

resolution if it did not contain paragraph six. Paragraph six of this resolution is a political attack to embarrass Congressman John Murtha who has called for a strategic redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

The Democratic House leadership offered an identical resolution without paragraph six but the Republican majority party rejected it. While the United States is attempting to establish a democracy in Iraq, but the majority party in the United States House of Representatives uses its power to stifle, embarrass, and silence voices of dissent to the War in Iraq.

The Republicans have no interest in presenting a unified show of support for our troops and in congratulating the Iraqis on their parliamentary elections. The Republicans are more interested in using our troops in Iraq and their families as a political issue than expressing the U.S. House of Representatives' sincere admiration and gratitude.

In closing, I would like to provide my statement on yesterday's parliamentary elections in Iraq:

I applaud the government of Iraq for this milestone election today. The people of Iraq are able to participate in a democracy by electing the leaders who will help shape their young government and institute laws to protect them. This is a giant step toward full accountability.

Election day in Iraq serves as much more than an opportunity to cast a vote to elect leaders; it serves as an opportunity for the people of Iraq to accept responsibility for governing Iraq. This responsibility extends beyond voting. Yesterday's vote marks the time for Iraqis to be accountable for themselves and their developing country.

The hopes and dreams of the Iraqi people will not be realized if the insurgency continues to disrupt Iraq's national unity. The overwhelming majority of the Iraqis are in tacit support of this insurgency as they view our U.S. troops as "occupiers" of their country. Nearly one half of the Iraqi citizens believe it is justifiable to kill U.S. troops. Since May of 2004, when President Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, approximately 2,000 more U.S. troops have died and more than \$150 billion in tax dollars have been spent to counter act this Iraqi insurgency.

I believe that in order for the principles of democracy to take hold in Iraq, the target of the insurgency, our U.S. troops, must be removed.

I believe the President must develop a plan to bring our troops home. I believe America should demand from the Bush Administration an Iraqi Accountability Plan that will set clear and measurable goals to entrust the country of Iraq to her people. The United States has provided the Iraqis with an opportunity for freedom, democracy and self-governance but, only the Iraqi people can set forth these principles in their land. Iraq's parliamentary election, which marks the birth of a promising democracy and the implementation of an Iraqi Accountability Plan, will enable its people to embrace and nurture its own government.

May God bless our troops and this great country.

THE ARMY'S FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO NATION

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 230 years, soldier citizens of the United States Army have answered the call to duty as guardians and defenders of America's Freedoms. Millions of these United States Army veterans selflessly served this nation. Their legacy of duty lives and grows ever more glorious in their continuing support of the United States Army mission and their service to country.

The United States Army recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices these courageous men and women have made in answering their nation's call to duty by choosing a life of service and fidelity to the values of their service. The people of the United States of America also recognize that they have incurred a great debt of gratitude to their soldier citizens, and to their spouses and families who support them as they serve us in the defense of freedom. America owes thanks to the employers who support the soldier citizens among their workforce, and to the veterans who stand by those who now wear the uniform.

General Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army's Chief of Staff, has said, "Soldiers and their families demonstrate the value of teamwork at home and in the field, ensuring that our Army is truly an Army of One."

The United States Army has created a program called Freedom Team Salute to recognize the essential contribution of these supportive spouses, families, employers, and veterans. Any soldier may nominate a spouse, family member, or employer for Freedom Team Salute recognition. This recognition includes a special Army lapel pin and decal, and a letter and certificate from the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. Veterans of Army service may also register for Freedom Team Salute recognition at the program's website: www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil.

I commend General Schoomaker and Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey for their leadership of our Army and for the Freedom Team Salute program. I ask all Americans to continue their support of our men and women in uniform as they defend freedom, and I commend to them the use of this excellent program as means of expressing their own gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on December 13th, I was serving on a jury in Colorado and so was not able to be present for several votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 623, H. Res. 487—Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day—"yes." Rollcall No. 624, S. 1047—Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005—"yes." Roll-

call No. 625, H.R. 3422—Small Public Housing Authority Act—"yes."

