

old girl from Arlington, Texas. His bill went on to create a "Two Strikes" law mandating life in prison after a second sex offense against a child.

Congressman FROST has a long record of leadership in Congress, bringing common sense and a practical approach to a variety of senior positions. As chairman of the House Democratic Caucus from 1999 until January 2003, and later as a Ranking Democratic Member of the House Rules Committee, MARTIN has crafted far-reaching and landmark legislation that will leave a lasting imprint on America's landscape and people.

Mr. Speaker, I also join with my fellow colleagues in recognizing the many accomplishments of CHARLIE STENHOLM who has served this body well for 25 years. His advocacy for this Nation's Agricultural community and fiscal policy has been tireless. Named "the spiritual godfather of fiscal austerity," STENHOLM has consistently fought for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget. A farmer, a third generation Texan, a father, a very proud grandfather—Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM has effectively served the 17th Congressional district of Texas with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, CIRO RODRIGUEZ. He has demonstrated 7 years of exemplary service in this House and an extensive record of promoting the rights and benefits of the more than 50,000 veterans in the 28th District who answered the call to serve. Congressman RODRIGUEZ worked closely with local community leaders on a range of issues to promote the interests of the many counties, cities, towns and residents within his congressional district. I am also grateful to CIRO for his work in helping me to fight for civil rights for minorities in this country.

My other colleague, NICK LAMPSON took office to represent the 9th Congressional District in 1997. This former high school science teacher, served as the Ranking Member of the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and is a strong advocate for the Johnson Space Center and the entire NASA manned space program. He also served with me on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he fought for federal highway construction and repair funds, and the improvement of Houston and Southeast Texas airport facilities. His leadership has been invaluable to the committee. I am proud to call him my friend. I join with the House in expressing my sadness at his departure and my best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, MAX A. SANDLIN was elected to Congress in 1996. As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee MAX's main concern for the needs of older Americans was genuine and his dedication to improve rural education was and continues to be vitally important to all Americans. His constituents will miss his dedication, and so will the Members of this House.

My other colleague from Texas, CHRIS BELL represented our State on the Financial Services Committee. CHRIS has worked tirelessly on issues of importance to Texas residents. CHRIS is a kind and caring loving being and a good legislator. He has served Texas' Twenty Fifth District with distinction.

Another House Member I find it hard to say goodbye to is JIM TURNER. He represents the good people in the 2nd District of Texas, and

he is the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. Before, he was elected to Congress he served in the Texas Senate with me. In the Texas Senate, he was recognized as an outstanding legislator by a number of statewide organizations for his leadership in health care, criminal justice, education and on behalf of Texas children. He also served in the Texas House for 10 years. As the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and Terrorism Subcommittee, JIM worked hard to protect the safety and security of the American people in the war on terrorism. In addition, his work in Congress focused on promoting economic development and forestry in East Texas. He continues to work for senior citizens through his sponsorship of legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I bid farewell to my friends and colleagues. However, I know in my heart that their dedication to the American people will not end here. I wish them the best for their future endeavors and with whatever challenges may lay ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE BOY SCOUTS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today voted with my colleagues in support of H. Res. 853, recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs for neighborhoods and communities across the United States.

Although I voted in support of this resolution, I remain concerned by the Boy Scouts continuing discrimination against gays and lesbians.

An organization that purports to teach children "principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health", as indicated by this resolution, and which "teaches the core values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and the value of service and doing a 'good turn' daily" does a disservice to children when it teaches them that it is okay to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation.

While we as a Congress can and should support the good deeds done by individual Boy Scouts and troops throughout the country, we should not overlook or tacitly condone the discriminatory policies and attitudes of the larger organization or its administrators.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF SGT. MORGAN WILLIAM STRADER

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service and sacrifice of Sergeant Morgan William Strader, formerly of Brownsburg, Indiana, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on November 12, 2004 while serving his country in Iraq. His father lives in my district.

Sgt. Strader loved his country. He recognized the impending danger of serving his country in Fallujah. Notwithstanding, he chose to serve. Our city, state and country have much pride for the young 23 year old.

