

and specifically with the chemical weapons elimination project in Russia, it is in the strong national interest of the United States and justifies granting the President permanent waiver authority. With the weapons at Shchuchye reportedly able to kill the world's population some 20 times over, the continued, insecure existence of these highly dangerous and portable weapons is a direct threat to the American people.

Securing Russia's arsenal is a massive challenge, but not an impossible one. While the cost of a terrorist attack on the United States involving Russian expertise or smuggled Russian nuclear, chemical, or biological weapon materials are potentially staggering, funding for the simple measures that can prevent these attacks is both sensible and urgent. Robust, uninterrupted funding of this very critical program would accelerate the progress of reducing these attacks on the United States and help the Russian Federation secure its weapons stockpile.

Although the President has broad authority to use force in the war on terrorism, ironically he is significantly constrained in using cooperative means to destroy these weapons of mass destruction. Granting the President permanent waiver authority over Nunn-Lugar certification requirements will avoid dangerous delays in this critical defense program and prevent Russia's weapons of mass destruction from falling into the wrong hands.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), who joined me today as original cosponsors of this bill. I would like to also thank Senator RICHARD LUGAR and former Senator Sam Nunn for their foresight and leadership on this issue. I look forward to working with my colleagues during this Congress on this very important homeland security issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HISTORIC MOMENTS FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues join me in welcoming the 54 new Mem-

bers to this august body and the returning Members who are charged with helping to chart the course for these new Members, knowing that they have a very complex and awesome responsibility. But, Mr. Speaker, today has been an historic day for us. We have seen, for the first time ever a woman, a Democratic woman, whose name was put in nomination for the Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives, and another woman who became the chairwoman of the congressional Republican Conference. Those are historic moments for us, Mr. Speaker, and as the Democratic chair of the Women's Caucus, I am very much enjoyous of this momentous occasion that has brought these two women front and center to leadership roles.

So as we convene this 108th Congress, we should also pause to look at the other historic notes that were taken today in this esteemed body, as we convened with two sibling pairs of Members that have come to this House. The SANCHEZ sisters from California and the DIAZ-BALART brothers from Florida will serve simultaneously as teams in this Congress, representing diverse districts on opposite coasts of this great country. My esteemed colleagues, with their formidable backgrounds, are all accomplished in their own rights, coming from immigrant families and immigrant backgrounds who have truly lived the American dream with hard work, as productive members of society, giving back and serving the people of their communities. They have now been elected to the U.S. Congress.

The senior sister, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ), has an MBA from American University and is an accomplished businesswoman, assisting municipalities and private companies in strategic planning and capital acquisition. The State of California selected her to independently review the financial status of Orange County's first toll road to save about \$300 million in financing costs. The junior sister, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ), with her law degree from UCLA, was a civil rights lawyer and labor activist heading up the Orange County AFL-CIO.

The senior brother, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), has a law degree from Cleveland, Ohio's Case Western Reserve University, which he used to provide free legal service to the poor. The junior brother, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), served in the Florida State Legislature for 14 years before being elected to serve in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, let us welcome all of these outstanding freshman Members, these pairs of siblings who have come to serve their respective districts, but who have made history, along with the two outstanding women, and may we all embrace them as they take their rightful roles. I know that all of us salute the Latino community, because

they are proud of today's historic events, as well as all Americans are proud of these pairs of siblings.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, happy New Year, and congratulations to all of my colleagues for the beginning of the 108th Congress.

I believe that we have an opportunity as we serve in the United States Congress to make things better and, therefore, I would like to speak this afternoon on the attempt to honor some who I believe have made this world a better place. So today I will be filing a resolution to express the sense of Congress for a commemorative postage stamp in honor of the late George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, one of our colleagues who fought so valiantly to avoid hunger in this world. As I stand here, we are recognizing the emerging famine in Ethiopia, which was one of the reasons that Congressman Leland was in Ethiopia in 1989, to be able to thwart the enormous hunger that that Nation was facing. It will be our challenge in this Congress to honor him, but to as well take up the cause that he so valiantly attempted in his work to avoid or to stamp out hunger in the world.

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I hope, as we look at the funding and the issues before us, we will not forget that we are in fact our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

In addition, I am filing today a resolution to name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Houston Hospital as the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Michael E. DeBakey, a famous and renowned heart surgeon, was also a renowned, valiant fighter for America in World War II. So we believe that this would be an appropriate honoring of such an outstanding leader.

I also intend to file today a bill that will emphasize more mental health services for children and to provide more support for our community mental health centers around the Nation. We lost a valiant soldier on behalf of the mental health needs of this Nation last year, our dear friend, former Senator Paul Wellstone. In his honor I believe that we should continue to fight for the equality of health care as it relates to mental health services, and particularly I believe that we should advocate for the children of this land to have access to mental health services.

