

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.

She never sought glory or recognition for herself. Content to work behind the scenes, she strove to help Johnson Space Center and the entire NASA agency achieve greatness. Unlike astronauts or famous scientists, Sue rarely received the public recognition she so greatly deserved. But she did enjoy the respect, admiration, and love of those serving around her and within the Clear Lake community. Every time I've set foot in Clear Lake, I've heard folks sing Sue's praises.

A dedicated worker whose loyalty was legendary, a smart lady with vision for how things should be and the dedication to try to get there, Sue is a class act.

Her uncommon mixture of inspiration, commonsense and intellect will sorely be missed. But I am happy to know that she will now be focusing her attention on the more enjoyable and important things in life. Her time will now be spent at her beach house quilting and spending time with her husband and new grandchild. Sue, thanks for all your hard work and dedication. You are an inspiration to us all.

HONORING WAYNE SPRUELL

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wayne Spruell, principal director for manpower and personnel, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, upon his retirement from Federal service and to thank him for his contributions to the United States of America over the past 36 years. Since graduating from the Virginia Military Institute in 1968, Mr. Spruell has served his country honorably and with great distinction in both the military and Federal civilian service.

His 3 years of active duty as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps included 18 months in the Republic of Vietnam. During this period he was awarded two Bronze Stars with combat device. Subsequent to his active duty, he completed 20 years in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring in 1992 at the grade of lieutenant colonel.

Mr. Spruell's career as a Federal civilian employee began in the U.S. Customs Service and continued as an operations officer and intelligence analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1972 until 1981. His assignments included overseas tours in Vietnam and Panama. In 1975, the CIA awarded him the Intelligence Star—an award for voluntary acts of courage performed under hazardous conditions or for outstanding achievements or services rendered with distinction under conditions of grave risk.

From 1981 until 1985, he had responsibility for the Army's individual training programs and then moved to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs as a program analyst. In recognition of his exceptional skill as a leader and manager, he was selected as the director for manpower programs, a position he held until 1994. Subsequently, his success and effectiveness as the principal director for manpower and personnel resulted

in his selection as a member of the Senior Executive Service in 1999.

Mr. Spruell is the leading expert within the Department of Defense on National Guard and reserve manpower and personnel matters. In that capacity he has been instrumental in many of the legislative and policy initiatives that have fundamentally reshaped America's reserve components. His contributions to the Reserve Officers Personnel Management Act, the Reserve Component GI Bill, and military technician reforms were especially noteworthy. He led the transformation of reserve personnel management and employment by removing statutory and policy barriers to allow for the seamless integration of the active and reserve components while accomplishing defense missions. In the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, Mr. Spruell was the architect of the Department's personnel policies and procedures for mobilized Guard and Reserve members.

Noteworthy as these accomplishments are, there are other aspects of Mr. Spruell's career that I believe deserve our respect and thanks. For one thing, Mr. Spruell is a consummate, constant professional who can be counted on always to both lead and to provide reliable, objective insight and assistance in all matters pertaining to reserve component personnel. For another, over the years he has helped my subcommittee and others in Congress immeasurably in shaping important legislation and as a result has made a difference for the better in the lives of many. In my view, however, Mr. Spruell's value to this Nation and to the men and women who serve it in uniform rests in his unhesitating, unselfish commitment to doing the best job he can in every way, without thought of formal recognition or gain. That kind of lifelong dedication and professionalism is what makes his service doubly worth recognition.

When he retires in January, the Department of Defense will sorely miss his leadership, knowledge and experience. A dedicated patriot, Mr. Spruell leaves a legacy of unquestionable successes, positive relationships, and a solid foundation for the future. I want to thank him, on behalf of my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee, for all that he has given to the Nation and to wish him, his wife Lan, and family well in all their future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELLEVILLE SHOE AND BELLEVILLE SHOE SOUTH

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a company that has spent 100 years making a name for itself and has been with our U.S. Armed Forces every step of the way. I am proud to recognize Belleville Shoe and Belleville Shoe South, Inc. in this Congress for their commitment to their community and all they do for our nation's soldiers.

While Belleville Shoe in Southwestern Illinois marks its 100th anniversary this year, Belleville Shoe South, based in DeWitt, Arkan-

sas, has been a part of the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing Company since spring of 2002. It was then that Belleville reopened the DeWitt shoe plant that had closed four months earlier; today that plant employs 650 people, pumping \$12 million in wages into the local economy annually.

Perhaps most important is the product the plant produces: boots for the U.S. Army. The plant's employees turn out an astonishing 3,600 boots each day for the Department of Defense and do so with a great deal of pride, knowing they are making shoes for America's military men and women.

Not surprisingly, much of the credit for Belleville's success belongs to the Weidmann family that has overseen the company since its creation in 1904. What started with William Weidmann in 1904 and has been passed down to the fourth generation in Eric Weidmann today has become a company that reflects the family that created it. Compassionate, unwavering and innovative.

Belleville Shoe has also improved the quality of life for many in DeWitt and the surrounding areas. The wages and benefits it offers exceed the area average; in fact, many employees have never had any benefits before working for Belleville. When a qualified labor pool in DeWitt began to dry up, Belleville hired two transportation companies to operate a van service to bring in about 100 employees from outlying areas to work at the plant.

On behalf of the Congress, I am honored to recognize Belleville Shoe and their contributions to the community they live in as well as the military community they serve so proudly. They are a shining example of what can transpire when a company treats its employees with respect, helps its community grow and creates a product that moves this country forward—one step at a time.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING LACY AND DOROTHY HARBER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to two outstanding citizens of Denison, Texas, and my dear friends, Lacy and Dorothy Harber, owners of American Bank of Texas and LJH Corporation.

Lacy and Dorothy recently received the Denison Area Chamber of Commerce Large Business Award for their efforts in uniting the community through business and employment opportunities. The State of Texas House of Representatives awarded them a Certificate of Recognition for this prestigious award.

Lacy and Dorothy have devoted their time, talent, and resources to numerous worthy projects in Denison and Grayson County. They are beloved and respected by all those who know them, and they have been vital to growth and development in Denison.

Mary Ellen and I feel very fortunate to count them as our friends, and I am very fortunate to be their Congressman. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us address in the House of Representatives these two exceptional leaders of the business world and generous people—Lacy and Dorothy Harber.