

(K) Section 425 (relating to temporary increase for ground ambulance services), but with the effective date applicable under the amendment made by section 410(2) of the House bill.

(L) Section 426 (relating to appropriate coverage of air ambulance services under ambulance fee schedule).

(M) Section 427 (relating to treatment of certain clinical diagnostic laboratory tests furnished by a sole community hospital).

(N) Section 428 (relating to improvement in rural health clinic reimbursement).

(O) Section 444 (relating to GAO study of geographic differences in payments for physicians' services).

(P) Section 450C (relating to authorization of reimbursement for all medicare part B services furnished by Indian hospitals and clinics).

(Q) Section 452 (relating to limitation on reduction in area wage adjustment factors under the prospective payment system for home health services).

(R) Section 455 (relating to MedPAC study on medicare payments and efficiencies in the health care system).

(S) Section 459 (relating to increase in medicare payment for certain home health services).

(T) Section 601 (Increase in medicaid DSH allotments for fiscal years 2004 and 2005).

(4) The House insist upon the following provisions of the House bill:

(A) Section 402 (relating to immediate establishment of uniform standardized amount in rural and small urban areas).

(B) Section 403 (relating to establishment of essential rural hospital classification).

(C) Subsections (a), (b), (d), and (e) of section 405 (relating to improvements to critical access hospital program).

(D) Section 416 (relating to revision of labor-related share of hospital inpatient pps wage index).

(E) Section 417 (relating to medicare incentive payment program improvements).

(F) Section 504 (relating to wage index classification reform).

(G) Section 601 (relating to revision of up dates for physician services).

(H) Section 1001 (relating to medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments).

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1588, the defense authorization bill.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. CROWLEY moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1588 be instructed to agree to the provisions contained in paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1074a(f) of title 10, United States Code, as proposed to be added by section 701 of the Senate amendment (relating to health care for members of reserve components).

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and

under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING JUDGE A. JAY CRISTOL

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the story of a man who is far more than ordinary, a man who has achieved more than some do in three lifetimes, always compassionate, caring and loving to the community to which he belongs.

Today I am proud to honor Judge A. Jay Cristol, an astonishing man and native of Miami who remains vital, curious, and energetic. This pious man, who is dedicated to his country, put off law school to ultimately earn his distinguished Navy Wings of Gold. Judge Cristol braved active duty as an aircraft carrier combat pilot during the Korean Conflict, in addition to flying operational flights during the Cuban missile crisis. His commitment to our Nation was also seen in his volunteering to perform airlift missions to Vietnam, his affirmation being, "I am proud to be an American and I love my country."

Judge Cristol, who was later made an honorary professor of the Naval Justice School, was assigned by the Department of Defense to lecture abroad concerning law of naval warfare. After retiring from the Navy in 1988 and dutifully practicing law for 25 years, Judge Cristol was appointed to the bench of the U.S. bankruptcy court where he continues to serve in Florida's Southern District. If that were not enough, it is noteworthy to state that Judge Cristol is also an adjunct professor at the University School of Law.

Always positive and with a smile on his face, Jay's inquisitiveness for international terrorism led him right into the university's graduate school of international studies. Interested in naval history, he began to research the 1967 incident with the USS *Liberty* where Israeli air and naval forces erroneously engaged the ship in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula. His meticulous analysis formed the basis for his book, "The Liberty Incident," and earned him his Ph.D. His studies and his experience in the field have made him a sought-after scholar, appearing on national broadcasts such as CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer."

Mr. Speaker, what more could be said about the man who refused to see Pan Am Airlines shattered and who told the owners to "kick the tires, light the fires and get those planes in the air," or the man who donates his aircraft and his time to perform angel flights, bringing children in need of medical aid who are in difficult-to-reach areas.

In his humility, Judge Cristol attributes everything simply to being lucky and always believing that we

have to make peace for mankind, love instead of hate, as there we find the promise of a better humankind.

Indeed, it is an honor to speak of a man who pioneered in all of his endeavors and who continues to motivate others to do as well. Judge A. Jay Cristol is a brilliant, concerned individual who has put ripples in time with his profound dedication to a Nation that deserves him well.

Congratulations, Judge Cristol.

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

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

THE CLEAR ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month was a very somber time for our Nation, in fact, for all freedom-loving people. It was 2 years ago this month that America and the world watched in horror as terrorist thugs took the lives of an estimated 3,000 innocent people on American soil. Our worst fears were realized, our very way of life was challenged, and our world was changed on that day, perhaps forever. In the days, weeks, months, and now years that have followed, our Nation has responded to that challenge. In the war on terrorism that ensued and continues today, we have led the free world in rooting out these terrorist thugs and in holding accountable those who would harbor and aid them in their insidious pursuits. The challenge and cost has been great, but the stakes are even greater. This is a war we simply cannot afford to lose.

Still, Mr. Speaker, for all we have done and all we are doing at home and abroad to secure our homeland, there is a troubling and growing crisis within our borders that has been largely ignored and presents another challenge in securing our homeland that simply must be met. It is a crisis that has created countless innocent victims and that continues to put our Nation's citizens and law enforcement officers in greater and unnecessary danger with each passing day it is not addressed.

