

Security while funding homeland security needs and reforming the Tax Code.

For fiscal year 2004, taxpayers owed \$322 billion in interest alone. I hope my constituents realize that the first \$2,000 of their taxes will not go towards better schools, roads, health care or defense. Rather, this sum is just one in a series of increasing interest payments they will make because this administration chose to forgo fiscal responsibility in favor of tax cuts for a few privileged Americans.

We need to restore fiscal responsibility to this Congress by reinstating meaningful Pay-As-You-Go rules. Just as a family must plan its budget for the next year, ensuring that expenses do not exceed income, Congress must create a balanced budget to avoid adding even more debt in the future.

I will be voting for the responsible Stenholm Motion to Recommit, which would extend the debt ceiling until April 15, 2005, when next year's budget is due. Unless Congress puts pressure on ourselves, we will never balance the budget. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Stenholm Motion to Recommit and oppose final passage of S. 2986.

HONORING NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. During this month, fifty-nine state and territorial diabetes-control programs, other partners, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are highlighting their efforts to battle this wide spread disease.

Throughout November, these organizations will bring a special focus on: (1) diabetes prevention, (2) pneumonia and pneumococcal vaccinations, and (3) the unique problems endured by women with diabetes.

Currently, an estimated 17 million of our fellow citizens suffer with diabetes and the disease is becoming ever more common in our country. From 1980 through 2002, the number of Americans with diabetes more than doubled. Many of its victims are our most vulnerable—people aged 65 years or older—who account for almost 40 percent of the diabetes population.

Medical research has proven that certain types of diabetes can be delayed or prevented by keeping blood glucose at healthy levels through eating right and staying active. Nevertheless, many of the most susceptible to diabetes remain unaware of these simple prevention methods.

For women, diabetes poses a particularly serious health conditions during all their life stages. It is most troublesome that diabetes can affect the health of pregnant women and her unborn children. Additionally, with the increasing life span of women and the rapid growth of minority populations in the United States, the number of women at high risk for diabetes and its complications continues to increase. This will place added demands on the health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a serious disease that affects millions of our citizens. In many instances it is preventable—and we hope, ulti-

mately, curable. Diabetes deserves our attention at all times of year, but during this month of November, it deserves our special focus. I encourage members to join the Diabetes Caucus which helps educate and promote current diabetes programs.

IN MEMORY OF 2LT JEFFREY GRAHAM

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham. On February 19, 2004, 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq. The work of our young men and women in the armed services is vital for the safety and security of our Nation. The death of 2nd Lt. Graham is a true loss to the United States. I salute his dedication while serving in the 1st Battalion 34th Armor, the 1st Infantry Division of the Army. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all those who loved him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MAES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dennis Maes, the Chief Judge of the Pueblo, Colorado, District Court. Dennis is a man of strong convictions whose upbringing and sense of dignity permeates his courtroom and ensures that the citizens of Pueblo receive fair consideration in the cases brought before his court. It is my privilege in recognizing Judge Maes' outstanding record of service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Judge Maes was born in Trinidad and grew up in Walsenburg, Colorado where he was the eldest of eleven children. His father Leo Maes served five terms as Mayor of Walsenburg and championed issues affecting the Hispanic community. Dennis' parents taught him the value of a good education and instilled in him the idea that a community can only be as viable and credible as its citizens.

Judge Maes graduated from Colorado State University at Pueblo in 1967 and immediately accepted a teaching position with Gardner Middle School. Dennis was driven to continue his education and attended the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, Colorado. During his studies, Judge Maes was involved in the movement to bring equal rights to Hispanic Americans and advancing the civil rights agenda. After completing his law degree Dennis, returned to Pueblo working in the Pueblo County Legal Services, and the public defender's office before his appointment as Chief Judge of Colorado's 10th Judicial District by Governor Roy Romer in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Maes is a dedicated judge who has made fairness and moral conviction the center of his life. The citizens of the Pueblo community have been blessed by his

leadership for twenty-two years and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his impeccable record of service. Thank you for your service Dennis and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—THE HONORABLE CAROLYN MCCARTHY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on November 18, 2004, I missed rollcall vote No. 534 due to surgery. Rollcall vote 534 was on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 856.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 534.