THOMASVILLE TOPS IN SOCCER, TOO

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Thomasville High School, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, is known as a football powerhouse in our state. The Bulldogs have captured two straight high school football championships and six overall. In fact, the school is renowned for its entire athletic program. Last year, the school won three state titles, two for men's and women's basketball and one for the football team. Now it can add another state championship trophy in its overflowing display case—the men's soccer team won the school's first-ever title in that sport. On November 19, 2005, the Bulldogs soccer team defeated Manteo 4-3 in sudden-death overtime at the SAS Soccer complex in Cary, North Carolina.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," third-year head coach Robert Yates told The Thomasville Times. "Just to make the playoffs, and then to get to the state championship game, and then to win it like that in sudden-death overtime, it's hard to describe." The player who was a team leader all year—Walter Cruz—came through again in the sudden-death overtime period to score the game-winning goal. Cruz, who earned the Most Valuable Player award for the game, told The Thomasville Times, "I can't explain the things that I feel. We made history in Thomasville High School soccer."

Joining Cruz in the history-making march to the title were teammates Rogaciano Augilar, Danny Alvarado, Adam Beasley, Eder Calva, Miguel Chavez, Adrian Hidalgo, Ji Soo Noh, Joel Ramirez, Roman Ramos, Jose Rios, Edberg Rodriguez, Yefrey Salazar, Victor Sanchez, Daniel Sandoval, Eloi Solis, Joel Torres, Zach Upton, Lazaro Vazquez, Marco Villa, and Rich Weaver.

Congratulations to head coach Yates, his assistant coach Martin Stanich and community volunteer George Solis, athletic director Woody Huneycutt, principal Dirk Gurley, the faculty, staff, students, parents, and fans of Thomasville High School on the first-ever soccer championship in school history. Thomasville has proved that in addition to football and basketball, the Bulldogs are tops in soccer, too.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend

the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned about a bill of this type "The Border Security Act of 2005" coming to the floor of this chamber.

This bill does not adequately achieve our common goals of a comprehensive immigration policy that protects our borders while humanely seeking to address the many workers who are already in this country.

We realize that 9/11 taught us that our nation must address our national security along our borders from the north, south, east and west. Unfortunately, this bill is not the way to go in addressing this very important issue.

Statistics have shown that barrier fences have never worked to deter migration. The fences proposed in this legislation would be disastrous to the environment. It would destroy half of our national park land and many endangered species would be at risk if a massive fence was built in this territory.

This is why I have joined with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Nursery & Landscape Association, and Americans for Tax Reform, Associated Builders and Contractors, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, Small Business & Entrepreneurs Council, Society of American Florists and the American Bar Association in opposing this bill.

For centuries, America has prided herself on welcoming those who felt that our country could give them a better way of life. The statue of Liberty in the Harbor of New York was that symbol of hope. Where is the promise and hope in this legislation?

Furthermore, this bill does nothing to address judicial review. As it now stands, the current detention practices are extremely expensive. The overall cost for detention is over \$1 billion a 2 year. On average over 22,000 detainees are in custody each day. Detaining members of vulnerable populations who are likely to appear for hearings and are not a threat to society is a misguided use of taxpayer's dollars. Using detention as the only way to ensure compliance is a costly practice. A formal hearing would expedite the process and save time and money.

Finally, if this bill is enacted provisions of this legislation would deny citizenship to babies who are born in this country by parents who are not citizens and would become law. These are not the principles of America.

As a Nation we need to address serious comprehensive immigration issues. As a Congress, we need to get to work and complete a bill that reflects the needs and concerns of the entire country.

I would be happy to vote for an immigration bill that actually protects the interests of the American public, small businesses and makes our Nation secure. H.R. 4377 is not that bill.

I urge a no vote on the Border Security Act of 2005.

TRIBUTE TO CBO DIRECTOR, DR.
DOUGLAS J. HOLTZ-EAKIN

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who many in this body have had

the distinct pleasure of working with during the past several years, and someone who has left a tremendous mark on the Congressional Budget Office. The distinguished Director of the CBO, Dr. Douglas J. Holtz-Eakin, will be leaving his position at the end of this month to take on the challenges and opportunities of his new job with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Back in 2003, I had the honor of interviewing candidates and making my recommendation on who should be the next director to lead the CBO. And while I'd interviewed several superbly qualified candidates for the position, after meeting with Dr. Holtz-Eakin, the choice was clear.

