

emotionally stimulating, and to develop productive citizens competent in academic and life skills, accepting of themselves and others, and capable of lifelong learning. Dr. Kiamos' leadership and teaching style was an important factor in carrying out this mission.

Over the years, Steinmetz has provided many opportunities for students to excel, through programs such as the Illinois State Scholars, Advanced Placement classes, the Academic Decathlon team, the Chicago Debate League and competitive sports teams. Many of Steinmetz's students who took advantage of these opportunities have excelled and achieved tremendous progress in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a lifetime of service and dedication to our community by a great Chicagoan, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, and Steinmetz Academic Centre that he so proudly served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005, I did not cast my Floor vote on roll call number 90 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a private bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

My personal beliefs on religious morality belong to me, in my home and in my church, with my family and with my God. The Schiavos deserved this same level of privacy and respect. The good people of the 31st Congressional District did not elect me to impose my religious mores upon them or the American people through legislative acts in Congress.

Members of Congress should never have legislated on this very personal family matter—the Schiavos told us this and so even did the courts.

The mere fact that we took up this legislation sets a dangerous precedent where if the Congress dislikes a court's decision we pursue a law to overturn our own constitutional system of checks and balances. In passing S. 686, this Congress complicated what has already been a long and difficult journey for the Schiavos these past 15 years. May Theresa Schiavo now rest in peace.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN AUGUSTINE MUNOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Augustine Munoz is no stranger to serving his country. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served as an artillery trainer. It was this same patriotism and dedication that later led him into the service of his local community.

Augustine Munoz has lived in Charlotte for over 72 years. His experience spans across many trades, including work in construction and the oil fields. He currently works on numerous committees and has spent time working with the Democratic Party.

As a longstanding community participant, he has dedicated much of his life to improving the City of Charlotte. While times may have changed, Augustine Munoz remains a steadfast community leader and organizer.

Augustine Munoz has been married for over fifty years. He is a devoted family man who loves to spend time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HECTOR J. LIENDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Born July 10, 1950, Judge Liendo attended Leyendecker Elementary School, L.J. Christen Jr. High and Martin High School. He later attended Laredo Junior College and received his Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Judge Hector J. Liendo enlisted in the military and chose the U.S. Navy right after high school. Through the navy he traveled to south East Asia, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Borneo, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Okinawa, Japan, a brief tour to the ship's maiden name, "The Anchorage Alaska" and crossed the equator twice with a big celebration.

While in the navy, he made five tours to Vietnam during his four-year enlistment. He was awarded the Vietnam service medal, the Vietnam campaign medal, the combat action ribbon and the Philipino Presidential Citation. He received an honorable discharge in February 1973.

Shortly after arriving in Laredo, Judge Liendo left for Michigan where he worked as a crane operator for the Pontiac Motor Company. Later in 1973, he worked at the Laredo City Drug Store in downtown Laredo. He got married in June 17, 1974 and started attending Laredo Junior College, full time.

In 1978, Judge Liendo went to Houston, to work in the Seismic Processing Department. He was employed as a computer operator and his duties entailed payroll, accounts payable & receivables, and accounting general ledger.

He then worked for Entex as a marketing representative and served as a City Councilman for District VII from 1988–1992.

In 1993 he was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, Place One and ran unopposed for a second term in 1997. As Justice of the Peace Judge Liendo deals with civil cases, criminal cases, traffic citations, fines and court hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo.

IN HONOR OF DEANNE FITZMAURICE ON WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle for winning the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. This award, the most prestigious in American journalism, is presented to only one photographer every year for a distinguished example of feature photography.

Deanne Fitzmaurice earned this award for her moving photo essay on an Oakland hospital's effort to mend an Iraqi boy nearly killed by an explosion. Her powerful photographic narrative captures the story of this young child as doctors strive to give him a chance at a new life. With the accompanying articles written by Meredith May, these poignant photographs tell an overlooked but significant side of the Iraq war.

Deanne has worked at the San Francisco Chronicle for the past 16 years. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including TIME, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report. She was named the Bay Area Press Photographers Association's Photographer of the Year in 2002.

