

work of the people You lay upon their shoulders.

Fill them with wisdom and prudence that all their efforts on behalf of the needy and the forsaken may bring them satisfaction in their labors. And enkindle renewed hope for those who are in most need of Your mercy.

Make of them true leaders who live beyond self-interest and serve their brothers and sisters in this land of promise. To You, our God and Father, we commend this Nation, and we ultimately place all our trust in You, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 148. An Act to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Act, and for other purposes.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORING VICTORIES ON EVERY FRONT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, ever since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, punctured both our national security and our national economy, the House has responded on both fronts. We have worked tirelessly to both secure our homeland and defeat our terrorist enemies around the world, and we have worked with equal determination to secure our economy, helping it to grow and create jobs over the last 3½ years.

These two missions, economic prosperity and military victory, are so intertwined that it could be said that winning the war on terror is America's top economic priority, while growing our economy is a wartime necessity. Both prongs of our agenda are succeeding, Mr. Speaker.

Last week, the Department of Labor reported that 274,000 jobs were created in April, far more than economists predicted, while unemployment came in at just 5.2 percent. Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office reported that the deficit projection for the first 7 months of the fiscal year is \$50 billion lower than previously estimated. The deficit is going down. New home sales grew 12.2 percent over last year, and the overall economy grew at 3.1 percent for the first quarter of 2005. The economy is strong, it continues to grow, and that strength and growth make it possible for us to meet the needs of our military and conquer the challenges of the war on terror.

Last week, Mr. Speaker, we built on those successes by passing President Bush's emergency supplemental war budget with strong bipartisan support. And at the same time, offensive operations in the Iraqi and Afghani theaters have netted our troops significant victories over the last week. Dozens of terrorists and insurgents have been captured, and our intelligence gatherers continue to close the noose around our enemies.

Our continued success around the world enhances our security here at home, where this week we will add to that momentum by taking up a bill to reform the way that the Federal Government funds our first responders.

Under the new bill, firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel will get the money they need via a streamlined funding system. That will help bolster our homeland security and national preparedness, which will further protect our economy, which will, in turn, continue to support our war effort.

All of these priorities are of a kind, Mr. Speaker: homeland security, national security, and economic strength; and this week, the House will score victories on every front.

U.S. NEEDS TO GET OUT OF IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the administration is closing defense bases here at home and building new bases in Iraq. There is no money to maintain some defense installations here, but there is \$270 billion and counting for establishing a permanent presence in Iraq. The Armed Forces ranks are depleted. Enlistment is falling off. So the administration is hard at work privatizing the war, having hired about 20,000 so-called contractors, mercenaries, to do work that used to be done by the military.

A member of the new private army in Iraq may make as much as 10 times more than what an enlisted soldier makes, and private companies making billions from the Iraq war will no doubt be quick to make political contributions to make sure the war keeps

going. Our Reservist and National Guard units are fortifying a mission to which they should have never been called.

Iraq has turned into a tragedy. What is even more tragic is the thinking that says, Well, we are there; now we need to stay and finish the job.

Mr. Speaker, we need to get out. The sooner the better. And we need to hold accountable those whose lies sent our soldiers there at the cost of many American lives and the lives of innocent Iraqis.

RECOGNIZING THE WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding group from my congressional district, south Florida, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program: its founder, Jennifer Valoppi; its sponsor, NBC Channel 6; and, of course, their board of directors, Don Browne, Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, Donna Feldman, Judge Judy Kreeger, Marita Srebnick, and Sherry Williams, for their steadfast commitment to the women of our south Florida community.

Women of Tomorrow is a mentor and scholarship program designed to guide, to inspire, and to help at-risk young women achieve their true potential through education, job training, resume-building, and skill development.

We as a society have a profound obligation to enrich the lives of all of our citizens, and Women of Tomorrow fulfills that obligation by encouraging young women to achieve their dreams and embrace their true dignity.

I am proud of all of those who are associated with Women of Tomorrow for their continuing efforts to improving the lives of south Florida's youth.

ADDRESSING GANG VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the increasing problem of gang violence.

Since 2001, we have seen drastic budget cuts in youth violence prevention. At-risk kids need support and a place to go after school. They need the fundamental tools to make good choices.

Instead of funding these programs, the Congress has chosen to lock them up and throw away the key.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of message is this, and the bill that we are going to take up this week, giving to our at-risk youth? We must provide at-risk youth with a path to succeed, not a path to prison.

Our police forces are doing a very outstanding job, most especially in Dallas, Texas. However, prosecuting criminals is not enough. We also need to work on preventing future violence.

I am a strong supporter of law enforcement, but I do believe in prevention. It is less costly.

HONORING THE CITY OF STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the city of Statesville for being selected Top Micropolitan of the Year by Site Selection Magazine.