Morgan Strader grew up in Brownsburg, Indiana where he attended school through the seventh grade. He moved to Crossville, Tennessee in the eighth grade where he was active on the high school track team and wrestling squad. Upon graduation he left to join the Marines.

Morgan served with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Iraq from February to June of last year, and returned to Camp Pendleton, California, where he was assigned to military police duty pending his discharge in July. But Sgt Strader couldn't bear the thought of his unit returning to Iraq without him, says his father, Gary Strader, of Speedway Indiana. Instead, he asked that his enlistment be extended for another year, and returned with his unit to Iraq in July.

As his battalion prepared for the battle in Fallujah, Sgt Strader developed a skin condition that made him eligible to be sent home. But Morgan Strader "decided he wasn't coming home," his father recalls. "He said, 'Dad, the guys in my unit aren't experienced in this. I need to help them.'" He was killed in the battle of Fallujah on Friday, November 12.

Morgan Strader loved fishing with his grandpa. He had a strong faith in God and he loved serving in the Marine Corps. Sgt Strader's father describes him as "a Marine from the day he was born . . . His grandfather was in the Army during Korea. He latched onto that and loved it."

His high school English teacher Angela Bradley testifies to his keen sense of humor and strong moral values. "All Morgan ever talked about doing when he was in high school was to be a Marine and to be a minister."

Sgt Strader is survived by his grandparents Lonnie and Estelle Morgan of Hebbertsburg, Tennessee; his mother Linda Morgan of Dumfries, VA; his father Gary Strader of Speedway, Indiana; his uncle Jimmy and aunt Teresa Barnett of Westel, Tennessee; and his cousins Austin Barrett and Angel Morgan.

Morgan William Strader will be deeply missed. His strength and service to his country, friends, family, and God will be remembered always by all whom he inspired and loved.

The citizens of the Seventh District of Indiana extend our deepest gratitude for his sacrifice and dedication to public service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution.

The Republican leadership is trying to have it both ways. When President Bush took office in 2001, he inherited a budget that was in balance and actually had a surplus. There was no need to increase the debt limit, because

we were actually reducing the debt of the United States.

When President Bush took office, his Office of Management and Budget, OMB, projected that the nation would not reach its statutory debt limit until 2008.

However, due to the irresponsible fiscal policy of the Republican leadership in the House, due mainly to the tax cuts that cut revenue we needed to keep the budget in balance, we are at this place, increasing the debt limit.

In 2001, the budget surplus was cut almost in half, in 2002, the budget plunged into deficit; in 2003, the deficit grew to the largest in history; and in 2004, the deficit broke its own new record.

This third increase in 4 years should be seen as the symptom of a larger problem. What is the response of the Republicans? More tax cuts, decreasing the revenue into the treasury and cutting important programs to all Americans.

This debt limit is not related only to the ability of the United States Government to borrow money. This huge debt is affecting our ability to buy goods overseas, and the ability of the dollar as a reserve currency for the rest of the world is being affected. One day we will wake up with an even larger debt and the Euro will be the currency of choice for the rest of the world. We will be shut out of markets and the interest we pay to borrow even more will rise, costing us more to pay our debt, and reducing the services we supply to our constituents.

This includes Social Security and Medicare. By passing this administration's tax cuts, it reduced revenue to the country by \$12.1 trillion to \$14.2 trillion over the next 75 years. This is three times the projected shortfall in Social Security. And it exceeds the combined long-run unfunded obligations of both Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop the bleeding and this bandage will not fix the problem!

IN RECOGNITION OF OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST JASON READ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jason Read on his gold medal performance in rowing at the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece, and also to commend him on his heroic service to the American people on September 11, 2001.

Read and his fellow teammates from the U.S. Men's Elite rowing team won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Athens, on August 22, 2004. Read helped his team set a new world record in their event. He has repeatedly stated how proud he was to represent America to the world at the Olympics, and he usually adds that he is also proud to serve as a local volunteer fire chief in Ringoes, New Jersey.

On September 11th, 2001 Jason Read, joined other workers in the rescue and recovery efforts by setting up field hospitals, treatment centers, and by searching for survivors at Ground Zero.

