

threatened to shut down the operations of the government if Republicans insist on the constitutional option. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it is far better to let the Democrats shut down this government temporarily than it is to allow them to shut down this Republic permanently.

In this critical struggle for the future of this Republic, one of two things will occur. Either the time-honored and tested provision of advice and consent, written in the Constitution, will prevail or unprecedented judicial filibuster and obstructionism will take its place and become the tragic legacy of these days.

Mr. Speaker, I should not have to remind my Republican colleagues that the people who have entrusted us with this majority have spoken with resounding voice on the issue of judicial nominations. They hear it and I hear it everywhere I go. The people of America have a profound sense of fair play and they are tired of some of their United States Senators cowering behind a distorted version of the true and impeccable auspices of the United States Senate. The people want their Senators to have the courage to take a stand on judicial nominations. The people want a fair up-or-down vote on judges, Mr. Speaker, and they will remember those who have the courage to do so and, sir, they will remember those who did not.

The people understand how important this really is. They understand that it is truly about the Constitution itself, and they innately embrace the core message of those magnificent words by Daniel Webster when he said, "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution, and to the Republic for which it stands, for miracles do not cluster and what has happened once in 6,000 years may never happen again. So hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fall, there will be anarchy throughout the world."

Mr. Speaker, the stakes could not be higher and this Republic truly hangs in the balance. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to pass this miracle of the American constitutional Republic on to future generations that are yet to be. We owe it to the American people, we owe it to ourselves, we owe it to those future generations and we owe it to that vision of human freedom that our forefathers risked their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to entrust to us.

Mr. Speaker, we must not fail.

INNOVATION CRISIS IS A HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this week we are considering legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security. These are necessary, important pieces of legislation, two bills we are taking up, that will help protect our

homeland from terrorist threats and make the type of investments we need to make in areas of our airports, ports, roads, chemical facilities and nuclear facilities. Overall the homeland security bill funding will increase by 4 percent.

But while we are focused on defending ourselves from terrorists here in the United States and fighting terrorists in Iraq, one has to wonder whether we are not missing some other threats that are looming on the horizon that America must protect themselves. Friday in the New York Times, Tom Friedman mentioned that the University of Illinois recently tied for 17th place in the world finals of a major computer competition. That is the university that also helped develop the Internet.

Seventeenth was the best of any U.S. university and the worst we have done in 29 years of the competition. Who was number one? Shanghai, China. Second place and third place were won, respectively, by Moscow State University and St. Petersburg Institute of Fine Mechanics and Optics. The last time an American university won the competition was 1997. I do not think I have to remind anyone here that the modern computer and the field of computer science was invented here in the United States, and yet the best we can do is 17th. But it is not just in computers and the computer competition that America's place in the world has fallen.

Last year, the Chinese produced 160,000 more engineers than we did. Nearly 40 percent of all the U.S. jobs in a science or technology field that require a Ph.D. are filled by foreigners, up from 25 percent in just 15 years. We now rank below 13 other countries, including Japan, South Korea and Germany, in the percentage of 24-year-olds with a college degree in science and engineering. That is down from third place just 25 years ago.

And according to the National Science Teachers Association, just 26 percent of recent high school graduates scored high enough on their ACT science test to have a good chance of completing a first-year college science course.

I say all this because it is about the foundation and this competition and this area that is going to lay the groundwork for whether America keeps its economic and competitive edge with the rest of the world. What would you think if that was the type of threat that you saw coming to the United States? What type of preparation would you do? We know what we are doing on homeland security. We created a new department. We are increasing its funding. What do we do as it relates to this type of falling down and declining percentages of Americans leading in the area of science and technology?

The recent budget we passed here cuts basic research by 13 percent. It cuts applied research by 15 percent. Investments in research facilities and

equipment are cut by 68 percent. We have to rely on Russians to service the International Space Station because we are cutting basic research funding at NASA by 7 percent. We are cutting the funding for the Department of Education. State grants for innovative education programs were cut by \$100 million. Funding for the improvement of postsecondary education was gutted by \$140 million.

These are not the type of priorities that understand the threat to the United States economic future and the type of global economy and global competition this country is facing. We are living on past times and on borrowed time in the area of science and technology, but that is not how the Chinese, Indians, Japanese, Germans and others across Europe are facing this competition.

America did well in 17th place. It can do better. The way it does better is it makes the type of investments in our universities. It allows the people in our high schools and in our colleges to understand the priorities. Unfortunately the budget we voted on did not reflect America's future and investment in its future. What it says is that as we deal with the terrorist threat of homeland security and increasing the funding by 4 percent, increasing our defense budget, making cuts in basic research and basic funding, and I did not add into that area, in the National Institutes of Health for the first time in over 15 years that budget was held without an increase, which basically means a cut.

These are not the type of investments of a major economy, the leader in the global economy, that builds and plans for the future. These are the cuts of an economy and an administration that does not see its vision for America's future as bright and as strong as the past and it is clearly not putting its money toward that investment. It is high time that we understand that as we take up these two pieces of legislation this week on homeland security, we understand there are other threats to the United States, ones that are looming on the horizon and coming to shore, and that is in the area of technology and competing against the Chinese and the Indians and we are not having a budget that reflects the types of investments we need to do.

CONGRATULATING WINFRED ORRELL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor 30 years of service by Cobb County history teacher Winfred "Windy" Orrell, who is retiring from teaching this Friday, May 20. With admirable dedication, Mr. Orrell served his students not only in the classroom but also on the field as a coach for the football, baseball, track and cross-country teams at Campbell and Cobb County High Schools.