Statesville is a dynamic town located in the foothills of North Carolina at the intersections of Interstate 77 and 40. This charming city is characterized by beautiful buildings, historic homes, clean air, a pleasant weather climate, terrific quality of life, and incredibly friendly people. It has been named by Site Selection Magazine as the number one small town in America for attracting new industry.

Agriculture thrives in Statesville, as does business, technology, and manufacturing. The Statesville Airport is the home base of many NASCAR teams that are based in Iredell County. Because of the wide variety of industries in Statesville, the town is known for its outstanding economic development and widely skilled local workforce.

By being selected Top Micropolitan, Statesville has demonstrated that there is no better place to live or work than northwest North Carolina. I am proud to represent Statesville and all of the other great cities located in the Fifth Congressional District.

FILIBUSTER SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF NOMINEES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is kind of hard to see justice served in this Nation when our Federal bench has vacancies on it. That is why the President has put forward a number of highly qualified, highly skilled people to serve on the Federal bench.

However, Senate Democrats do not like these judges. They have conspired to block judges using the filibuster. That means a nominee requires the approval not of 51 Senators, which the Constitution requires, a majority; but 60 Senators, a supermajority.

So Republicans would like to restore the tradition of the Senate approving the President's judicial nominations by requiring an up-or-down vote. This is called the Constitutional Option, because it empowers Senators to vote on judicial nominees, up or down. The rule change will apply only to judicial nominees.

It actually has been used before by Democrats. In 1995, 19 currently serving Democratic Senators voted to end all filibusters, and Senator ROBERT BYRD has tried to amend use of the filibuster several times.

As long as there is a Senate, there will be a filibuster and other delaying tactics available to thwart the majority and legislation. But as long as the Constitution directs the Senate to vote on judicial nominees, the filibuster will not stand in the way.

SUPPORTING JANICE ROGERS BROWN ON HER NOMINATION TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nomination to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals of Janice Rogers Brown.

In the discussion over the filibuster, much has been lost with respect to the individuals who have been nominated, that is, who they are as real people.

Janice Rogers Brown is an outstanding member of the California Supreme Court. As attorney general of the State of California, I had the opportunity to review her record and on two occasions to vote to put her on the appellate court and then on the California Supreme Court.

She has worked in various different areas in the legal field. One of the outstanding periods of her work was as legal affairs secretary to Governor Pete Wilson, who on many occasions commented on the outstanding job she did for him, the tremendous legal mind she had, and the ability for her to listen to all sides and then come to a considered opinion.

Mr. Speaker, in the effort to resolve the problem in the other body, I hope that Janice Rogers Brown will not be left behind. She is an outstanding candidate, someone who would do well to serve on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, and someone who has had an outstanding record as a member of the California Supreme Court.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BIGGER AND BETTER IN TEXAS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, being from Texas, I am frequently asked, are things truly bigger in Texas? And the answer, of course, is yes. As you work your way down that list of cattle farms and oil wells, put a big checkmark next to biomedical research.

Mr. Speaker, in the State of Texas, the 15 members of the University of Texas system in the year 2004 contrib-

uted almost \$13 billion to the economy of the State. They created over 111,000 jobs between them.

Now, one of six medical research institutions in Texas is the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Back in World War II when Baylor College of Medicine left for Houston, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School was started in an abandoned Army barracks; and from those humble beginnings, they have become a powerhouse in medical education, patient care, and research.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School boasts four Nobel Laureates. They have a new medical research tower which is being completed, and advances in medical imaging are going to be housed in that tower, as well as a new alliance for cellular signaling, to investigate how cells talk to each other will be housed in that building. With the acquisition of Zale Lipshy Hospital and St. Paul Hospital and the historic association with Parkland Memorial Hospital, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School has a total package.

So biomedical research, not only bigger, but better in Texas.

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PRISONER REENTRY

(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. Mr. Speaker, on yesterday, I had the delightful experience of attending the very first meeting of the commission just established by the Governor of Illinois to look seriously at the whole question of prisoner re-entry, what to do with the 35,000, 36,000 people returning home from prison in our State. I want to commend the Governor of Illinois for his farsighted vision in looking at one of the pernicious problems facing urban America. We look forward to some productive action coming from that commission. Mr. Governor, I thank you.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DAY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 142, celebrating and honoring Rotary International with a day of recognition.

As a Rotary member and past president of my hometown club, I can attest to the remarkable accomplishments of Rotary International, which was founded over 100 years ago, the world's first service club, and is now one of the largest nonprofit service organizations in the world. "Service above Self," the club's motto, has inspired members to provide humanitarian assistance and promote international good will. Rotary International funds club projects and sponsors volunteers around the