

declined. And household income has risen substantially. We have reformed welfare, passed the Defense of Marriage Act and promoted quality education in our schools, fulfilling the Reagan revolution.

As a lifelong member of the Republican Party, I have never been prouder of our party. Under the leadership of our Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT); our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the chairman of the Republican Conference, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE); and our majority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), working with President George Bush, this team will continue to promote America's families.

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

GOP 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in 10 years of majority, Republicans have made a difference and a difference not by over-legislating but by having confidence and faith in the American people and the American individual.

My Republican colleagues and I believe that it is the individual American and not the government who can best improve their lives. Financial decision-making is best done by the family and not by the Federal government. The taxpayers' money belongs in the taxpayers' pockets. They work hard for it, and they know how to spend it best.

Republicans created across-the-board tax cuts for working Americans, giving them a greater chance to spend and to save their money as they deem fit, giving them options, giving them independence. The benefits of our tax relief have rolled on to jump-start the economy, with 1.7 million new jobs this past year, with the current unemployment rate lower than the average rates of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s combined.

Mr. Speaker, in the next 10 years, the Republicans will continue to respect the American individual and, in turn, build on our successes and on the success of this great Nation.

SUPPORT THE PLEDGE

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, amidst the controversy surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance, I fear that we have forgotten our Founding Fathers' true intentions behind the establishment clause in the Constitution. While our critics argue that the words "under God" violate the establishment cause, our founders actually encouraged this type of religious recognition.

As George Washington said in his farewell address, and I quote, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. The mere politician, equal with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them."

Washington encourages us to respect religion, and I think he feared that the government might misapply the establishment clause to things like the Pledge. Even Thomas Jefferson, who advocated the wall of separation between church and State, articulated this, and I quote, "No Nation has ever yet existed or been governed without religion, nor can be."

Considering our Founding Fathers' clear statements, it is hard to say that the Pledge establishes religion or crosses the wall of separation. I urge my colleagues to embrace the founders' original intent and support H.R. 2028.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY AND FAMILY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in the 10 years of Republican majority in the House, we have always put families first. We recognize that protecting our Nation's families means in part creating access to better health care, providing affordable prescription drugs to seniors and ensuring the best doctors and care for our children. These are critical and necessary commitments.

In 1994, when Republicans took the majority, many of our citizens were being left behind without access to rapidly developing medical technology. Last year, we passed the most sweeping modernization to Medicare legislation since its creation in 1965. For the first time, our seniors now have a prescription drug benefit. Americans know that their parents and grandparents will be taken care of and that they are in safe hands.

We have provided better options to our Nation's low-income families by making doctors' appointments and necessary checkups available through community health centers; 15 million families nationwide now have a place to count on for health care through these centers.

America's families will always receive the best existing health care. Republicans recognize the importance of family health care, and we will continue to recognize it as a top priority in the future.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, 25 hearty souls met for 3 hours

every week to decide whether we could change the course of America, led by then House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich. We said that if you gave us the authority and the power, we would change the way America works, and we did it with a specific Contract With America; 9 million additional people voted in that election and gave us the opportunity to lead.

We believed that too many people were on welfare, and they deserved an opportunity to get off, so we changed that. We balanced the budget and paid down debt. Some of that is going by the wayside now with a war to fund, but when we stood before the American people in 1994, we stood for something solid, and we can do it again.

We want to thank the American people for giving us the opportunity. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Newt Gingrich, who would be our Speaker ultimately, for leading us to that majority.

□ 1030

THE RECORD OF THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have reminded us that it has been 10 years since they have controlled this Congress, and I think it is important to reflect upon that record. Since they have been in the majority here, they have managed to shift the tax burden from the most affluent people in America to the white and blue collar working class, raising taxes for working Americans, lowering them for multimillionaires. They have established the conditions for, and presided over, the Enron and other corporate scandals. And since they have controlled not just the legislative branch but the executive branch as well, they have managed to increase the poverty level in America in the last 4 years by 4.3 million people now living in poverty.

They have reduced the average income of the average American family by more than \$1,500. They have raised the energy costs of the average American family by more than \$1,000 a year. They have raised the number of people who are without health insurance, bringing it up to 45 million people without health insurance. The list goes on. And we will have other opportunities to discuss it, I am sure.

PLEDGE PROTECTION

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week we will vote on keeping "one Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is

under attack, and activists are using wayward judges to chip away at this time-honored tradition. Our national motto is "In God We Trust." In Texas the people have already spoken. Starting last year, all school districts require students to recite the Pledge to the United States and Texas flags daily.

