

poor—who have no other way to access basic health care for themselves and their families.

Or the \$2.6 billion in cuts for child support enforcement, foster care and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), designed to assist single parents, foster children and the disabled. Setting aside the immorality of deliberately targeting the most vulnerable among us, child support enforcement dollars actually save the government money through reduced public assistance costs.

Then there's higher education, whose \$12.7 billion cut accounts for about a third of this \$39.7 billion conference agreement. Though \$1.6 billion less than the House's original draconian proposal, \$12.7 billion remains the single largest cut to student aid in the forty year history of the Higher Education Act. The resulting increase in interest rates, fees and other charges represents an unprecedented disinvestment in our students and their families—at precisely the time our young people are going to need that education the most.

We already know that college graduates earn \$1 million more over their lifetimes than their cohorts who do not attend college, which gives taxpayers a tremendous return on their federal financial aid investment. Additionally, over the course of this past year scores of CEOs from across the country have repeatedly told this Congress that a highly educated workforce is a critical prerequisite for maintaining America's competitive advantage in the knowledge, information and innovation economy of 21st century.

Given these realities, it is the height of penny wise, pound foolish bean-counting to put college even further out of reach for the generation of Americans who will have to face these challenges. Yet that's precisely what this conference report does.

Mr. Speaker, while I commend the conferees for embracing substantial reforms I have long advocated regarding the need to end 9.5 percent guaranteed floor loans and strengthen oversight of schools acting as lenders, this progress does not begin to redeem the damage done by the rest of the legislation.

The \$40 billion in spending cuts tonight's proponents take such pride in pronouncing are in fact dwarfed by \$110 billion in tax cuts this same Congress proposes to enact this year—tax cuts whose benefits flow disproportionately to the wealthiest in our society.

That's right: When all is said and done, the so-called Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and its accompanying tax legislation will actually increase the deficit by at least \$70 billion over the next five years.

Mr. Speaker, this fiscal policy is irresponsible and it is unjust. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

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 enforce border security, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005.

The bill before us today is an unprecedented assault on both documented and undocumented immigrants. It creates policies that are burdensome and that threaten those legitimately seeking asylum.

It also creates new burdens on business. For example, the bill requires all employers to verify within two years that all of their new hires are in the U.S. legally. Those employers would have to verify the immigration status of all employees within six years. Not only is it extremely discriminatory to question the legal status of every new employee, this verification system also places an extremely unreasonable burden on the private sector—both large and small businesses. Instead of creating a new level of bureaucracy for our business owners to have to follow, we just should enforce the laws that we already have in place.

The bill also expands mandatory detention of immigrants, including women and children who come to the United States seeking asylum. Some of these people have been subject to crimes inconceivable to most Americans, and could be subject to even more egregious violations should they be denied asylum. We should not pass legislation that prevents refugees and others seeking persecution from finding safety in our country.

The bill also includes a provision requiring the construction of security fencing along portions of our southern border that have high rates of illegal border crossing, with one of these sections being in my home state of New Mexico. This provision alone creates a false sense of security. Building this fence will not stop the flow of undocumented immigrants into this country—it will only force them to take another route. Additionally, we are not in a position to know what the environmental impact would be on a project of this size. It could severely affect those millions of acres of land surrounding the border, as well as the wildlife living upon it.

This bill misses the mark completely, by its arbitrary and burdensome provisions. We all agree that we need to reform our immigration system. However, Congress missed an opportunity to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR.
VANG POBZEB

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the life of Dr. Vang Pobzeb, an extraordinary man who recently passed away on August 23, 2005 after a life of passionate service to human rights and Hmong people across the globe.

Dr. Pobzeb began his activism in the mid 1970s and was among the first to achieve national recognition in the Hmong American Community. In 1987 he founded the Lao Human Rights Council—an organization de-

voted to improving the living conditions of Hmong people both in Laos and the U.S. Dr. Pobzeb was a tireless advocate for a people and culture that faced tremendous persecution, and he took every opportunity to remind the international community of the plight of the Hmong people in Laos. I was proud to work together with him, time and time again, in this fight.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commemorate the life of such an incredible man. Dr. Pobzeb was truly an exemplar of compassion and dedication, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I offer my condolences to his family, and pay tribute to his life of activism and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF SAINT JOHNS, MICHIGAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Saint Johns, Michigan. Saint Johns was established by John Swegles and a team of state officials and land speculators who purchased and platted Saint Johns based on information about a new railroad depot in Michigan. These speculators selected the site in 1853 looking to create a new town along the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad, however it was not until 1856 that the railroad arrived in Saint Johns.

Today, Saint Johns is affectionately known as Mint City, USA. The State of Michigan produces nearly enough mint flavor to make 6.9 billion sticks of chewing gum each year, the majority of which is produced in and around Saint Johns in Clinton County, MI. Every August, Saint Johns' mint heritage is celebrated with an annual mint festival.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Saint Johns has a rich history and a vibrant future. I ask all my colleagues to join me and the citizens of Saint Johns in recognizing the sesquicentennial of this historic Michigan city.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support for the conference report on the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army and as the Representative for Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base and numerous Guard and Reserve units, I strongly support our men and women in uniform and their families. This bill contains needed funding for such necessary items as the military pay raise, body armor for our troops in Iraq and vehicle armor for the vehicles that carry them. The base bill is important legislation, and I strongly support it.

However, I deeply regret that the Republican Congressional Leaders have inserted into this bill the extraneous provision to permit oil and natural gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). I oppose the exploitation ANWR through drilling for oil, and I have repeatedly voted against that provision when it has been considered in this House. Unfortunately, the Republican Leaders have decided on a cynical strategy to sneak ANWR into the defense bill. This underhanded maneuver represents the arrogant abuse of power that all too often characterizes the operating style of the current Majority.

