

On top of all this, on top of all this, President Bush is still demanding that Congress make his expiring tax cuts permanent, a measure that will cost over \$1.1 trillion through 2013. Mr. President, where are we going to get this money from?

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CLAUDE  
"A.C." BARGER

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they say you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. By that measure, A.C. Barger of Centreville, Texas, lived a very rich life. He was a Korean War veteran and a successful businessperson. I knew him when I first ran for the State legislature. And, honestly, without his help and his leadership, I would not be serving in Congress today.

More than that, he gave back to his community every day of his life. He served on the Trinity River Authority, was a member of the Silver Haired Legislature, was director of the Leon County Crime Stoppers, and he founded and was commander of the local VFW post. He loved children, and so he was Santa on the Square for 17 years and for the senior citizens. He started the Leon County Career Day and founded the Leon County Drill Team. He was selected man of the year. He just gave and gave and gave.

A.C. recently passed away. I know his wife, Darlene, daughters and family, and all will miss him. Our Nation, our State of Texas, our community, is better for A.C.'s life. He is a national treasure and will be missed.

THANK YOU TO GENERAL  
SHINSEKI AND LARRY LINDSEY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, well over 6 months ago, Secretary of the Army, General Shinseki, was asked his opinion about how many soldiers we would need in Iraq. He said a couple hundred thousand. Today, we have about 180,000 troops in Iraq and Kuwait. The President's economic adviser, Larry Lindsey, was asked what he thought the cost of the war would be. He said around \$200 billion. Today, we are nearing \$160 billion.

When those two gentlemen were asked their professional judgment, they were run out of town, ridiculed, their careers were run down for what they did. Today, as we look at what they said 6 months ago, they were right on both accounts.

We do not do this enough in this town. So to General Shinseki and to Larry Lindsey, I want to thank you for your patriotism and I want to thank you for your honesty. Had we listened

to you a long time ago, or at least had the willingness to have an honest debate, we would have known that we would have 187,000 troops in the Iraq theatre of war. And to Larry Lindsey, who predicted it would cost us about \$200 billion of hard-earned taxpayer money, if we had listened to you rather than run you down, we would be honest and be able to handle this \$87 billion that the President has requested.

So, again, thank you for your patriotism and thank you for your honesty.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Sunday night President Bush addressed the Nation for the first time since the end of major combat in Iraq. He showed the world once again, as ever, his determination, his tenacity to see this war through to its just conclusion, to bring peace and independence and security and freedom to the people of Iraq.

The President also called on this Congress in the next month to appropriate nearly \$90 billion in supplemental spending for military and reconstruction efforts, and so we should address that astonishing number thoughtfully and carefully, as we are charged to do under the Constitution.

But I would offer two humble principles. Number one, our troops have every penny they need to get the job done and come home safe. But it is time on the subject of reconstruction, Mr. Speaker, that we begin to ask our partners in the Coalition of the Willing to contribute their resources along with the American people to rebuilding Iraq.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on a bipartisan bill, H.R. 2433, the Health Care for Veterans of Project 112. Project 112 was a series of military tests that were conducted during the Cold War in the 1960s. Many of these tests happened at sea and some on land.

The Department of Defense has admitted that they have no evidence that test participants were ever told about the tests, so we are extremely concerned about that in some cases. It is impossible to believe that the military exposed its own troops to such potent gases such as VX nerve gas and sarin. Veterans are naturally concerned about what has transpired and the information that we have received.

We have filed legislation and this will give us the opportunity to begin to examine these troops. We anticipate close to 6,000 troops might have been impacted by these tests. The VA has

also requested this legislation to allow them to be able to do this test, and I am extremely pleased it is a bipartisan piece of legislation. So I ask for my colleagues' support of H.R. 2433.

HONORING THE M&N AUGUSTINE  
FOUNDATION

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Merlin Augustine and the M&N Augustine Foundation for a decade of service to the third district of Arkansas. The M&N Augustine Foundation embodies the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. Their mission is to help individuals who, through no fault of their own, are down on their luck. They have accomplished great things to this end, including finding housing for the homeless, moving moms off welfare into paying jobs, providing funeral expenses for those without life insurance, and making holidays like Halloween and Christmas more enjoyable for underprivileged children.

I personally had a chance to help some of the foundation's 800-plus volunteers provide over 20,000 home-cooked meals to senior citizens, homeless individuals, and unemployed persons during their annual Easter Feed Program. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Augustine's contributions to our community are invaluable. He and the hundreds of volunteers of his foundation exemplify the spirit of charitable giving that President Bush so often speaks of, and I appreciate the opportunity to commend them here today.

