

S. 2277. An act to amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation.

S. 2385. An act to designate the United States courthouse at South Federal Place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as the "Santiago E. Campos United States Courthouse".

S. 2398. An act to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the James V. Hansen Federal Building.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 requests for 1-minute speeches.

CELEBRATING SOUTH CAROLINA'S LOW COUNTRY

(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, since 1956, residents of South Carolina's low country have gathered around the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park in Beaufort for a Southern celebration. This year's 49th Annual Beaufort Water Festival will attract people from all over the world to come and enjoy sailboat races, sport tournaments, arts, crafts, music and other events which display the best of South Carolina's culture.

Beaufort is South Carolina's second oldest city, is a picturesque port town with a rich history. Its beautiful views of waterways bordered by oak trees with Spanish moss and pre-Revolutionary homes have been featured in countless motion pictures and have made Beaufort a world-class vacation destination.

I look forward to joining Beaufortians this weekend in the Water Festival Parade, which moves along historic Bay Street.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking this year's commodore, Marvin Morrison, and his team of coordinators for their efforts in making the 49th Beaufort Water Festival a great success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

TAX CUTS SHORTCHANGE COPS PROGRAM

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we are now almost 3 months past the deadline for Congress to pass a Federal budget. At this point, it is likely that Congress will not pass one at all. The cause of this breakdown is the ongoing misguided policies of the administration which have put irresponsible tax cuts ahead of the programs that Americans rely on to move our country forward.

One such program is COPS, or Community Oriented Policing Services. Since its inception, COPS has put more than 140,000 police officers on the streets. In Los Angeles, my hometown, that meant 240 new officers last year alone. But despite all of the talk about supporting local police, Republicans are starving the COPS program of funds. Because of their marriage to big tax cuts, Republicans have proposed cutting this vital program by over \$100 million. That means about half as many new police on the streets next year.

RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that this body passed its budget in March of this year. We are waiting for across the rotunda as usual.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the Medicare Modernization Act which we passed last year. I wanted to discuss the fact that employers have been dropping health care benefits for retirees for 2 decades. This is prior to our passing the Medicare bill. A Kaiser Foundation survey notes that the percentage of all large firms offering retiree health benefits has declined from 66 percent in 1988 to 34 percent in 2002.

Rather than worsening the situation, the Medicare Modernization Act works to stop the trend of employers dropping retiree coverage. We achieve this goal by providing incentives to employers to continue offering health care to their retired employees. Employers offering retirees coverage that at least equals the Medicare benefit will receive a tax-free direct subsidy.

The Congressional Budget Office has predicted that substantially fewer employers will drop or reduce coverage under the Medicare conference report.

KERRY-EDWARDS OFFER UPLIFTING MESSAGE

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the middle-class values and positive vision for our country that JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS are offering America.

Yesterday, Senator EDWARDS brought the ticket's Front Porch Tour to the Triangle region of North Carolina. My North Carolina neighbors are excited about the uplifting message that the Senator presents for a better tomorrow. The Kerry-Edwards ticket offers real hope to make America stronger at home and respected throughout the world.

Unfortunately, Republicans in Washington are so afraid of running on their

record, they have launched a ferocious negative attack on JOHN EDWARDS. Just yesterday, Roll Call ran an article quoting a Republican leader saying, "It is now critical to brand JOHN EDWARDS." After 4 years of running this country into the ground, the Republican regime has nothing to offer but attack politics.

Democrats offer a better alternative. Senator JOHN KERRY plans to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act that the Republican leadership has short-changed by \$27 billion. Senator KERRY also supports school construction legislation to build new schools and get children out of trailers. As the first member of his family to go to college, JOHN EDWARDS will work to make sure that families have opportunities for higher education.

CHARLEE PROGRAM MAKES VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn March, Mary Cagle, and the entire staff of the CHARLEE Program for their valuable contribution to the abused and neglected children in my hometown of Miami, Florida.

CHARLEE stands for Children Have All Rights, Legal, Educational and Emotional. It was established in 1983 through the efforts of the Junior League of Miami, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Episcopal Diocese of southeast Florida.

It has an extensive history of providing critical services such as foster care and treatment services for Miami-Dade counties' neediest children.

As a mother of two teenage daughters, I realize the profound impact that a positive relationship with one's primary caregiver can have on the development of our most precious resource, our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work CHARLEE does, and I wish all of CHARLEE'S volunteers much future success in helping our precious children.

NATIONAL DEBT RISES

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1,167 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,663,467,070,131.85.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of Public Debt at the Treasury Department, yesterday the Nation's outstanding privately held debt was \$4,228,533,122,486.63.

Foreign holdings of U.S. privately held debt now total \$1.75 trillion. This

is an increase of \$740 billion since January of 2001 and is 41 percent of all privately held debt.

DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

(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, one of the aspects of the Medicare bill is the market-based provisions contained in the discount drug card program. These cards provide immediate help to seniors who need prescription drugs.