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to an event in Latin America that underscores the region's instability and warrants international attention. Over the last few months highly-regarded Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolaños has been fighting for his political survival as charges of corruption against him have led to calls for his impeachment.

During Bolaños' three years in office he has proven himself a capable and popular leader, unafraid to fight against corruption within his government. The president and his supporters allege that Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) leader Arnoldo Aleman, currently imprisoned for corruption, and Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Daniel Ortega reached a political agreement to oust Bolaños from power, secure their parties' control of key political institutions and gain eventual amnesty for Alemán, a former Nicaraguan president.

While Ortega has recently changed his mind and announced that his party will not pursue impeachment, the Sandinistas and the PLC are continuing efforts severely limit Bolaños' presidential powers. Efforts to remove or reduce his presidential prerogatives can only undermine the democratically-elected president and have little to no constitutional basis. They also go against the will of the people, the majority of whom have pledged their full support to their embattled head of state, putting democracy in Nicaragua in jeopardy. Since the Nicaraguan president has little political support in the National Assembly and the opposition controls key democratic institutions, the international community must actively involve itself to ensure the nation's democracy.

The following research memorandum about Nicaragua's crisis was authored by Research Associate David R. Kolker with additional research provided by Research Fellow Alex Sánchez, both of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA). Founded in 1975, COHA is an independent,

non-profit, non-partisan, taxexempt research and information organization. It has been described on the Senate floor as being "one of the Nation's most respected bodies of scholars and policy makers."

On October 7, Nicaragua's Comptroller's office called on the National Assembly to remove President Enrique Bolaños from office for failing to disclose the origin of \$7 million used in his 2001 presidential campaign. The following day, the country's two major parties, the conservative Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) and the left-of-center Sandinista National Liberation Front, announced that unless Bolaños submitted his resignation, they would move to impeach the 76-year old president. The resulting crisis, which underscores the fragile political stability of Nicaragua as well as a number of other Central American nations, demonstrates how easily personal vendettas can manipulate the political process, ignore the will of the people and endanger democracy by undermining a competent and democratically-elected head of state.

BOLAÑOS AS PRESIDENT

Enrique Bolaños, a moderate conservative who has often been described as an honest chief executive, but lacking charisma, was sworn into office in January 2002. As a former PLC Vice President under President Arnoldo Alemán (1996-2001), Bolaños went mostly unnoticed in his nation until his role as coordinator of the economic aid effort following 1998's devastating Hurricane Mitch displayed his leadership and earned him the wide base of support needed to run for president in 2001. He subsequently won the general election, carrying 56 percent of the vote compared to Sandinista party leader Daniel Ortega's 42 percent. Soon after his victory, however, his crusade to purge corrupt officials from even the highest echelons of government earned him many enemies. This campaign led to his virtual ouster from the PLC by Alemán's friends after the party leader and former president was charged and then last December found guilty of corruption and sentenced to twenty years in jail. Bolaños' severe criticism of the Sandinista government's ties during the 1980s to Fidel Castro, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi and Miguel "Tirofijo" Marulanda, commander of Colombia's leftist insurgent force FARC, also infuriated and deeply alienated Ortega.

As president, Bolaños has emphasized economic modernization for his underdeveloped nation and has achieved some successes. Besides fighting corruption and pursuing a transparent government, he has raised teachers' salaries, assisted farmers, begun destroying the military's stockpile of shoulder-fired missiles and upheld the 1990 peace accords signed after more than a decade of civil war between the Sandinistas and the U.S.-backed contras. Despite his accomplishments in office, opposition groups have continuously targeted him, making him the scapegoat for the nation's multiple problems and accusing him of being Washington's puppet because of his controversial support for the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

Bolaños has accused his main political rivals, Alemán and Ortega, of orchestrating the efforts to remove him from office. According to an October 19 article in the Miami Herald, the Nicaraguan president "has repeatedly alleged since his campaign financing scandal erupted in late 2002 that Ortega and Alemán were trying to forge an agreement that would impeach the president and leave Alemán under house arrest." Indeed, a Nicaraguan government official confirmed to COHA the accuracy of the supposed Alemán-

