

homeland security agencies need to do their work. And since September 11, 2001, Congress has worked tirelessly with the administration to identify and address our national vulnerabilities, culminating with the creation of the new Department of Homeland Security.

The fiscal year 2006 security appropriation will meet the needs of our first responders, make it harder for terrorists and criminals to pierce our borders, better prepare our Nation for emergencies, and help us stay one step ahead of our enemies.

Second, we will provide for the 2006 budgets for the Department of the Interior and environment-related agencies.

It makes sense these two bills will be the first we take up. After all, our homeland security agencies protect our people and our infrastructure while our interior agencies protect everything in between.

For these and the rest of the fiscal year 2006 spending bills, Madam Speaker, the House will lead the way not only chronologically but responsibly. We will continue to build on the record we have established these last 10 years, making sure every dollar is put to its best use and making sure we only spend those dollars we must.

For another appropriation season is upon us and we will spend it wisely.

CALLING FOR U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to read to the Members from excerpts from an op-ed that the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and I published in "USA Today."

"The military occupation of Iraq will not turn Iraq into a democratic nation. Longstanding rivalries will do more to shape that country's future. Those forces will not be controlled by American boots on the ground no matter how many we put there or how long they remain.

"In Iraq there are no front lines, no easy way to tell friend from foe, no clear way to measure success. Iraq is a quagmire. It has become a recruiting post for Osama bin Laden. Are we to keep fighting indefinitely, losing more troops every week, spending billions of dollars, and increasing the strain on our Armed Forces, especially the Reserve and the National Guard?

"Iraq has already added \$200 billion to our national debt and costs U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion per month. It jeopardizes the strategic interests of the United States. It alienates allies in the Muslim world, and it is hindering efforts to create a united global front against al Qaeda.

"Unlike World War II, where the enemy surrendered and the troops came home, there is no such prospect in Iraq. We must define an endpoint. We will soon introduce legislation to

achieve that goal by bringing the occupation of Iraq to a close. The troops have done their jobs. It is up to Congress and the President to forge a policy worthy of their sacrifices."

HONORING GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON GOODPASTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I attended West Point from 1976 to 1980. The Academy was going through much change dealing with a cheating scandal and the integration of the first women at West Point.

To effect change, the Army turned to a world renowned retired four star general, Andrew Jackson Goodpaster, a West Point graduate.

General Goodpaster, from Granite City, Illinois, led Army troops in World War II, Vietnam, and oversaw NATO and U.S. troops in Europe in the 1970s. General Goodpaster served at various times as an aid to Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon.

General Goodpaster died yesterday at the age of 90 here in D.C. at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two daughters, Susan and Anne; and seven grandchildren.

As their alma mater states: "And when our work is done, our course on earth is done, may it be said well done, be thou at peace."

Well done, Supe. Be thou at peace.

SAVINGS INCENTIVES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, as we continue debating the future of Social Security, it is important to remember for more Americans they cannot save enough for their retirement.

In fact, over half of all Americans do not participate in employer-sponsored retirement plans, and for 28 million households in America they have no other retirement security outside of Social Security.

For America's families retirements are less, not more secure. United Airline employees last week learned that painful lesson.

For that reason it is crucial that we strengthen, not weaken, Social Security, as well as enable more Americans to save for their retirement.

Specifically, step one, we should encourage companies to automatically enroll their employees in their 401(k) plans. At R.R. Donnelley, a Chicago company, auto enrollment dramatically increased 401(k) participation when they did automatic participation, up to 92 percent.

Second, we should make the Saver's Credit fully refundable and permanent. A recent H&R Block study shows, when offered a matching contribution, Americans save more.

Third, we should allow taxpayers to directly deposit their tax refund into a savings account.

And, fourth, finally, we should create universal 401(k)s for all Americans to consolidate the different savings plans that exist.

MEDIA NEEDS TO SHOW RESPONSIBILITY IN REPORTING

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, "Newsweek" last night finally retracted a story that had deadly consequences. The incident underscores how high the stakes are for the news media. There is a prestige for organizations to get the story first. But that prestige often trumps factual reporting of issues. And the "gotcha" factor is often the motivation for running stories that are not as well researched as they could or should be. It is the "gotcha" bias that leads to shoddy reporting. This may be fine when they are covering the Michael Jackson case.

The problem with the War on Terror reporting is that terrorists are watching. When stories are reported here that fit their PR plan, terrorists use them to incite violence and hatred around the world. In the very next news cycle, their response can be heard. That means that mistakes are very costly and the damage done is outrageous.

