

from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the Lawrence case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the States from out-of-control Federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

CONGRATULATING DR. EDWARD R. MOSLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Edward R. Mosley of Fresno, as the honored recipient of the Community Health Champion Award from West Fresno Health Care Coalition.

The life of Dr. Edward Mosley has been extraordinary in every aspect. He has broken barriers, opened doors and won the hearts of all who know him.

Dr. Mosley was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1924. He grew up in a time where his skin color was the determining factor for his career goals. However, Edward continued on in his quest to reform the outlook of many African Americans in the Nation. He is truly a revolutionary in this regard and has not slowed down since.

Education has been a primary focus of Dr. Mosley since the age of 4 when he begged his grandmother to teach him how to read. He began school at age 6 and immediately excelled in all subjects. He became the "talk of the town" because of his intelligence. His

school quickly adapted to their new star student by providing him with an advanced education. Edward graduated from high school at the age of 17 and was forced to take a year off before attending college. However, never deterred, he resumed his academic career and attended the University of Illinois. Ever the steadfast student, he worked to put himself through college and graduated to attend Mehary Medical School. He completed his medical internship at Harlem Hospital in New York and his residency at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital in Alabama. Dr. Mosley also spent two years in the United States Army where he was in charge of a prisoner of war camp in Korea.

It was the desire to live in California that initially brought Edward to Fresno. He established a medical office in the private sector and eventually collaborated with other doctors in the community to create the Westview Convalescent Hospital in Fresno. In recognition of Edward's accomplishments, he was the first African American elected official in Fresno when he was elected to serve on the State Community College Board of Trustees. Edward also served on many other boards in the community in efforts to advance the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Mosley has an impressive resumé that details his extensive professional career; however, it has been his outstanding devotion to community service and contributions to the medical community of Fresno for which he is being honored now. He has received many honors and recognitions, including being a Delegate to the Presidential Electoral College appointed by Governor Reagan in 1972, and being named honorary Mayor of Fresno for Contributions to the Community.

It is a tremendous honor to stand today and publicly recognize Dr. Edward Mosley for all of his contributions to the community. It is a privilege to extend congratulations to Dr. Mosley on behalf of the 20th District of California.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528,
MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill which contains critical funding for Oregon veterans and their health programs. In addition, this bill contains funding for the BRAC process and military construction and housing that are important for Department of Defense efficiency and quality of life. I am disappointed that this conference report cut funds from the BRAC 1990 Account which is used to clean up unexploded ordnance and other contamination on closed military bases from a House-passed \$378 million to \$255 million. I will continue to work with Congress to ensure the military cleans up after itself and returns sites to productive use.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF
LANCE CORPORAL NICKOLAS D.
SCHIAVONI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the death of LCpl Nicholas D. Schiavoni—a brave Marine who served with dignity and honor in Iraq. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Tuesday, November 15, Lance Corporal Schiavoni was killed by a suicide bomber near Karmah, Iraq, while conducting combat operations with his unit. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Lance Corporal Schiavoni, age 26, was raised in Haverhill, Massachusetts; his mother, Stephany Kern, resides in Westerly, Rhode Island. This was Lance Corporal Schiavoni's second tour of duty in Iraq. He joined the Marines after meeting his wife, Gina Howe Schiavoni, who now lives with their two children, Marissa, 5, and Alex, 3, in North Carolina.

Lance Corporal Schiavoni's service as a Marine demonstrates his commitment to our nation's freedom. He was awarded a Purple Heart during his first tour of duty and died supporting a fellow member of his unit in an investigation of a suspicious vehicle. The humility, dedication and courage that helped him to flourish in the service are also visible in his life at home—those who knew him well highlight the deep reverence he held for his wife and family.

His loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their nation called them to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and the security of their neighbors, they answered without hesitation. We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE H. E.
DOUGLAS, SR. MEMORIAL NEW
SHOES FOR LITTLE FEET FOUN-
DATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Douglas and New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation collects and distributes new shoes to needy children within the community of The Colony, Texas.

The H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation was founded

by Dale Douglas and his wife. The idea for the foundation stemmed from the experience of Douglas' father, H. E. Douglas, Sr., who was a poor fieldworker who did not own a new pair of shoes until he was sixteen years old.

Nine years ago, Dale and his wife decided to turn their annual Christmas party into a catalyst for community service by asking their guests to bring a new pair of shoes to give to needy children within the community. The effort continued to grow with each subsequent year and has challenged an entire community.

The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation works with area schools to collect the correct shoe sizes of needy students so that they can be matched with the right pair of shoes. The foundation has also partnered with The Colony Police Department to increase its outreach. Last year, the organization collected and distributed 377 new pairs of shoes to area schoolchildren.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. It is the dedication that is personified by this organization that makes us certain that the future is bright for our nation and for our communities.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On November 11, 2005, Veterans Day, it was my great pleasure to attend a ceremony honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Joseph K. "Joey Irish" Clougherty.

