

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

community and worldwide. In 1985, Rotary International launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts to immunize the children of the world against polio. Since then, polio cases have dropped 99 percent, and the world now stands on the threshold of eradicating this dreaded disease.

Mr. Speaker, Rotarians live by the 4-way test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? And will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Would not we all be better off if we adopted this creed? Congratulations Rotary International.

THE UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I do applaud the comments being a Rotarian. Rotary International has done a great deal.

But I rise today because, yesterday, we heard and read news reports of the United Nations efforts to keep secret the very information with which it should have been most forthcoming. At a time when the United Nations' reputation for trust, justice, fairness and following its own rules is at an all time low, it should be doing everything it can to bring information to light, whether it is good or bad.

However, this United Nations and apparently its leader has far more guilty culpability than many of us ever suspected. The United Nations' leadership seems united in one thing: Do not let people discover the truth. The U.N. leadership, if it spent half the time lining the fabric of freedom as it is alleged to have done in lining the pockets of his family and friends, we would not have these problems.

If the U.N. is going to cover up the wrongs it has done from those who pay for the U.N., then it is high time we cover our U.S. bank account from them. We are literally paying them to hire guns, to hide information from us. Organized crime is said to have cleaners that come in and clean up after illegal activity. Sounds like the Secretary General himself has full-time cleaners on his staff.

It is time to hold the U.N. accountable.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at the end of last week, we got reports of an unanticipated surge in revenues to the Federal Treasury. Many people on this House Floor from the other side of the aisle for a long period of time decried the prospects of the Bush tax cuts, saying that they would take our economy right into the tank and ensure that we would never be able to balance the Federal budget.

Well, the fact of the matter is, Democrats and Republicans alike now talk about the need to focus on fiscal responsibility and turning the corner on the massive Federal deficit that we have. The single most important thing that we can do is to make sure that the economy is growing.

And we, by virtue of putting into place the tax cuts in the last 3 years, have actually dramatically increased through those tax cuts by 29 percent the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury, beyond what had been anticipated. Our policy of making sure that we grow the economy is critically important.

Another component of that will be passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which we will be voting on in the not-too-distant future. It is critically important that we keep this pro-growth agenda moving so that we can, in fact, have the revenues we need to balance the budget.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BOB NEY, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
H-232 The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Public Law 101-696 Section 801 (40 USC para. 188a(b)) the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library is provided a position on the Capitol Preservation Commission.

I am appointing Mr. JOHN MICA of Florida to be my designee as provided for in Public Law 101-696 section 801 (40 USC para. 188a(c)).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
BOB NEY,
Chairman, Joint Committee on the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

CHARLES "PETE" CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARDS ACT

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1023) to authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles "Pete" Conrad, astronaut and space

scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1023

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(2) the term "amateur astronomer" means an individual whose employer does not provide any funding, payment, or compensation to the individual for the observation of asteroids and other celestial bodies, and does not include any individual employed as a professional astronomer;

(3) the term "Minor Planet Center" means the Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory;

(4) the term "near-Earth asteroid" means an asteroid with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun; and

(5) the term "Program" means the Charles "Pete" Conrad Astronomy Awards Program established under section 3.

SEC. 3. PETE CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish the Charles "Pete" Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.

(b) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make awards under the Program based on the recommendations of the Minor Planet Center.

(c) AWARD CATEGORIES.—The Administrator shall make one annual award, unless there are no eligible discoveries or contributions, for each of the following categories:

(1) The amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who in the preceding calendar year discovered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth asteroid among the near-Earth asteroids that were discovered during that year by amateur astronomers or groups of amateur astronomers.

(2) The amateur astronomer or group of amateur astronomers who made the greatest contribution to the Minor Planet Center's mission of cataloguing near-Earth asteroids during the preceding year.

(d) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the Program shall be in the amount of \$3,000.

(e) GUIDELINES.—(1) No individual who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States at the time of his discovery or contribution may receive an award under this Act.

(2) The decisions of the Administrator in making awards under this Act are final.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within