This past September, the people of Ringoes honored Read with a parade celebrating his Olympic gold medal and his contributions as a

firefighter. As both an Olympic athlete and devoted fire chief, Read has demonstrated a strong sense of community and commitment to public service that can inspire every American.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire 12th district of New Jersey, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jason Read for his Olympic gold medal in rowing, and also, for his commitment to serve the people of Ringoes, New Jersey, and the people of America.

THE NEED FOR ACTION ON POSTAL REFORM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Government Reform's Special Panel on Postal Reform and Oversight, I rise to urge support for Postal Reform.

The United States Postal Service is a vital part of a \$900 billion industry that employs more than 9 million people.

However, the Postal Service is experiencing a downward economic spiral. First Class mail volume continues to decrease with the use of technology, such as e-mail and faxes; operating costs as well as the number of addressees to which the Postal Service must deliver every day are increasing; and the Postal Service is additionally hampered by an untenable debt load.

In recognition of the dire situation of the Postal Service—the President in December 2003, created a bipartisan Commission to examine the operation and financial challenges faced by the Postal Service, the first such action taken in over 30 years. Using the Commission's recommendations as a foundation, I am proud to have been a part of the Government Reform Committee's bipartisan effort to unanimously pass The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2004, which will help ensure a viable future for the United States Postal Service.

This bill protects collective bargaining rights, allows the Postal Service flexibility in rate-making, releases escrow funds of \$73 billion to be used to fund health and pension obligations and transfers military service obligations back to the Treasury. The result of all of provisions is postage rate stability, which will maintain a strong customer-base, preserving the universal service provided by the Postal Service.

The President has displayed commitment to advancing postal reform legislation by the creation of his commission. I am now calling upon the White House to fulfill that commitment and to work productively with the Congress to achieve postal reform and rate stability for American ratepayers and businesses.

We have worked tirelessly to craft a strong bipartisan bill that address many of the challenges facing the United States Postal Service. But we cannot advance without the direct engagement of the White House. With an impending double-digit rate increase set to go into motion in the Spring of 2005, it is imperative that Congress, as well as the White House, follow through on our commitment to enact postal reform.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF ELLIANA GRACE KUGLER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as the 108th Congress draws to a close, I think it is important that those of us who serve as Members of Congress pause to thank those whom the public rarely sees, our staffs. I think that all of us, both Republican and Democrat, acknowledge that without the talented staff we have to help us do our jobs, the Congress would be a poorer institution.

During this last year a significant—yes life-altering event—occurred for one of my key staff attorneys. Andrew Kugler, and his wife Jennifer celebrated the birth of their daughter Elliana Grace Kugler at 4:37 p.m. on September 6, 2004 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. She weighed in at a healthy 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Ellie has been blessed with a large, doting family. She's already had visits from her grandparents Hymen and Sharon Childs and Andy and Hedy Kugler, as well as her aunts Allyson Hale and Christine Kugler. Soon, she'll also get to meet her Uncle Marty and cousins Jacob and Benjamin Hale, as well as her many new friends in California, Texas and across the country.

Just as being parents makes each of us Members of Congress more able to appreciate the importance of our jobs here in the House of Representatives, when our staffs become parents their lives are also enriched, and their understanding of the importance of families is enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Ellie into the world and wishing her and her family all the best. She has a very bright future ahead of her.

TRIBUTE TO SUE GARMAN

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this year, NASA saw the retirement of one of its best and brightest. Sue Garman ended her 17 year career in public service.

Sue is one of the most amazing people I have ever met, and NASA lost a tremendous asset when she stepped down.

Sue strongly believes the future of our nation rests in our willingness and ability to achieve great things. She recognizes the role NASA serves in feeding the soul of America but inspiring young and old alike and quenching the basic human need to explore the unknown.

An incredibly dedicated worker, Sue served two stints away from her Houston home to serve at NASA's headquarters in Washington, DC. In spite of long hours away from her family, she worked tirelessly and seldom complained. She was passionate about the agency and even more passionate about the people around her.

Sue was a rare find in the workplace—a visionary with incredible attention to detail, an incredibly bright person with enormous heart.