

Madam Speaker, our current Social Security system is well past retirement age. Let us put politics behind us and provide America with solutions rather than sound bites that make the 11 o'clock news.

ADVOCATING WELCOME HOME GI BILL

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on March 19 we will begin our third year in Iraq. The brave men and women of our armed forces have fought proudly, and have served proudly.

After extended tours of duty, many are finally coming home to their families. Following every major war, every Congress has compensated its returning service men and women with the resources to begin their lives. Now is our chance, the 109th Congress, to honor a new generation of American heroes.

The Welcome Home GI Bill is a bold new direction in helping our veterans achieve the success they have earned and deserve. It provides health care for up to 5 years through the TRICARE program for service men and women and their families who do not have health care with their place of employment or have lost it.

The Welcome Home GI Bill includes \$75,000 for college education and waives the \$1,800 fee for getting that education and a down payment on their home. Most importantly, under the plan, all returning veterans, regardless of service, National Guard, State Guard, or Reservists, including our active duty, get this benefit. It is what a grateful Nation should do and has always done. We do not owe these returning veterans a favor but must repay one.

FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it takes determination, ingenuity and hard work to succeed in the global economy. In the Fifth District of North Carolina, I have recently seen how a growing manufacturing firm, Fairchild Industrial Products Company, is sustaining high-skilled jobs, creating new products and increasing American exports.

Fairchild has about 100 employees, and it manufactures highly engineered pneumatic controls for industrial processes. About 45 percent of its products are shipped to overseas markets. Fairchild achieves world class quality because its management really listens to the employees on the front lines through discussions on continuous quality improvement. At every company, it is crucial for managers to listen to the ideas from those who know the manufacturing process best, the

employees, who day in and day out work on the assembly lines and on the shop floor.

Fairchild had suffered some setbacks in recent years, but now, with support from Allied Capital Corporation, it is growing again, paced by double-digit growth in exports. Every Fairchild product that is shipped overseas helps reduce America's trade deficit abroad and sustains high-quality jobs here at home.

Madam Speaker, the success of Fairchild shows how American manufacturing can get back on to the path toward growth. I am proud this strong North Carolina company is showing how American manufacturing can compete and win in the global economy.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, President Bush has invented an immediate Social Security crisis, but his privatization proposal does nothing to solve his invented crisis.

Why would President Bush propose a Social Security privatization plan that leaves the program worse off after he is done with it? Madam Speaker, the President does not want to fix the Social Security program we have had in place for the past 70 years. Instead, he wants to privatize it. He talks about creating an ownership society, but his proposal creates an on-your-own society.

Madam Speaker, for 70 years, Social Security has improved the lives of millions of Americans. Without it today, two-thirds of America's seniors would be living in poverty. Social Security gave our parents and grandparents independence. Democrats are willing to work with the President in a bipartisan fashion to address Social Security's future, but we simply refuse to support the President's privatization proposal that dismantles the independence Social Security affords our senior citizens today and our children when they retire in the future.

We will work with the Republicans on trying to deal with the Social Security problems that exist in the future, but we cannot support privatization.

RECOGNIZING STRENGTH OF IRAQI AND AFGHAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPING DEMOCRACIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Iraqi Women's Caucus, I am honored to recognize the bravery and strength of Iraqi and Afghan women today in developing democracies. In the face of great danger, the women of Iraq and Afghanistan are displaying tremendous courage.

In January, Iraqi women risked their lives to participate in Iraq's first free elections in over 50 years. After the votes were tallied, their bravery was rewarded, as over one-third of Iraq's newly elected legislators are women.

The liberation of Iraq delivered hope and a future to Iraqi women, and they are helping to turn the promises of democracy into realities for their children and grandchildren. Today, a group of Iraqi and Afghan women are visiting the halls of Congress. I am pleased to celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them to continue their work for freedom and democracy.

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

LIFETIME STOP THE VIOLENCE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lifetime Stop the Violence Week. One-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband at some point in their lives.

One critical step we can take in Congress is to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act this year, which will add very important services for immigrant, rural, disabled and older women.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, I would like to share my concern for the violence against women worldwide, including those women in Ciudad Juarez. Approximately 400 women over the past 10 years have been murdered and sexually assaulted there. It is time for both our governments to come together and find a resolution to these heinous crimes.

