

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
DANIEL SOULES

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Daniel Soules has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Daniel Soules must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Daniel Soules as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I had hoped to be able to vote for the final version of this supplemental appropriations bill, but I'm afraid the minor changes made in conference were not enough to overcome my grave reservations about the bill. So I cannot support this conference report.

I voted against the resolution that authorized the president to begin military actions in Iraq at a time and under conditions of his own choosing, regardless of the likely costs and sacrifices that would be required. I was concerned that the Bush Administration had a plan only for invasion, not for the subsequent "peace" and occupation, and was too ready to go it alone.

But Congress unwisely authorized the president to make Iraq the center of our war on terrorism, even without broad-based international support, and did so without a responsible debate that fully weighed the pros and cons of this strategic choice.

In short, I did not think Congress should give the president such a blank check—but we did, and the bills are coming due.

Now President Bush has asked Congress for an emergency appropriation of \$87 billion—the largest supplemental appropriation in history. His request comes when our economy is weak, there are escalating needs for national defense, homeland security, and domes-

tic programs—and he is still pressing for more tax cuts primarily benefiting the wealthy.

Of course, the Iraq bills must be paid. We must support our troops. And I support helping Iraq rebuild. It is in our national interest to have a stable Iraq, which will mean a safer environment for our troops and will be their ticket home. But I don't believe that our children should pay for the entire \$87 billion. In the past, our wars have been paid for by the generations that fought them. That is a reasonable policy and I think it should be true for Iraq.

If none of this money is to be a loan—and that is what the conference report provides—we should roll back the president's tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers. But we are not being allowed to vote on that idea. The Republican leadership refuses to let the Congress debate who should pay, or debate about priorities—in the war on terrorism or here at home.

Rejecting this flawed bill will not immediately cut off funds for our troops. CRS has confirmed that they have enough money to continue operations well into next year. There is no reason we can't have the normal "pay-as-you-go" approach that provides funding in installments and only after certain benchmarks and milestones are met. And the Bush Administration showed its hand when it threatened to veto any bill that includes loans as part of the reconstruction of Iraq. If the debate were about supplying the troops, why would the president think of vetoing their money?

I will not vote to spend billions in Iraq unless the administration does what it should already have done—that is, to provide detailed plans for Iraq's reconstruction and security; make concerted efforts to secure increased international participation under a UN resolution; demonstrate greater flexibility and openness toward questions of control over reconstruction and democratization; and craft a fiscally responsible plan to provide for the billions of dollars necessary.

To merely rubber stamp administration requests, as this conference report essentially does, is a neglect of our congressional duties, and I cannot support it.

PENINSULA FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLAZES

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the extraordinary efforts of our firefighters called to duty in Southern California during the recent wildfires.

We all watched closely the television coverage of the terrifying devastation of unimaginable proportions in widespread fires so large we learned the names of the Old Fire, the Cedar Fire, and the Grand Prix Fire.

The latest statistics reflect the enormous impact caused by these fires. Twenty-one lives have been lost, nearly 3500 homes destroyed, with nearly 650,000 acres of state, federal, and private land involved. The firefighting cost alone is already estimated at over \$90 million. This only represents some of the measurable loss for no estimation can ever determine the human cost of lives, homes, and lands lost.

Firefighters from all over came to help their neighbors in this time of desperate need. An estimated 12,000 firefighters were on the fire line over last weekend. I am particularly proud of the firefighters from my Congressional district that responded to the alarm.

Fire Captain Charles Barringer of San Bruno, California, led a strike team of firefighters from Millbrae, San Mateo, Burlingame, Hillsborough, and San Bruno to help fight the blaze in Simi Valley in Ventura County. Captain Barringer said that he never had seen anything like it and that "it was like a volcano went off in the streets."

Another strike team led by Foster City Battalion Chief Stan Maupin was made up of firefighters from Woodside, Menlo Park, South County Fire, Redwood City, and Foster City. This team fought the fires in San Bernardino County.

Each of these two teams spent about a week fighting the fires and now have returned home. It is my understanding that a third team from San Mateo County consisting of firefighters from South San Francisco, Daly City, Colma, Half Moon Bay, and Hillsborough remains on duty in Southern California.

On behalf of the people of my district I wish to extend our heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost family members and friends. To those who are suffering from the devastation we hope you know that all your neighbors have stood with you and stand ready to help you rebuild and recover.

I am pleased to join my distinguished colleagues, Mrs. Davis and Mr. Hunter as a cosponsor of H. Res. 425 to recognize and honor the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the October 2003, historically devastating, outbreak of wildfires in Southern California.

I commend all those who have been engaged in this fight. Most particularly I commend those firefighters from San Francisco and San Mateo County who answered the call and risked their lives to help others. I have always been proud of our firefighters and am reminded once again of their dedicated and selfless service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
RYAN LAHNA

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Ryan Lahna must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Ryan Lahna as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.