Ortega pact: in exchange for enacting constitutional reforms granting Alemán immunity, the Sandinistas would gain control of the judiciary, allowing the "two caudillos (strongmen) . . . to fill the key positions of the Comptroller's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Supreme Electoral Council and the Prosecutor's Office with their allies." While the PLC (41 seats) and Sandinistas (38 seats) currently control more than the two thirds of the 92-seat National Assembly needed to impeach the president, it seems unlikely that a vote will ever take place. The Nicaraguan official also explained to COHA the highly questionable nature of such proceedings, making it clear that impeachment is unrealistic: "No piece of legislation existing in Nicaragua gives power to the Comptroller's Office to order the removal of the President" and as a result, the resolution to impeach Bolaños "is unconstitutional, clearly exceeds the Comptroller's office powers and jurisdiction, and represents a clear violation to the due process (Art. 10 num. 17; Art. 172, Law of the Comptroller's Office, Decree 625-1980 as amended)." Additionally, "neither the Constitution nor any piece of legislation authorizes the National Assembly to take action on [the resolution] (Nicaraguan Constitution Art. 138, Faculties of the National Assembly)."

While impeaching Bolaños would clearly be unconstitutional, it was not until Ortega's November 6 announcement that his party, which always follows his lead, would not pursue impeachment that the president's job appeared to be safe. However, Ortega's decision may be little more than the result of the Sandinistas having found a way to leave Bolaños in office, albeit with severely limited powers. In early November, a bill was proposed in the National Assembly that would revoke the president's power to appoint cabinet ministers, vice-ministers, diplomats and directors of state agencies. If both the PLC and Sandinistas support the bill, which seems likely, it would have more than the sixty percent of the vote needed for it to pass and cripple the president.

Regardless of whether Bolaños is removed or marginalized, the will of Nicaraguans, the majority of whom believe the charges against their beleaguered president are unfounded, is being completely ignored. According to a poll published on October 19 in the Nicaraguan daily La Prensa, 69 percent of Nicaraguans back Bolaños and think the corruption charges against him are a "political trap," while 66 percent believe he holds international credibility. Only 22 percent think that the charges are grounded in truth. Clearly, the average citizen is supportive of Bolaños and wants him to remain in power. Yet as long as the PLC and Sandinistas pursue their own agendas and not those of their constituents, democracy in Nicaragua will be jeopardized.

CAN THE OAS SAVE BOLAÑOS?

Before Ortega pledged not to pursue impeachment, it seemed that the president's only hope for survival in office would be through the direct intervention of the Organization of American States (OAS). Aside from eight party deputies in the legislature, Bolaños has virtually no political support in the National Assembly. However, he has received noteworthy backing from abroad. In an October 16 press release, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher expressed the Bush administration's strong support for the besieged Nicaraguan president, stating, "We deplore recent politically motivated attempts, based on dubious legal precedent, to undermine the constitutional order in Nicaragua." He also praised Bolaños' "efforts to eradicate corruption and promote democracy" and called on the OAS to come to his aid.

In a mid-October meeting in Managua of Central American leaders, the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, as well as the Panamanian vice president and the foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Belize, requested intervention by the OAS to prevent Bolaños' removal. Representing this significant bloc of neighboring nations, Salvadoran President Antonio Saca said, "We agreed to instruct the permanent representatives of the countries in the Central America System of Integration before the OAS to immediately convene the (OAS) Permanent Council to debate the threatening political and institutional situation." Moreover, as scandals inundate the region, some critics believe these leaders' support of the Nicaraguan president is a way to guarantee that they will not lose power if a crisis like the one Bolaños is now facing occurs in their respective countries. Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco, former Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo and former Honduran President Rafael Callejas all have been recently investigated for corruption. Additionally, former Guatemalan Vice President Francisco Reyes is currently imprisoned and ex-Costa Rican President and former OAS Secretary General Miguel Angel Rodríguez is under house arrest, both on corruption charges. Regional leaders are also surely keeping an eye on the developing crisis in Ecuador, where President Lucio Gutiérrez's cabinet is rapidly resigning as he faces dismissal for the alleged misappropriation of campaign funds.