Today, also, I am reintroducing a bipartisan resolution focusing on the murders of these young women in Ciudad Juarez. I hope my colleagues will join me this week in wearing their Lifetime scarves and their ties and speak out against the violence against all women throughout the world.

Yes, indeed, we are going to have visitors today from Afghanistan and Iraq, women who have been elected to office. We need to support them and ensure that freedom and democracy reign throughout the world.

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SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT BROKEN

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a large number of people are on the Hill this week from ACORN, one of the most effective grass-roots community organizations in America. The group I just met with told me one thing. They said, Tell the President if it ain't

broke, don't fix it. Add to it, but do not fix it. Of course they were talking about Social Security that has been the lifeline for millions of seniors in our country since its inception.

Madam Speaker, I will just repeat what ACORN told me: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

TEN COMMANDMENTS EMBODY AMERICA'S RULE OF LAW

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court cases, *Van Orden v. Perry* and *McCreary County, Kentucky v. ACLU* seek to remove the Ten Commandments from government property. These cases represent a concerted effort to ignore the central role and contributions of religion in American history and culture.

In 1854, Congress studied the assertions that America is a Christian Nation. They concluded, "The Founding Fathers had no fear or jealousy of religion itself nor did they wish to see us an irreligious Nation."

The Ten Commandments are a historical and cultural embodiment of America's commitment to a government based upon the rule of law. The Ten Commandments reflect our Nation's Judeo-Christian history and our Founders' deep religious faith. That is why the Ten Commandments should continue to be displayed inside courtrooms throughout our country, including the United States Supreme Court.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate this week as Lifetime's Violence Prevention Week and to call on this Congress to support legislation that will truly protect victims of violence and not punish them. It is time for the administration to get serious about protecting victims of abuse.

The President, quite frankly, failed in his proposed fiscal year 2006 budget. He cut funding to the Violence Against Women programs by \$19 million. For public assistance recipients, the President has requested zero funding for domestic violence counseling and services.

How can he ignore the studies that find that up to 83 percent of mothers in the welfare system are victims of domestic violence. And to add insult to injury, the President proposes battered women and battered mothers with children be required to attend faith-based marriage classes or lose all of their welfare benefits.

Marrying an abuser to keep benefits is not the way to build healthy families and healthy communities. This standard of morality really hurts victims of

abuse. We must reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and the Welfare Reauthorization Act, and we must be in the business of protecting the most vulnerable and the abused. That should be our standard of morality.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ESTABLISH "NATIONAL TARTAN DAY" RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SCOT- TISH-AMERICANS

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 41

Whereas April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320, and the American Declaration of Independence was modeled in part on that inspirational document;

Whereas this resolution honors the major role that Scottish-Americans played in the founding of the Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, and Scottish-Americans successfully helped shape the Nation in its formative years and guide it through its most troubled times;

Whereas this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish-Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts;

Whereas this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success; and

Whereas these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and

contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 41.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 41 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding "National Tartan Day." This is a resolution for which I have the privilege to be the primary Republican sponsor, and the primary sponsor on the Democratic side has been the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE). Each year, thousands of Americans of Scottish origin recognize April 6 as Tartan or Clan Day. Next month many events around the country will commemorate National Tartan Day at churches, festivals, and other social gatherings.

In March 1998, the Senate designated April 6 of each year as National Tartan Day because that is the date the Declaration of Arbroath was drafted.

The House no longer permits establishments of commemorations, but I am pleased to support National Tartan Day and salute all Americans who will observe this day.

The consideration of this resolution also provides an opportunity to review an important time in world history. In 1296, King Edward the First of England invaded Scotland. The following year, Robert the Bruce responded by leading Scots in a revolt to regain their sovereignty. Members may remember Robert the Bruce as the leader who continued the Scottish rebellion after his comrade-in-arms William Wallace's death, as portrayed in the movie "Braveheart."

After years of conflict, the outnumbered Scottish soldiers, led by Robert the Bruce, who had since been crowned King of Scotland, overcame the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. This battle was the culmination of Robert's struggle for Scottish independence.

Afterwards, the Declaration of Arbroath was written and completed on April 6, 1320, most likely by the monks of Arbroath Abbey on behalf of the Scottish barons and nobles. The declaration was a letter, in Latin, sent to Pope John the 22nd because the Pope had yet to recognize Scottish independence. The declaration affirmed Scotland's determination to maintain its independence.