Deanne's collection is indicative of the high quality of work at the San Francisco Chronicle. The Chronicle is committed to excellence in journalism, as evidenced by Deanne's photography and its fine reporting. Congratulations to Deanne Fitzmaurice and the San Francisco Chronicle on this magnificent honor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010:

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, throughout the year, Members often express support for certain policies and programs or advocate for fiscal discipline. However, during the consideration of the Budget Resolution our true commitment to those priorities comes to light.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more concerned with advancing a narrow ideological agenda. Carefully making sure to allow for a total of \$106 billion in tax cuts over five years for high-end earners, this GOP Budget Resolution carelessly exacts severe cuts to critical services that benefit students of all ages, veterans, first responders, poor and working families, and communities interested in economic development.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more interested in

advancing a reckless, unsustainable economic policy than restoring fiscal responsibility. In fact, the Majority's proposal calls for a deficit of \$376 billion in 2006—\$78 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. This budget, which only accounts for five years, never reaches balance.

The Republican Budget signifies a failure in honest accounting not just because of what is included, but also for what it disingenuously leaves out. Excluded from this Budget are the details of the President's estimated \$754 billion 10-year Social Security privatization plan (\$20 Billion over the next decade), the cost of the over \$800 billion (and growing) Medicare drug bill, the longer term costs of the war in Iraq, the cost to stop the alternative minimum tax from penalizing regular families, and the implications of extending the tax cuts.

Feigning fiscal discipline and fundamentally at odds with what I believe are the real priorities and concerns of the American people, this GOP Budget Resolution also offers no 21st Century competitive strategy for our country and further shreds what is left of our ever-fraying safety net.

A much needed competitive strategy would start with education, which is the vehicle through which students of all ages can achieve and become what they may never have otherwise dreamed possible. Going to college and attaining a degree is, unfortunately, not a right of passage for the vast majority in our country. Achieving this goal must not be minimized. Each year, a young man or woman becomes the first member of his or her family to graduate from college. For them, and for all their relatives and loved ones, obtaining a diploma means progress and instills pride. A college degree translates into hard dollars: over their lifetime, college graduates will earn on average \$1 million more than they would have if they did not attend post-secondary school.

Schools continue to serve as the source where we can view the promise of America in progress, and our country's legacy depends upon how well we educate our young people. For those not completing four years of college, higher job skills and technical abilities acquired through vocational and technological training and education are the path to the middle class.

The Majority's budget cuts education programs by \$2.5 billion in 2006 and \$38 billion over the next five years and completely eliminates 48 programs, including the \$1.3 billion vocational education program, the \$437 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the \$306 million GEAR-UP program, and the \$225 million Even Start family literacy program.

These cuts come at a time when the cost of attending a four-year public college has increased more than \$2,300. In fact, according to the 2003 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey, Massachusetts had the largest tuition increase in four-year public institutions (24 percent), and the second largest in community colleges (26 percent). They attack our increasingly successful community college and vocational-technical training programs.

These cuts come at a time when there is an increased need to college access programs, including GEAR-UP and TRIO, that help high school students prepare for, apply to, and find financial aid for college.

These cuts come at a time when many communities across the country are struggling

with a growing methamphetamine and opiate problem. In Massachusetts, according to statistics from the state's Department of Public Health, the number of deaths from opiates has risen over 300%—from 108 in 1991 to 468 in 2001, which is the most recent year for which statistics are available.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants program has assisted states and school districts in developing youth anti-drug education initiatives, which has, in turn, helped parents and teachers learn more about the prevalence of drugs in the community. The program has been a source through which Massachusetts has been successful in obtaining \$40 million in funds over the past five years.

It is not just those who are looking to improve themselves through education that this GOP Budget Resolution betrays, but it also advances the Administration's all-out assault against those that depend on our longstanding safety net, those programs that assist the poor, children, elderly, and people with disabilities. Meanwhile, let me reiterate, the Republican proposal calls for \$106 billion in additional tax cuts. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center, 46% of those who will benefit from these tax cuts in 2005 will be households who earn \$1 million, which comprise only .2 percent of all households nationwide. The average tax cut for this income bracket was greater than \$30,000 in 2003.

This GOP Budget Resolution finances its hundred billion-dollar tax cut for the highest income earners at the expense of the most vulnerable and least fortunate in society. That is wrong.