From October 18-20, acting OAS Secretary General Luigi Einaudi and Permanent Council Chairman (and former Panamanian president) Aristides Royo led an OAS delegation to meet with Bolaños and his political opponents. According to an October 22 OAS press release, the delegation was "not mounted to support the president or his government, the visit was instead intended to support 'democratic institutions.'" While the OAS has not yet released a full report on the delegation's findings, the London based LatinNews website reported that on October 24, Bolaños said the OAS "agreed with him that the move to impeach him was illegal." In any case, OAS efforts to assist the president may be hindered by internal problems. The October 15 resignation, after less than three weeks in office, of Secretary General Rodríguez as a result of a corruption scandal in his native Costa Rica cost the OAS much credibility. Prior to the OAS delegation's arrival, PLC Deputy Enrique Quirón captured many people's sentiments when he proclaimed to La Prensa, "Now Bolaños' employees say that they will turn to the OAS, by God! . . . the new Secretary General of the OAS resigned for corruption."

The OAS delegation was formed under the auspices of the OAS's Democratic Charter. Signed in Lima in September 2001, that document states that "when the government of a member state considers that its democratic political institutional process or its legitimate exercise of power is at risk, it may request assistance from the Secretary General or the Permanent Council for the strengthening and preservation of its democratic system." If Bolaños is ousted, according to Article 21 of the Charter, the most the OAS can do is suspend Nicaragua's membership. However, such a move would likely result in international condemnation of those responsible for ousting the president and possibly hinder the disbursement of desperately needed international aid to the country. While the World Bank and International Monetary Fund forgave Nicaragua's \$5.1 billion debt last January, aid remains of crucial importance in a country where it is estimated that in 2001, 50 percent of the population lived in poverty. On October 21, Nicaragua suffered a

major setback as a result of the Bolaños crisis when Taiwan, which provided the country with nearly \$200 million in aid between 1997 and 2003, announced it would cease sending aid until the national crisis is resolved.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The PLC and Sandinista plan to oust the president, or at least strip him of much of his power, has largely ignored the sentiments of the average Nicaraguan. As Rodolfo Delgado Romero of the Managua-based Nicaraguan Studies Institute told COHA, "Nicaragua must overcome the vicious cycle of crises and have the capacity to learn from errors that date back to the 19th century" so it is no longer a country "where the majority of the population is excluded from the decision-making process . . . a nation controlled by relatively exclusive elites for most of its history." Nicaragua is in desperate need for politicians who work on behalf of and truthfully represent its citizens.

The power struggle currently being witnessed in Nicaragua also demonstrates that the region is still plagued by corruption and political pandering. Such behavior invariably leads to unstable rule, which carries the potential for serious conflict and underscores the need for a corruption-free OAS that can act decisively as an arbiter to uphold democracy in the hemisphere. It is disconcerting to note that despite his three years of painfully-achieved economic progress in a nation wrestling with stifling underdevelopment, Bolaños is on the verge of falling victim to manipulations by self-serving political opponents. While it appears likely that President Bolaños will narrowly survive to finish his term, the events of the last two months have cast an almost impenetrable shadow over Nicaragua's troubled democracy.

HONORING JUDGE MICHAEL
BATCHIK

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Judge Michael Batchik upon his retirement after 25 years of service to the citizens of the 52nd District Court, 1st Division and the 52nd District Court, 2nd Division of Oakland County, Michigan.

Professionally, Judge Batchik served as chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, and has been an active member of numerous judicial organizations, including the Representative Assembly and the American Judges' Association. Mike has served as president of the Michigan District Judges' Association and president of the Oakland County District Judges' Association. He is also a past president of the Walled Lake Rotary.

During his tenure in the 52nd District Court, Judge Batchik initiated and implemented a highly successful jail alternative program. The program involves sentencing non-violent offenders to work in a structured community service program in lieu of jail, including a garden program that produces food for charitable organizations in the district. He has also been actively involved in implementing the very positive and successful "Sobriety Court" program at the Court. This program has been a key turning point in the lives of many drunk drivers, as well as reducing recidivism.