By bringing transparency and accountability to Medicare, the cards will help 7.3 million people with Medicare save between \$1.4 billion and \$1.8 billion altogether in discounts on their prescription. An additional feature is the \$600 credit that helps low-income cardholders buy medicine.

Individuals who make less than \$12,569 per year and couples who make less than \$16,862 are eligible for the credit. That means the first \$600 in drug costs incurred by the recipients will be covered by the Federal credits.

More than 83,000 Pennsylvania low-income seniors will benefit from the plan. There are some 40-plus cards available. Seniors can call 1-800-MEDICARE to figure out which card is best for them.

REPUBLICAN TAX REFORM HURTS SOCIAL PROGRAMS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned that the Republican tax scheme is ignoring the real needs of American families. Day in and day out, we hear that the Republican majority wants to boost our economy by helping our working families, but the economic stimulus Republicans were supposed to deliver has not trickled down.

The median household income has declined by 3.3 percent, and there are over 3 million Americans living in poverty, and many of those are children. In addition, the average American worker is making less today than he did a year ago. Under this administration, our Nation and our budget does not have the resources to invest in making health care affordable, providing a sustainable Social Security plan for seniors, and ensuring that our environment is clean and safe for all of our families and our children.

Let us start listening to the real people, the working-class people who pay their taxes, who really deserve better treatment by this administration. Fundamental resources need to be restored to our families.

FOUNDING OF VALMONT IRRIGATION

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a visionary named Robert B. Daugherty introduced the world to an extraordinary product, one that would fundamentally change how the world grows its food. Mr. Daugherty went on to found Valmont Industries, maker of the center irrigation pivot. This technology has revolutionized agricultural productivity while helping to protect our vital water resources.

Today, Valmont is the world's leader in mechanized irrigation. I am proud that this company and its primary manufacturing facilities are located in Valley, Nebraska, within the Second Congressional District. But Valmont's contributions to agriculture go far beyond Nebraska's borders.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mogens Bay, the chairman and CEO for Valmont; as well as Terry McClain, senior vice president; and CFO, Bob Meaney, senior vice president; and Tom Spears, president of the irrigation division, for their dedication and leadership of a global corporate company. And, of course, I offer my best wishes and heartiest congratulations to the man who started it all, Bob Daugherty.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS

(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, I rise this morning in support of the fiscal year 2005 District of Columbia Appropriations Act and most especially the responsible educational choice scholarship provisions that were added in just last year's bill, provisions that reflect the support and leadership of Mayor Anthony Williams of the District of Columbia.

It was decades ago that a southern governor stood in the doorway of a public school and said to young African American children, because of their race, they may not come in. For years the education establishment stood in the schoolhouse door and said to the grandchildren of many of those Americans that, in the interest of preserving the establishment, they may not come out.

That wall, that barrier, started to crack in recent years in Wisconsin and in Ohio and last year here on the floor of the Congress when millions of dollars were made available for thousands of children in inner city schools that have been failing for decades here in the District of Columbia.

We have the opportunity today to renew the second year of the District of Columbia opportunity scholarships. I am confident we will. I rise to praise the leadership of the Committee on Appropriations and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams for taking

such a strong stand for educational opportunity for all the children of the District of Columbia.

THE U.S. ECONOMY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, if the U.S. economy is a racehorse, this administration has led the thoroughbred into a pool of wet concrete, and it is starting to set. The speed is slower and every stride is harder to take.

The U.S. economy is not some anonymous subject. It is millions of American people. What is the health of the U.S. economy? Take the pulse of the people to find out. Over 8 million Americans are without jobs. Over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. For those Americans who are working, wages are not even keeping up, much less moving ahead. The President has lost almost 2 million jobs during his watch, a feat not seen since the Depression. The drag Republicans have placed on the economy with massive budget deficits will be felt and paid for by future generations.

The American economy is a thoroughbred. It has not lost its heart but its stride is shorter and its breathing is more labored. America does not lack for heart or for innovation. America lacks leadership. It is a shortcoming we will remedy in 105 days.

RESURRECTING THE VISION OF A SPACEFARING PEOPLE

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

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a great occasion because 35 years ago a mesmerized world watched as Americans landed on the Moon. Behind me stands a moon rock that was brought back by our Apollo astronauts, and next to me is a picture of a man standing on the Moon. Thousands viewed Apollo as their calling. They assembled and launched the Saturn V from Kennedy Space Center. They overcame the tragedy of Apollo 1 and guided Apollo 11 through harrowing moments. Many of today's science and engineering leaders throughout our country were inspired as children by this adventure.

We will be able to surpass our current discoveries. The space vision that the President has laid out will take us beyond imagination. Recently Americans watched in awe at pictures coming from the Mars rovers. Soon thousands will come to Florida's space coast to watch the Shuttle return to space.

We are a restless, inquisitive, pioneering people. We yearn to go. We yearn to explore. We are Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate this great 35th anniversary of Apollo 11.