As required by the Republican Budget, the Agriculture Committee would be forced to cut spending by more than \$5 billion over five years. With the general reluctance to alter or scale back farm subsidies, the food stamp program would bear the brunt of these cuts. This is not a program that has been riddled with so-called "waste, fraud, and abuse." The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities calculates that "over 95 percent of food stamp benefits go to households with income below the federal poverty level. Virtually all of the remainder goes to the elderly and people with disabilities."

Further, their budget makes deeper cuts in Medicaid than the President's budget, directing the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$19 and \$20 billion respectively. It is expected that the bulk of such cuts will fall on low-income programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, unemployment benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, foster care, and Medicaid.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "these Medicaid cuts are likely to push hard-pressed states to eliminate coverage for a substantial number of low income people, increasing the ranks of the uninsured and the underinsured."

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that, should these cuts affect all states proportionally, this would translate into a loss of over \$117 million for Massachusetts.

This is not the direction in which this country should be headed. What is being proposed in the Republican Majority's Budget Resolution is not a blueprint for success.

Certainly, our constituents want to know that their tax dollars are being well spent. There is no question about that.

But parents also do not want to pass on huge amounts of debt to their children, which is what the GOP Budget Resolution does.

Parents do not want their children to be denied opportunities to learn and advance in ways beyond what they achieved in life. Moms and dads want to ensure that their kids are educated about drugs. They want their kids to know how to maximize their chances of gaining acceptance at a college and have programs available to help minimize the cost.

They want to know there are enough police and fire fighters on the street to be able to respond effectively to emergencies, they want our country's veterans to receive adequate care after they return home from service, and they want to protect the environment so their sons and daughters inherit cleaner air and safer drinking water.

At the same time, they take offense to denying food stamps or eliminating Medicaid coverage for those who depend on such services just to make room for another hundred billion dollar tax cut for the already well-off. That doesn't meet their standard of fundamental fairness.

Their Budget Resolution does nothing to improve upon our long-term fiscal outlook, fails students, and exploits the poor. We must do better. We implement solutions that honestly and effectively address the budget deficit, chart a course that allows our students to competitively excel, and adequately provide for those who need the most help.

A Better Way: The Democratic Budget is a more fiscally responsible approach to balancing the budget. It achieves balance by 2012, while accumulating less debt and wastes fewer resources on interest payments needed to service the national debt.

The Democratic alternative is based on essential two-sided pay-as-you-go budget enforcement rules that led to a balanced budget in the 1990's. The cost of any additional spending, or any new tax cut, must be paid for by curbing spending, offsetting spending cuts, or new revenues. The 1990 pay-as-you-go rules had bipartisan support, including the support of the first President Bush. Those rules turned record deficits into record surpluses in large part because they subjected all parts of the budget, discretionary and mandatory spending, as well as revenues, to budget discipline. The Republican budget contains no such enforcement provisions.

The Democratic budget provides \$4.5 billion more for education and training programs than the Republican budget for 2006 and \$41 billion more over the next five years. It rejects the \$21 billion in cuts that the Republican budget requires the Education and the Workforce Committee to make over five years, increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$100 in each of the next ten years—twice the Republican increase—and eliminates the program's current \$4.3 billion funding shortfall.

The Democratic budget provides \$2 billion more than the Republican budget for 2006 and \$9 billion more over five years for community and regional development, blocking the President's proposal to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Cuts in food stamps, housing, elderly services and other safety-net protections would not be necessary.

The Democratic Budget works towards elimination of the deficit, paring it down dramatically in the next five years, and thus saving us from huge interest payments needed to service the national debt.

We pay for all this by not extending the tax cuts for those earning over \$200,000. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center this would provide \$223.5 billion between calendar year 2005 and 2010.

The tax cuts were originally promoted as temporary—if extended, they will cost \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Coupled with the costly challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan and the need to invest in our future, the tax cuts prove an unbalanced approach that creates huge deficits and shortchanges America's priorities.

It is time to seize the opportunity to restore sanity and candor to the budget process and to pass a budget that promotes the security and values of the American people without imposing increased social inequities and crushing debt to future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES G. WELLS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Warrant Officer 1 Charles G. Wells, Jr., 32, originally of Montgomery, Alabama, died on March 30, 2005, in Iraq. Warrant Officer Wells was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group of Orlando, Florida, and according to initial reports died in action from an improvised explosive device. His survivors include his wife Freda Nicole and his daughter Cierra; his mother Orlean Johnson Wells of Montgomery, Alabama; and his father Charles Gary Wells, Sr., also of Montgomery.