While some in Hollywood may know him as Julia Roberts' history teacher, Coach Orrell is most famous in Cobb County for his colorful history reenactments. His reenactment of the Battle of Vicksburg is legendary among his students as he crawls on his belly with imaginary rifle in hand, moving in and out of imaginary trenches. Mr. Orrell's desk has represented many ships, including the Alabama and the Bismarck. He knows how to get the very best out of every one of his students because he makes history enjoyable and memorable.

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Mr. Orrell honed his skills at West Georgia College, where former Speaker of this House, Newt Gingrich, was his teacher. Mr. Orrell's gifts of teaching earned him two Campbell High School Teacher of the Year honors and five Star Teacher awards. He served as a social studies department head at Campbell High School for 15 years and at South Cobb High for 2.

He started teaching AP courses, advanced placement, in 1982 in the earliest days of the program and served as a successful example for the budding AP program across the State of Georgia.

As much as he loves teaching gifted students, Coach Orrell will be the first to tell us that the greatest moments of his teaching career have been helping those students in need, students that were disconnected from the school community and disillusioned with learning. He found great joy in restoring their hope and belief in the value of education. He let them know he believed in them and they had the capacity to learn and to achieve their goals.

Mr. Orrell has influenced his students and even other teachers. He leaves each school a better place to teach and learn than when he arrived. And his departure on Friday will be no different.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to join me in congratulating Coach Windy Orrell for his service to teaching, providing inspiration to future leaders, and helping make Cobb County a standard bearer for Georgia education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

ELLSWORTH BRAC ANNOUNCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my profound disappointment and flat disagreement with the Department of Defense's recommendation to close Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota as a part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. This recommendation is as misguided as they come.

While the BRAC process is necessary to ensure that our Armed Forces can efficiently and adequately serve our military needs at home and abroad into the 21st century, this decision does not accurately reflect the value of Ellsworth to that cause.

As Lead Wing for the Aerospace Expeditionary Force, the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base played a decisive role in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. As they did in Kosovo and Afghanistan, the B-1 and her crews from Ellsworth Air Force Base performed superbly. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, B-1s played a vital role in helping liberate Iraq by dropping more than half the satellite-guided munitions. Ellsworth once again demonstrated that it is the backbone of America's bomber fleet and the base has fulfilled its missions admirably. This is a modern, well-equipped installation that has served our country for decades and is prepared to serve for decades to come. Ellsworth has substantially upgraded its infrastructure since the last round of base closures, which will allow Ellsworth to accept new missions and continue to grow. Rather than closing, Ellsworth is well situated to receive additional assignments.

In addition, Ellsworth's geographic and strategic strengths are many. Located in western South Dakota, Ellsworth is strategically positioned and is not threatened by urban encroachment or crowded air space, major factors that have not been given appropriate weight by the Department of Defense. In addition, the base is close to bomber training facilities in the region.

I am also concerned the Secretary of Defense did not adequately consider the benefits of locating military bases in rural regions. A disproportionate number of bases recommended for closure realignment resulting in a disproportionate number of lost jobs are in rural States such as Alaska, Maine, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This oversight is part and parcel of a continued disregard for not only the needs of rural America but the unique value and strengths rural America offers to our country as a whole.

Additionally, commencing a round of base closures during a time of war is questionable strategy and could be harmful to our national security. The current round of domestic base closures should wait until after the De-

partment of Defense completes its plans to bring troops back to the United States from overseas bases. I am also concerned about the risks associated with consolidating all of our B-1 bombers in a single location.

Furthermore, I am concerned that we are making base closure decisions prior to the Quadrennial Defense Review for 2005. The Quadrennial Defense Review analyzes force structure, modernization plans, military infrastructure, and the defense budget to help establish a roadmap for defense programs. It cannot be ignored before assessing base realignments and closures.

Finally, the economic impact of closing Ellsworth Air Force Base on South Dakota would be dramatic. Our State would lose our second largest employer and an estimated \$278 million a year. The loss of nearly 4,000 jobs would set South Dakota almost a year back in statewide job growth.

I have invited the chairman of the BRAC Commission, Anthony Principi, and other members of the commission to visit Ellsworth Air Force Base and hold one of their regional field hearings in Rapid City, home to Ellsworth. A visit to Ellsworth will allow the commission the opportunity to see what those of us from South Dakota already know: the B-1 bomber and Ellsworth Air Force Base are irreplaceable and crucial to our national security.

As the BRAC Commission moves forward and reviews the Department of Defense's recommendations, I am confident the BRAC Commission will realize the Department of Defense deviated substantially from their established base closure criteria when recommending Ellsworth for closure and will support removing it from the list.

THE FILIBUSTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate has returned, and I believe America's eyes will focus on whether or not this Congress has the integrity and respect for the institution to be reminded of the principles of democracy, which is that where there is a majority and a minority, a democratic nation respects the power, or at least the rights, of the minority.

We have heard this discussion about nonnuclear and nuclear and filibuster center around some suggestion that those who are opposing the elimination of such would, frankly, be considered antireligious, antipatriotic, and antidemocratic, as I listened to my good friend on the other side of the aisle even cite the Constitution to suggest that the Constitution provides the right of an up-or-down vote on Presidential judicial nominees.

The Constitution is large and small. Small in words, but large in its power. And it does say that the Senate gives