THE AMERICAN PARITY ACT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President gave quite a speech Sunday night. More of the same failing policy with a new face and a new breath-taking price tag, \$87 billion he wants to borrow now. And he wants to borrow \$20.5 billion from the American people to rebuild the roads, bridges, ports, water and electric systems in Iraq.

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Mr. Speaker, what about here at home? We have to say maybe we could use some investment here in the United States on our bridges, roads, ports, water and electric systems.

So the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) and I have introduced the American Parity Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it. The President would have to match dollar for dollar every dollar that he borrows from the American people to invest in Iraq, he has to invest a dollar here for the same purposes here in the United States of America. \$20.5 billion for infrastructure in the United States could put a million people to work in this country and

begin to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure with our tax dollars as opposed to a nation far across the sea. I urge my colleagues to support the American Parity Act.

#### FRANKIE MAYO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to a true American hero, Frankie Mayo. Frankie's son, Corporal Christopher Tomlinson, is serving in Iraq as part of the 300th Military Police Company, which is based in my district, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Frankie, like all military mothers, is proud of her son's service. What makes Frankie different is what she is doing to care for her son and the soldiers serving alongside him. In an e-mail to his mom, Corporal Tomlinson jokingly asked for an air conditioner to combat the scorching desert heat. Much to his surprise, a package arrived containing air conditioners, along with other units for others serving with him and his company. This news resulted in hundreds of requests for air conditioners. With the help of individuals and corporate donations, Frankie and her family have shipped hundreds of units to soldiers in Iraq.

I rise today to thank Frankie, but also point others to her example. Frankie's dedication is a perfect example of how we can make a difference in the lives of those around us.

#### 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago cowardly terrorists attacked our Nation, killing innocent Americans who were simply going about their daily lives, and the aim of those terrorists was to change America. Well, the terrorists did change America, but not how they had hoped, because they renewed our patriotic pride for our Nation and what it stands for. They steeled our resolve and commitment to defeat the enemies of freedom.

The true spirit of America is not to run away from a fight or wring our hands. Our true spirit was shown by the brave firefighters and police officers who charged into those burning towers to save fellow citizens. Our true spirit has been reflected by our men and women in uniform who have topped the Taliban and Saddam Hussein bringing freedom to Afghanistan and Iraq.

My message to the terrorists is this: You have failed. America's spirit has been strengthened, our purpose re-

newed, our dedication to freedom is stronger than ever. God bless America.

#### SUCCESS IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the 2-year anniversary of the most heinous act of war this Nation has ever experienced. The September 11 attacks were made against unarmed Americans by a sadistic terrorist network beginning the war on terrorism.

Today we are winning that war. Realizing the seriousness of the threat of our freedoms and liberties, our Commander in Chief, President Bush, has displayed true courage and leadership in hunting down terrorists all over the world and bringing them to justice. First by bringing down the barbaric Taliban in Afghanistan, and then by ending the evil regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the men and women of our Armed Forces have eliminated the terrorist breeding grounds while bringing freedom to millions. Today, over 90 countries are part of the coalition against terrorism. Although we cannot predict the end of the war, we are thankful in 2 years since the 9/11 attacks there have not been other major attacks at home. While our Nation's resolve will be tested, I have faith with the President and his cabinet, we will continue winning the war on terrorism. May God bless our troops.

#### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, before September 11, 2 years ago, this Nation was unaware that terrorists were planning the most deadly attack in our history. Nearly 3,000 men, women and children were killed in an act of war, the most horrific act of violence many of us have ever seen.

Tomorrow we will honor their memory. We should never forget why they died, because the agents of evil could not stand the freedom that our country represents. These enemies of freedom believed that we lacked the will to oppose them. They attacked our country and declared war on our way of life. Their intent is not our defeat, their intent is our destruction. I am proud of the way this country responded. I am proud of our troops who fought bravely to bring freedom to so many, and I am proud of our Commander in Chief who has led us in the war against terror with a steady hand. On this second anniversary, let us renew our resolve to rid the world of terrorism.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### RESTORING OPERATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM DURING FISCAL YEAR 2003 TO SCOPE IN EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2595) to restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2595

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. OPERATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) RESTORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 TO FISCAL YEAR 2002 LEVEL.—In carrying out the pilot program provided by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, the Secretary shall during fiscal year 2003 carry out that program without regard to the proviso under the heading "Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account" in title I of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003 (division K of Public Law 108-7; 117 Stat. 476), and such proviso shall be treated as being of no force or effect.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Any action taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of this Act that is inconsistent with the proviso referred to in subsection (a) is hereby ratified with respect to such inconsistency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during the current fiscal year to the scope of that program as it was in effect on September 30, 2002.

The Native American Veteran Home Loan Program was established in 1992 as a 5-year pilot program, and Congress has extended it twice, most recently through 2005. This program is intended to assist eligible veterans living on trust or equivalent lands to secure