Over the last couple of years, as the co-Chair and Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), and myself have tried to focus on the needs of children in America. It has been appalling to

watch in several States the tragedy of lost children by the children's protective services.

I have already filed a bill dealing with infant abandonment in hospitals, and also the question of hospitals attending to the information or trying to find family members of abandoned children that may be left, or newborn babies that may be left in hospitals. We will be looking to file a bill dealing with and addressing the question of children's protective services across the Nation.

Let me first of all say that there are many who do good work as part of the system of protecting our children in States across the Nation. Let me applaud those individuals. Particularly, I would like to cite the Harris County Children's Protective Services that had worked with me so valiantly on the issue of baby abandonment and other child protection issues.

But when there is fault and error, when there is a circumstance such as that that generated the loss of life of a 7-year-old boy in New Jersey, and the starvation of two very young children, we need to address the question of accountability by our children's protective services across the Nation.

So I will be filing legislation to require an accounting of the children that are under their jurisdiction, an annual reporting, and a knowledge of whose possession those children are in. Our children are our most precious resource, and therefore we need to include legislation to protect them at every opportunity that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I will also be filing two private bills, and have filed them, one dealing with Gao Zhan, an outstanding academic from China, who still at this point has not received her citizenship. She was held against her will in China just a few months ago. We are delighted that she is released, and her husband and son are citizens; and I hope we will consider her plight.

Let me also say, Mr. Speaker, that I am filing a private bill on behalf of the Kesbeh family, who have been in this country for almost 12 years and have made every effort to become citizens, and in fact have a 9-year-old daughter. We hope that under the laws of this land their case can be considered and that we will treat them fairly under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we are here to work, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the legislative initiative that I have put forward and, as well, that we will find compromise and opportunity to work with those who are unemployed and to provide an outstanding economic stimulus package.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 23. An act to provide for a 5-month extension of the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002 and for a transition period for individuals receiving compensation when the program under such Act ends.

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make.

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Ted Stevens, a Senator from the State of Alaska, as President pro tempore.

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Emily J. Reynolds of Tennessee as Secretary of the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WAYNE OWENS, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM UTAH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Utah delegation, it is my sad duty to announce to the House the passing of the Honorable Wayne Owens, a former Member of this body and a good friend to many of us.

Wayne died unexpectedly just before Christmas of a massive heart attack while walking on the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel, at the conclusion of a peace-seeking trip to several countries in the Middle East. He was only 65 years old.

That Wayne Owens would be involved in that kind of activity as his life ended is no surprise to those of us who knew him. He spent a significant part of his life trying to bring about accommodation of the interests and passions plaguing that part of the world.

Wayne Owens served in this House from 1973 to 1975 and again from 1987 to 1993, representing the people of the Second District of Utah. His political career inspired a generation of young people with his political idealism. He was a Democrat and he and I differed on many policy issues, but we never disagreed on the need for the involvement of the electorate, and especially young people, in the art and science of making law. In fact, I might say that while we disagreed on almost every issue, he was never, and I hope I also was never, disagreeable.

In the House, Wayne served on the Committee on the Judiciary, and we had parallel careers in that he inves-

tigated one Republican President and I, early in my career, investigated another Democratic President. Later, he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and it was his service there that led to his lifelong concern for the people of the Middle East and to his efforts to mediate their conflicts. He created the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation to assist in that effort.

At the funeral service held for Wayne Owens, Gordon B. Hinckley, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, said of him: "Any man who is engaged in the cause of peace is engaged in the cause of Christ. By that measure, Wayne was a true Christian."

The world is poorer for his passing. I join my colleagues in extending to his wife, Marlene, and his children and grandchildren our deepest sympathy for his loss, and our profound respect for their husband, father, and grandfather. We will miss him.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 days to submit tributes to their former colleague.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and thank him for providing me an opportunity to express my deep affection and respect for Wayne Owens and his memory.

I can say that we were very good friends, even though our tenure here in the House of Representatives did not coincide. He was leaving for the second time, actually, as I was coming in in 1993; but we were associated by virtue of the fact that we were interested in similar issues. Two of those issues most principally were the protection and preservation of open space in the State of Utah and peace in the Middle East.

It was because of the initiative of Wayne Owens that I became the sponsor of a very significant piece of legislation here in the House of Representatives which would set aside a vast amount of publicly owned land in the State of Utah to be incorporated within that property owned by the Federal Government which is declared wilderness; in other words, affording it the highest level of protection for today and for future generations.

Future generations is what Wayne Owens often had in mind, whether he was working on environmental issues or working with young people in his own State of Utah or elsewhere. He was also, as we all know, dedicated to the idea of bringing about peace in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians and others in that part of the world.

He first developed this intense interest as a result of his missionary work