Mr. Speaker, the crisis I am referring to is America's criminal alien crisis. The sad fact is our own badly broken immigration system has created this very crisis; and the numbers, quite frankly, are staggering and shocking. First, consider the staggering. Today, there are roughly 400,000 individuals living in the United States who have received their final deportation orders to go, but have not left. Why have they not left? It is pretty simple. It is because our Federal Government does not know where they are. Now for the truly

shocking. Of the 400,000 individuals that should have been deported, 80,000 of those are criminal aliens, meaning that they have been charged and convicted of committing criminal acts, some of which include the most heinous and atrocious deeds one can possibly imagine. Yet these 80,000 convicted criminals, rapists, murderers, pedophiles and the like among them, who were in the hands of law enforcement officials, were simply turned loose because of an outmanned, inefficient, and unaccountable immigration system that is failing both the law-abiding citizens of our Nation who live here legally and peacefully and the courageous, hardworking men and women who wear the badge who protect us who must face the prospects of arresting and rearresting these criminals over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, it is also worth noting, again looking back at earlier this month's somber anniversary, that an estimated 3,800 of these individuals are from countries with a known presence of al Qaeda. Unfortunately, America's criminal alien crisis has been allowed to continue and worsen because our Federal Government and this Congress are not serious about addressing it. Today there are only 2,000 Federal agents who have the job of finding any of the 400,000 I mentioned earlier. Mr. Speaker, that is not a fair fight, and it is not the right message to send to the American people.

Recently, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD), the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), I introduced the CLEAR Act. This is a bill that makes clear that our Nation's 600,000 local and State law enforcement officers have the authority to enforce immigration laws, gives those 600,000 men and women wearing the badge the training, access to data and appropriate funding they deserve, and gives the 2,000 Federal agents in the field the assistance they so badly need.

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And that, finally, provides the needed accountability that our immigration system has lacked for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in sending a strong message that this Congress is serious about protecting Americans from this crisis within our own borders, and I encourage my colleagues to support the CLEAR Act.

OPPOSITION TO CUTS IN LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my concern regarding reports that President Bush has already approved cuts in loan guar-

antees to Israel and is considering further cuts. Last week I spoke on the House floor regarding a decision by the Bush administration to cut loan guarantees to oppose Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. As I stated last week, I oppose any cuts in loan guarantees. These guarantees allow Israel to rebuild after years of violence and economic decline and are critical to Israel's future.

I am further disturbed by reports that the Bush administration is considering additional cuts in loan guarantees to protest Israel's construction of a security fence along the West Bank.

Mr. Speaker, on a recent trip to Israel in August along with, I think, 29 other Democratic Members, I had the opportunity to view the security fence firsthand. While in Jerusalem, I toured border communities where Israeli citizens live in constant fear of sniper attacks and suicide bombings. This fence will provide a sense of safety and security to these border families and will help prevent continued attempts to derail the peace process through violence.

In my meetings with government officials in Jerusalem, they acknowledged that the fences are temporary and can be moved or removed pending future peace agreements. Furthermore, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has shown that he is willing to work with the United States and has sent a diplomatic delegation here to continue discussions on the fence. However, until the Palestinian Authority dismantles the terrorist infrastructure, Israel must be permitted to take steps to protect their citizens from violence without financial retribution from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I just think this is the wrong decision by the Bush administration. That is why today I sent a letter to President Bush to urge him to reverse his decision to restrict loan guarantees to Israel and to reconsider any future restrictions. With the continued rise in violence, now is not the time to take punitive action against the Israeli Government. It is critical to our role in the region that the United States maintains its steadfast support of Israel and not undercut Israel's military and diplomatic authority or, most important, their ability to protect their citizens from harm and terrorism.

PURCHASE CARD AND TRAVEL CARD ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Waste Watch highlights the vast amount of waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the government purchase card and travel card programs. Mr. Speaker, such waste steals from the hard-working taxpayers in order to line the pockets of some career bureaucrats

who seek to profit from the obviously broken system.

Mr. Speaker, Americans should and would be outraged at the consistent abuse of their tax dollars within the purchase card and travel card program. These cards are paid for by the taxpayers, and they are supposed to be used, obviously, for official government business. However, Mr. Speaker, I think taxpayers would be horrified and outraged of the fact that these cards have purchased, among other things, Elvis Presley pictures, vacations and cruises, designer leather goods, Internet pornography, power tools and toys, music, designer clothing, luggage, fine china, jewelry, escort services, electronics, and televisions and even a pet dog. And yet our friends on the other side of the aisle, the Democrats, insist still on sometimes introducing bills to raise taxes to do more of this, Mr. Speaker?

If this abuse, Mr. Speaker, happened within the private sector, these individuals would clearly get thrown out of their jobs and in many cases would be turned over to law enforcement agencies. But when it is the taxpayers who are paying for it, when it is the taxpayers who are footing the bill, these people do not lose their jobs. They just stay in their careers. Many times they get their annual pay increases. Very few of these employees, Mr. Speaker, are ever appropriately disciplined for this improper use of purchase cards and travel cards.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will introduce the Purchase Card and Travel Card Accountability Act of 2003, which will create a uniform system of accountability for all Federal agencies. This system will include repayment to the Federal agencies by those who have used those cards incorrectly. It would also, furthermore, ask the inspector general to report regularly to Congress on disciplinary actions taken against employees for abuse of purchase cards and travel cards, and, yes, it will also create a uniform system of accountability for all Federal agencies, which will include termination.

Only, Mr. Speaker, in the Federal Government, a place where billions of dollars, billions of dollars, are just lost every year, can people go shopping with a card that the taxpayer pays for on things, as I said, for china and designer leather products, \$163,000, for example, worth of designer leather goods and a billiard table, and nothing happens. And, again, the Democrats want to raise taxes to do more of this?

Mr. Speaker, for too long the bureaucracy have been given free rein to do what they want with taxpayers' money with no accountability. That is why we are filing this bill, Mr. Speaker. Purchase cards provide a great avenue to continue this waste. The American taxpayers deserve better. They should not support irresponsible spending. They do not support it.