The bill we have on the floor today is essential to ensuring that the will of the people of Texas is not circumvented by some unelected judge in another State. For the sake of our country's morale and heritage, we must keep "under God" in the Pledge.

I will just close with God bless America.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why I became a Republican is because of the Republican Party's consistent support for the military.

Since 2000, base military pay has increased by 29 percent. Mid-grade non-commissioned officers, who represent the core experience and talent in the Armed Forces, have seen their pay increase an average of 35 percent. Congress under Republican control provided \$6 billion for repair, maintenance, and operations of the military houses and bases. Congress increased the basic allowance for housing and eliminated servicemembers' out-of-pocket housing expenses, increased family separation allowance, and increased the amount for imminent danger pay.

I am proud that the Republican Party stands for strong support for the military, and I am sure we will consistently support our men and women serving in dangerous places around the world and their families.

SNOWFLAKES EMBRYO ADOPTION

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, less than 5 minutes ago, I was in a room here in the Capitol filled with children who were frozen embryos, several months—even years ago—who went on to be adopted. The stories of these adopted embryos, with names like Kate and Mike, are compelling. We know of at least 60 children who were once cryogenically frozen but have now gone on to be adopted. An adoption program called Snowflakes adoption agency that has been promoting this loving adoption option and underscores why we need to protect these newly created human beings and not steal their stem cells for use in research.

Let me also point out to my colleagues that we often hear the term "spare embryos" in connection with embryonic stem cell research. I hope that we will cease employing that very false term. There is no such thing as a spare embryo. These individuals can be adopted, they are being adopted; and they are just like any other little boy or girl.

We should put our emphasis, and our research dollars, Mr. Speaker, on adult stem cell research and cord blood stem cell research. This research has no ethical downside. And it has worked. That is where the real breakthroughs are occurring each and every day. Heart repair and myriad other advances are occurring not from embryonic, but from adult—and cord blood stem cells.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, what a difference a decade makes. It is true we are marking the 10th anniversary of the Republican majority controlling this institution, and it has been great for the American people.

One issue that is of paramount interest and is often forgotten is the fact that leading up to our having won the majority in 1994, we in this country, from the early 1960s forward, were dealing with a very tragic generational cycle of welfare. We saw this cycle of dependence continuing on and on and on where people were in fact losing their motivation, losing the kind of incentive that they needed to succeed in life. And when we in 1995, 1996 worked very hard to bring about an end to that generational cycling of welfare, what is it that we did? We not only created opportunity for people, but story after story had us telling anecdotal evidence of people saying, I have finally gotten the pride back that was so desperately needed.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is just one example of the kind of success that we have had with our majority, and I hope we can keep working for the American people for years to come.

THE SUDAN

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) and I returned from a 4-day trip to the Sudan, including mostly into the Darfur region in West Sudan. We visited the camps where the displaced persons are. We visited North Darfur, which is an area under control by the Sudanese Liberation Movement, the rebel groups.

I am here to report to my colleagues today that unfortunately the attacks

on the people of Darfur are continuing by the Janjaweed, that is the militia that has been armed by the government and sent on these missions to destroy and to kill the people there, increasing the huge numbers of displaced persons who are fleeing into these camps. The conditions in these camps are absolutely intolerable. They are living in positive squalor. The world's humanitarian community is responding in a very positive way, but the conditions continue to grow worse.

What is needed is greater security. What is needed is a greater commitment by the African Union to send troops to provide that kind of security. What is needed is a commitment by the Sudanese government to end the Janjaweed attacks and to allow the humanitarian community to provide the relief that is necessary and to provide the security also so that these people can return to their homes.

TIME FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it is 10 years since the Contract on America, the Republican takeover. If people think the country is going in the right direction, then I guess they are doing a great job.

They talk about fiscal responsibility; \$600 billion deficit this year. Every penny of the Social Security surplus and trust fund borrowed and spent and replaced with IOUs. We have lower wages, outsourced jobs, unemployed Americans, economic insecurity, and record numbers of uninsured. And they brag about their record on health care, a prescription drug benefit written by and for the pharmaceutical industry at tremendous tax to the taxpayer, subsidies to that industry.

It is time for a new partnership for the majority of Americans, not more government by and for an elite few.

TO CELEBRATE AMERICA

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to celebrate with my colleagues the American people. We in the majority have worked hard to empower people to create opportunities, to make jobs, to do things that turn America into a place where people can achieve their dreams. That is what is happening. It is also in stark contrast to the U.N., that sits on their collective duffs while people in the Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan need help.

So, yes, we do celebrate America today because the majority will stand up and empower the American people to live that American Dream and to be part of making a better, freer, and safer world.