Charles Wells, Jr. was a proud Marine and eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He willingly signed up for a third tour of duty in Iraq after having just completed his second. Back home, Mr. Wells had planned a career serving the community as a firefighter, yet dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Warrant Officer Wells died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE TOM BEVILL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the Fourth District of Alabama, and indeed the entire state, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Congressman Tom Bevill was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life, and has the distinction of being the longest-serving congressman ever to come from Alabama. I am certain many in this chamber recall with great fondness and vividness their memories of working closely with this tireless advocate for the needs of his constituents and his state.

Born on March 27, 1921, and a native of Walker County, Alabama, Congressman Bevill spent his childhood in the mining community of Townley, witnessing the ravages of the Great Depression on his family, his friends, and his neighbors. He was a 1943 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Commerce and Business Administration. Within a short time following his graduation, he joined the United States Army and rose to the rank of captain, leading one of the units which went ashore in France on June 6, 1944. Ultimately, Congressman Bevill retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1948, he completed his legal studies at the University of Alabama School of Law and embarked on an 18-year career practicing law in Jasper, Alabama.

All told, Congressman Bevill spent 38 years in public office. Elected to the Alabama State House of Representatives in 1958, he served for eight years before embarking on a campaign which would ultimately lead to his winning the seat for the Seventh (later Fourth) Congressional District at the end of 1966. He would go on to serve 15 terms in this chamber and become one of the most effective and well-respected advocates for the state of Alabama ever to serve in the United States Congress.

Congressman Bevill became such an effective representative for his district and for the state—and became such an influential member of the House of Representatives that he was often referred to as “Alabama’s third senator.” Indeed, the work he accomplished during his three decades in this chamber, particularly as a member of the full Committee on Appropriations and, for nine terms, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, had important and long-lasting effects on the economic growth of the state of Alabama.

To this day, signs of his influence and successful efforts on behalf of his district and his state can be found throughout Alabama, and his name has been attached to some of the most important public centers anywhere in the state. These include the Tom Bevill Chair of Law at the University of Alabama, the Tom Bevill Energy, Mineral, and Material Science Research Building, also at the University of Alabama, and the Tom Bevill Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology at Gadsden.

In addition to his long and successful career in the House of Representatives, Congress-

man Bevill received numerous awards and citations in recognition of his distinguished career. Along with honorary doctorates he received from Livingston University, the University of North Alabama, and Troy State University, he was inducted into both the Alabama Academy of Honor and the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Perhaps more than any other two projects, Congressman Bevill should be remembered for his work on two of the most significant transportation projects in Alabama history: the Memphis-to-Birmingham highway known as “Corridor X,” and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. “Corridor X,” when completed, will provide a vital link between the two cities in Alabama and Tennessee and will provide tremendous benefits and incentive for further economic development in north Alabama. The Waterway has already provided incalculable benefits for Alabama’s economy and has resulted in thousands of jobs for men and women throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Congressman Bevill, who was preceded in death in 2001 by his beloved wife of 58 years, Lou, will be deeply missed by his family—his daughters, Susan Bevill Livingston and Patricia Bevill Warren, his son, Don Bevill, his six grandchildren, and his three great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TAUNTON GAZETTE DOCUMENTS THE VALUE OF CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Taunton Gazette recently ran a very comprehensive series documenting the social and economic importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Taunton, Massachusetts, which I am privileged to represent, is a very good example of how when this program is well administered, as it has been in Taunton, it can be of such enormous benefit in a variety of ways to its citizens. Joanna James of the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for her thorough and insightful reporting, and the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for devoting the space to this story. Too often today people are given only snippets of information about important public policy issues. The Taunton Gazette’s in depth exploration of how the CDBG Program works in that city is a tribute to the program itself, and to its continued importance, to the people in the City of Taunton led by Mayor Nunes who administer it, to Joanna James for the quality of her reportage and to the Taunton Gazette for giving so much space to such an important public policy issue.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could read this series of articles and still feel that this is a program ought to be substantially diminished, as the President’s budget would do.

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—President George W. Bush’s recommendation to dismantle the Community