Mr. Clougherty was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1948. His family settled in South Boston, where he graduated from high school in 1966.

Mr. Clougherty enlisted in the United States Army in May 1967, and arrived in Vietnam later that November. Mr. Clougherty spent a year in Vietnam as part of the 5th Light Equipment Maintenance Company Long Binh and Headquarters Co. 185th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Battalion. After extending his stay in Vietnam for a total of twenty months, Mr. Clougherty returned to make his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Clougherty spent ten years of service in the City of Boston Department of Public Works and Fire Department before eventually settling down in North Attleboro. Since 1995, Joe has served as the North Attleboro Assistant Veterans Agent, solving problems for the entire veteran community and their families.

Those who know Joe know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. This dedication is exemplified by the tremendous counseling and supportive services he has provided to the over 2,200 veterans of North Attleboro over the past decade.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Joe Clougherty in their midst. I know all my colleagues will join me in offering Mr. Clougherty our deep gratitude and heartfelt

congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Lord knew what he was doing when he sent us Adrian Rogers. And we're so very thankful for that gift.

Dr. Rogers lived a life of service. He lived a life of grace. And we cannot help but be inspired by his accomplishments. For 32 years he preached a message of love, hope, and salvation. His inspirational leadership was on display each Sunday as anyone of the 30,000 Bellevue Baptist Church members can tell you.

Dr. Rogers not only reached out into his community, he reached out across America and this world to spread God's message. His years at Bellevue spreading the Word to millions through his Love Worth Finding ministry and his leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention will be remembered in the lives he changed and the example he set.

He was a great, great shepherd and a humble servant.

Regardless of the titles and leadership positions, we all know that Pastor Rogers was most proud to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather. On this day our prayers are with his family whom he loved so much. We thank the Rogers family for sharing him with us for all these years.

We will miss Pastor Rogers but we are grateful for his life. I rise today to mark the passing and recognize the service of a beloved Tennessean.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support the Conference Committee Report on the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary Appropriations Act 2006, which provides essential funding for important infrastructure projects in Oregon and the rest of the nation. The bill provides \$18 million to complete the Interstate MAX light rail project, which has been an incredible success in North Portland. Additionally, \$15 million for a commuter rail project between Wilsonville and Beaverton will provide further transportation alternatives in the region and anchor important development projects in each of these suburban cities.

I was heartened to see the \$1.3 billion set aside for Amtrak. I am concerned, however, that the bill separates Amtrak's operations funding from its capital funding, essentially allowing the Department of Transportation to serve as a steward for Amtrak's capital money, handing out grants for approved projects. I am wary of this being yet another attempt by the administration to dismantle America's passenger rail system.

I am relieved to see that the Conference Committee did not eliminate funding for valuable for HUD programs such as Community Development Block Grants and the HOPE VI program. I am concerned, however, that many of these programs continue to be underfunded. The many individuals and families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will increase demand for these valuable programs.

Despite these faults, the bill will fund important infrastructure improvements, create jobs, and make our communities safer, healthier and more economically secure.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4241, the Reconciliation Spending Cuts. This bill attempts to reduce the Republican-created budget deficit on the backs of those who can least afford it. H.R. 4241 does not reflect the values of Rhode Islanders and it takes from the poor to give tax cuts to the rich. As early as tomorrow, the same people who are voting to cut Medicaid, student loans, and food stamps will offer \$57 billion in additional tax cuts for the richest Americans.

While Republicans claim this bill is necessary to offset the costs incurred by Hurricane Katrina, their actions do not match their words. Months before Hurricane Katrina struck, Republicans in the House voted for a budget that cut \$15 billion more than the bill we are voting on today. The programs the Republicans are attempting to cut, like Medicaid and food stamps, are the very programs that benefit those who have been affected by the hurricanes. Not a single dollar cut in H.R. 4241 will actually go towards offsetting hurricane costs and reducing the deficit. Instead, today's cuts will fund the upcoming tax cut, but in typical Republican fashion, the spending cuts won't even cover the entire cost of the tax cuts they have planned.

While I am disappointed that we are voting on this bill at all, I am especially upset by a few specific provisions. First, this budget reconciliation will have a devastating impact on millions of low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities across the country. This bill proposes billions in cuts to Medicaid, and Rhode Island alone will lose more than \$66 million. Ultimately, these cuts are paid for by raising prices for those on Medicaid. Imposing cost sharing requirements on people who simply can't afford them will not save money. Instead, these cuts will result in patients waiting longer to seek care, longer lines in our emergency rooms, and greater burdens on doctors and hospitals, who will struggle to provide for this population. In the end, we will all pay for this mistake in some form. The Medicaid program provides access to health services for more than 51 million Americans—most of whom are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Now is the time to strengthen America's safety net, not weaken it with arbitrary and harmful cuts.

I am also appalled by the message this bill sends to the millions of American students