I support the defense appropriations conference report, but I encourage my colleagues to defeat the rule so we can take the ANWR provisions out and pass a clean defense bill.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY
PROFESSOR ROBERT E. WARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today and urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the upcoming 90th birthday of an icon of international academia and a pioneer of U.S.-Japanese studies, Professor Robert E. Ward.

Professor Ward was born in San Francisco on January 29, 1916. After graduating from Stanford, he entered the graduate program at the University of California at Berkeley and earned his Master's in Political Science. During World War II, Professor Ward served our country admirably as language officer for Naval Intelligence. He was stationed in the Southwest Pacific and in Washington, and was awarded the signal honor of the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, after the war Robert Ward returned to Berkeley to continue his education with the intent to study Japanese politics. Three short years later, he received his Ph.D. in political science, writing his dissertation on "Party Government in Japan—Its Development and Electoral Record, 1928–1937," a pioneering effort to apply to Japan the methods of political behavior analysis which at the time was only being applied to Western European countries by American political scientists. This was to be the first of many times that Robert Ward incorporated Japan into the mainstream of social science studies in the United States.

After receiving his doctorate, Robert Ward left California heading east to Ann Arbor, and the University of Michigan he would go on to enjoy a distinguished teaching career. Arriving at Michigan in 1948, with the rank of instructor, Robert Ward encountered a bit of good fortune. For you see Mr. Speaker, during the war the United States Armed Forces had used the University of Michigan as one of its centers for Japanese language training. The University now wanted to utilize this infrastructure to develop an interdisciplinary center for Japanese studies, and given Robert's background he was a perfect fit for this endeavor. During his time at the University, Robert Ward served with distinction, rising from Instructor to Professor in ten years. He was also concurrently a member of the University's Center for Japa-

nese Studies, and a guiding force behind the academic integrity of the center, twice serving as Director of the Center.

Mr. Speaker, after a quarter century of distinguished service to the University of Michigan and its Center for Japanese Studies, Professor Ward heeded the call of his alma mater, and returned to California to become the Director of the Center for Research in International Studies at Stanford University. Although commonplace today, it was considered highly irregular, and a significant breakthrough for the field of Japanese studies to have a specialist in Japanese-American studies receive this prestigious job instead of a European-American studies expert. During his extraordinary tenure at Stanford University, Professor Ward continued to exert tremendous influence in the field of comparative politics and continued to emphasize the importance of Japanese-U.S. studies in the field of political science.

As one would expect of man of incredible intellect and talents, Professor Ward has been recognized throughout his distinguished career with numerous awards and recognitions. If I may, I would like to highlight a few; National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in Residence, Member of the American Philosophical Society, Member of the American Academy of Science, President of the Association for Asian Studies, President of the American Political Science Association, Chairman of the Social Science Research Council, Member of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a member of President Carter's Commission on Foreign language and International Studies.

In addition to using his seemingly endless energy on his academic pursuits, Professor Ward also offered his expertise and experience to a number of civic and public activities related to Japan. He was a member, and for many years the Director of the Japan Society of Northern California, a member of the World Affairs Council of Northern California, and also involved with the San Francisco Committee on Foreign Relations. However, the most enduring of Professor Ward's contributions to the growth of Japanese studies in America are to be found in his involvement with the Japan Foundation and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. Professor Ward played an integral role in the development of both institutions and was the chief architect behind the creation of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. Without the incredible efforts of Professor Ward, including the mobilization of his academic colleagues and intense lobbying of members of Congress, it is truly doubtful that the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission would exist today?

Mr. Speaker, Professor Ward stands out as a towering figure in United States-Japanese cultural, educational, and political relations. It is not an understatement to express that no other person in the post-WWII era has combined the same capacities for scholarship and institution building or has achieved so much for the general field of Japanese studies in America. Professor Ward deserves much of the credit for bringing Japan into the mainstream of social scientific teaching and research in both America and Europe, and of bringing to the study of Japanese politics the categories of inquiry that had previously been applied mainly to the study of western soci-

eties. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in wishing this distinguished academic and extraordinary citizen a happy 90th birthday.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1815,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006."

I am thrilled that this legislation includes provisions to provide retirement credit to the members of the National Guard serving on State duty who responded to the 9/11 attacks in New York and at the Pentagon.

I, along with Representative KING and other members of the New York delegation, introduced legislation earlier this year which would accomplish the same goal, and I am thankful that the committee has worked with us to correct this inequity.

I especially would like to thank Chairman MCHUGH for his steadfast support of these provisions.

My friend and colleague Representative KING has been invaluable in this endeavor, and I thank him for his efforts.

I also would like to commend Chairman HUNTER, Ranking Member SKELTON, Ranking Member SNYDER, and their staffs for their work on this issue.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Senator CLINTON for her support and for introducing the companion legislation in the Senate.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the National Guard responded to the call of duty heroically.

While others were moving toward safety, the Guard moved into unknown dangers around Ground Zero.

They did not know if another attack was coming, but they did not hesitate to respond. All they did was their selfless duty.

For almost a year after 9/11, these National Guard heroes streamlined the movement of rescue personnel during the critical first phases of the response and they endured the toxic air conditions of Ground Zero with thousands of responders.

However, the National Guard units that served in the disaster zones of New York after 9/11 did not receive Federal retirement credit, while the National Guard units that protected Federal sites like West Point are receiving Federal retirement credit.

While protecting Federal sites was an important duty after 9/11, those who risked their lives at Ground Zero, in the most dangerous conditions anywhere in the country, deserve the same fair treatment.

By including these provisions in this conference report, we are showing our gratitude to the brave men and women who responded on September 11th by giving them the retirement benefits to which they are entitled.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.