 percent. National studies have shown that \$1 in unemployment insurance leads to \$2.15 worth of economic growth.

Every week without unemployment insurance benefits, states lose \$200 million in cash—cash that in all likelihood would be spent at the local grocery store and the local gas station. Indeed, a recent study by Economy.com, an independent financial research group, found that the single most effective stimulus measure would be further extension of emergency Federal unemployment insurance benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation unfortunately is long overdue, and very necessary. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2158, and quickly send this legislation to the Senate to ensure these benefits continue uninterrupted.

IN HONOR OF CAROLYN "CJ"
JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge Ms. Carolyn "CJ" Jones for her many years of public service and for the depth and diversity of contributions she has made to my staff and to so many people in Colorado.

Upon my election to the 2nd Congressional District in 1998, CJ was the first person I invited to join my staff. She was instrumental in organizing my campaign effort in Adams County, and in the early days after my election, she organized our fledgling congressional office from the basement of her house and took constituent inquiries on her cell phone. CJ Jones assisted in training many of my novice staff members and has subsequently set the standard of excellence for my office in the 2nd Congressional District.

Prior to becoming my staff assistant, CJ served in the offices of Senator Tim Wirth and Congressman David Skaggs. She is also the only member of my staff with her own election certificate—this to the Adams County School District 12 Board. Throughout her distin-

guished career, she has served successfully in numerous capacities. Her knowledge of Adams County politics is encyclopedic, and her insistence on application of House Ethics Rules has become legendary with members of my staff. We will deeply miss the staff parties at her home, her annual Christmas carols—which started with the earliest snowfall in September—and her tendency to break into song at any moment. Coworkers will also recall those rare moments in CJ's career when her blue eyes turned steely gray, signaling a red alert to everyone in the vicinity.

One of the things I share with CJ is a deep interest in young people. She has been the driving force behind my annual Youth Washington Seminar and she has mentored young people, chaperoning high school students in Washington with care and joy. She has shown young Coloradans that politics is not just about policy debates and electioneering, but also about having fun. High School students visiting Washington with her could always count on a visit to the monuments, but also a visit to the Hard Rock Café. To serve so broadly, so successfully, and with such grace, heart, and spirit is deserving of recognition.

CJ plans to spend some well-deserved time relaxing and traveling with her husband Bill, and spoiling her grandchildren. As a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, CJ will continue to be the center of her family and the light of their lives. I know that they look forward to having her undivided attention and time. She will no doubt continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the arena of her garden and home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to CJ Jones for her exemplary public service to the people of Colorado and their elected officials. Her many accomplishments go beyond reckoning, and I wish her good health and happiness in the future.

HONORING SHAAN GANDHI, OF
BATTLE CREEK, MI, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Shaan Gandhi, winner of the 2003 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Shaan is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Shaan is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School, and possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. Shaan has received numerous awards for his excellence in science and math, as well as his volunteer activities with the Calhoun County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Substance Abuse Council of Battle Creek. A

Siemens-Westinghouse Scholar, Shaan has also participated in the NASA SHARP PLUS program, is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, and has been accepted to Harvard University.

Therefore, I am proud to join with his many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Shaan Gandhi for his selection as winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the facts are startling. In just over 2 years, this administration has taken a vibrant economy and turned it into a total mess. Once we saw projected federal surpluses for years, but now we see unprecedented deficits as far as the eye can see. Once we saw Americans working in good paying jobs, but now we see over two million jobs lost and families needing help to make ends meet. Once we saw states thriving and providing much needed benefits to the most needy, but now we see massive state deficits that require federal assistance to close.

Something needs to be done to fix these problems. The question is what's the best way to do it? When we began the debate earlier this year about how to turn around our struggling economy, I was looking for a plan that passed three simple tests. Was the plan fair? Was the plan fast-acting? Was the plan fiscally sound?

Tonight, the House is voting on the President's proposal. The answer to all three of these simple questions is a resounding "no." Is it fair?

The other side likes to point out that the average family will receive about \$1,000 in tax breaks. What they don't tell you is that 53 percent of all taxpayers—yes, 53 percent of all taxpayers—will see less than \$100 in their pockets. However, if you make over \$1 million a year, you get a tax cut of \$93,500. This clearly is not fair.

Is it fast acting?

Well, it's going to take effect this year. Yes, that much is true. Unfortunately, the President's plan gives the break this year and next, then it takes it away again in 2005. So, the average middle class taxpayer will actually see their taxes go up 2 years from now. And this trickle-down tax policy will not stimulate the economy now. In fact, it totally depends on those who benefit—the few—to reinvest their windfall down the road. In fact, there is no guarantee that any of this will happen, so there is no guarantee that this tax cut will generate any jobs, let alone the one million promised by the President.

Is it fiscally sound?

The answer is a resounding no. The dividend tax reduction and the cut in the capital