First, Doug possessed a wealth of economic and public sector experience, having served as the Chief Economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers, a position to which he was appointed by President Bush in June 2001.

Second, based on his reputation as a man of unquestioned integrity, combined with his history of providing consistent, strong leadership, I felt confident he would effectively serve the whole of Congress in an independent, non-partisan fashion.

Last, but certainly not least, Doug is well known for his gregarious personality, and great sense of humor. And for anyone familiar with the always challenging and often thankless tasks regularly asked of CBO, these attributes are a tremendous asset to its leader.

And Doug's work these past few years has shown that my confidence in his abilities was more than justified.

During his tenure as CBO's director, he has effectively utilized the tremendous energy and talent of his staff. He has led CBO to make great strides in analyzing the impact of revenue measures on the economy. And because of his clear vision of how Congress and CBO could better work together, CBO's responsiveness and performance have improved significantly under his leadership.

I have been extremely impressed and very proud of Doug's leadership and accomplishments, and would today like to publicly thank him on behalf of this Congress.

Doug, we wish you continued success in the next chapter of your distinguished career.

STATEMENT ON FEMA'S BROKEN
PROMISES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region, destroying more than 300,000 homes, taking more than 1,300 lives. FEMA promised help, yet, more than 100 days later, thousands of survivors are still living in tents and shelters. More than 100 days later, promised trailers have not arrived. More than 100 days later, a Federal judge has had to force FEMA to extend its deadline.

FEMA is now opting out of 12-month leases. What FEMA won't do, Congress can do. It is time for this Republican Congress to work with Democrats and enact legislation granting 1 year of housing assistance. It is imperative that this be done before we adjourn. Human

suffering continues. I am willing to work with those who want to end this suffering.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE
2005 ELECTIONS IN EGYPT

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the issue of democratic reform in Egypt, I think it is vitally important to assess progress in the context of the multifaceted cultural and philosophical challenges facing Egyptian society.

None of us would deny the benefits of freedom and democracy or choose another path to justice for our nation. Egypt has also taken its first steps on the path to democracy in a region where this concept of governance is virtually unknown and untested, despite many internal and external obstacles.

While this resolution draws attention to very legitimate and serious concerns that I share, I am concerned that as re-written, it amounts to a harsh censure that will accomplish little short of alienating the Egyptian government at a particularly volatile time in the history of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, would it have been better if Egypt's elections had not been held at all?

Looking at recent history, Egypt has borne significant sacrifices for the cause of peace and freedom in the Middle East. Formerly an ally of the Soviet Union, Egypt moved to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in 1978 after 30 years of hostilities. President Sadat paid a high price for Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. More recently, Ambassador Ihab al-Sherif paid with his life for daring to defy the foes of democracy in Iraq.

When I visited Sinai as an 18-year-old, I was struck by the graffiti scrawled on a twisted heap of concrete with the message: "Here was the war—Here is the peace." For close to 30 years now, Egypt has stood by a courageous choice for peace. While no government is perfect, this choice has been consistent with a move toward democratic reform, however flawed, and however tenuous.

Egypt's first contested presidential elections this September and the parliamentary elections held in December represent a significant achievement. Nevertheless, the unpleasant realities of high unemployment, threats of terrorism, internal political and religious strife, along with the vicious persecution of minority faith communities remain pressing concerns. While the state of democracy in Egypt is neither ideal nor established, we dismiss Egypt's concerns about the "slippery slope to theocracy" at our peril.

During Secretary Rice's visit to American University in Cairo this summer, she recalled the words of President Bush's Second Inaugural Address: "Our goal is to help others find their own voice, to attain their own freedom, and to make their own way." Secretary Rice went on to say that "we know these advances will not come easily, or all at once."

I appreciate and share the heartfelt concern of my colleagues who are seeking to usher Egypt along the path toward a vibrant and