Mr. Speaker, I extend our entire community's sincere appreciation and gratitude to

Judge Michael Batchik for his fine service to our community and our country; and wish him and his wife, Connie, the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

REGARDING H. RES. 863

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, according to the Foreign Assistance Act, U.S. foreign assistance: "shall be used in support of, rather than substitution for, the self-help efforts" of developing countries and "should focus on establishing and upgrading the institutional capacities of developing countries in order to promote long-term development."

Over 40 years have passed since the enactment of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act, and countries throughout the world still face hurdles, including: extreme poverty, hunger, disease, high unemployment, and civil unrest. The U.S. Government only has a limited amount of resources available for international development assistance, and we need to ensure that we spend every dollar in the most efficient way possible to help as many people as possible. I strongly believe that the most efficient way to distribute foreign assistance is through building local capacity.

What exactly is local capacity building? Local capacity building can be defined as a continuous process where individuals, communities, organizations and governments improve their ability to understand and solve their development challenges in a sustainable way. Assistance means "to give support" . . . it doesn't mean do it yourself.

The most effective foreign assistance tools are not necessarily tangible things like bulldozers and construction equipment, or hiring American contractors to do the job in-country, but a more powerful and inanimate tool: knowledge. The transfer of knowledge via technical assistance, training and education is what will create long-term, sustainable development. This transfer of technical skills, be it teaching basic business skills for small businesses to flourish, demonstrating how to build wells, explaining the importance of rotating crops, developing a judicial system that hews to the rule of law, or promoting an educational system that provides opportunities for both men and women, is considered local capacity building and is fundamental for sustainable development.

Today, I am introducing a resolution that reaffirms the importance of local capacity building in U.S. foreign assistance programs. As my resolution illustrates, there is legal precedent and also considerable consensus within the development community that building local capacity is the key to creating long-term sustainable development.

But building local capacity isn't just done on an individual level, it needs to be done on a societal level and a governmental institutional level. Problems like poor access to health care, lack of financial literacy, teacher training are long-term, institutional problems. They are not going to be solved by a one-time infusion of foreign aid. Education and training of citizens in the developing world doesn't evaporate when the political climate or funding level

changes in the United States or an international NGO reaches its strategic goals and departs.

The goal of local capacity building is to have individuals and governments take ownership of development programs and modify them to achieve lasting results. Where U.S. assistance can make a powerful difference is by providing the technical assistance and training to locals so that they are able to properly address their own problems. Communities can then take this knowledge and find ways to improve their own livelihoods on their own terms and in the appropriate cultural context.

An excellent example of foreign assistance technology transfer is USAID's Coffee Corps program. The U.S. sends renowned U.S. coffee specialists to coffee producing countries to assist coffee farmers in establishing the highest quality beans that will receive a higher market value. This knowledge transfer stays with individual producers and helps create more wealth and development within a rural community.

USAID has an excellent track record in promoting training programs for foreign aid recipients in key areas of economic development, and we need to recognize USAID's efforts and encourage other foreign assistance programs to push for a broadening of the usage of local capacity building within international development.

U.S. foreign assistance must invest heavily in programs that "train the trainers", promote educational and cultural exchanges, and fully fund grassroots development programs like the Peace Corps. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC, appears to be making strides in promoting more sustainable development programs, but we must mandate that a country's commitment to building local capacity is a factor when the MCC considers a country's eligibility for funds.

I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia during the 1960s, and our mantra was: "Work yourself out of a job." Peace Corps volunteers work to educate their counterparts in 'best practices' in areas such as agriculture, health, education, small business and IT development. These counterparts are then able to teach these new skills to other community members, enabling local residents to develop and sustain a better quality of life. "Work yourself out of a job," shouldn't just be the mantra of Peace Corps volunteers. It should be reaffirmed as the central tenet of U.S. development assistance so that citizens in developing countries gain the knowledge to improve their lives and, in turn, improve the world.

SSGT RUSSELL SLAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SSGT Russell Slay and to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

Staff Sergeant Slay was a constituent of the 29th District of Texas, and a true hero, who died on November 9, 2004 while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Russell Slay joined the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18, and had served his country