In this case "Newsweek's" mistake cost the lives of 17 people in riots in Afghanistan and set back the cause of democracy there. This is inexcusable and irresponsible. And while it is good that Newsweek issued a correction, they should lead the way in setting a higher standard of reporting in the first place, particularly when we are talking life and death, war and peace.

ABUSE OF POWER

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to denounce the Republican attack on our system of checks and balances that has existed in our country for well over 200 years.

Led by the Senate majority leader, the Senate Republicans are creating an unnecessary showdown over judicial nominations that will hurt the American public and especially women.

The truth is that since President Bush took office, the Senate has confirmed 208 of his judicial nominations and turned back only 10, which is a 95 percent confirmation rate.

There are reasons the Democrats are concerned about the judicial nominations. As Chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group, I am concerned about the nominations of Janice Rogers Brown and Priscilla Owen to the circuit court seats. Both these

nominees would come to the Federal bench with an agenda to roll back civil rights and labor protections, many of which would affect women and all Americans.

We have held these values dear for many decades, and I cannot stand quiet and allow the Senate Republicans to abuse their power. Eliminating the filibuster would destroy the procedures that would protect democracy in this institution.

The American public must stand up and be heard.

HONORING HOSANNA CHURCH JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF IRAQI SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of some outstanding young Minnesotans.

What began as a routine service project for the Hosanna Church Junior High Youth Group has grown into a community-wide effort. The students, led by George Macaulay, set out to collect school supplies for Iraqi children. Once they had filled one box, however, they became inspired to do more. The students reached out to other groups within their church, then to other community groups. As of last week, the students had collected 20 boxes of school supplies and were still going strong.

I recall clearly the smiling faces of the Iraqi schoolchildren in my first congressional visit to Iraq 2 years ago. They were eager to learn, and their teachers and parents expressed gratitude for our assistance.

The Hosanna Youth Group is making a meaningful contribution to these children and demonstrating the commitment of U.S. citizens to the spread of knowledge and freedom.

I thank Mr. Macaulay, Alex, Jay, Patrick, Jack, Justin, Alexander, and Carter for all they have done. Their efforts are an inspiration to us all.

DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS STUDY ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today on behalf of 21 original Democratic co-sponsors, I am introducing the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study. The stakes could not be higher for U.S. soldiers and Iraqi civilians, and there is not a moment to lose, and I hope the Republican leadership will put it on the Suspension Calendar.

DU, as it is called, is a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process. It is toxic and has low-level radioactivity, and it is widely used by the United States military in Iraq.

There are countless stories of mysterious illnesses, higher rates of seri-

ous illnesses and even birth defects. We do not know what role, if any, DU plays in the medical tragedies in Iraq, but we must find out.

The Pentagon says there is no evidence that DU is harmful; yet the Pentagon also says soldiers should wear protective gear, including special clothing and a respirator, using DU. An Iraqi child has no protective gear. The Iraqi people have no respirators. If DU is so safe, why do American soldiers need to wear protective clothing in the first place?

We do not know if DU is safe or harmful; yet we have used 150 tons in the war so far.

Let the Pentagon prove that it is safe.

□ 1015

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR NEWSWEEK RETRACTION

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my displeasure that Newsweek magazine published an inaccurate and irresponsible story that led to a deadly protest in Afghanistan.

The May 9 edition of Newsweek reported that U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay used unreasonable and unacceptable methods to make Muslim detainees talk. These methods purportedly included the desecration of the Koran. Now Newsweek is apologizing for running the story, saying their "official government source" is unsure of the information he supplied to the magazine.

Madam Speaker, it is too little, too late for an apology and retraction.

While Newsweek has done the right thing by retracting their story, it cannot retract the irrefutable damage that has been done. Sixteen people died for no reason at all. Our brave men and women in uniform are now at greater risk. Furthermore, our country's image has been tarnished in the eyes of the Muslim community across the globe.

Media outlets must be sure to check their facts and get their story straight. We want and need a free press, but we must have a responsible press.

On balance, our media usually does an outstanding job of keeping the American people informed. I hope others will learn from this tragic mistake.

LAS VEGAS CENTENNIAL

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the city of Las Vegas is celebrating its centennial this year. This past weekend marked the anniversary of the land auction that founded Las Vegas, and the city highlighted this momentous day with special events such as the return of the Helldorado Days Parade,

baking and serving the world's largest birthday cake, and a reenactment of the land auction of 1905.

Las Vegas has grown from the western railroad stop of May 15, 1905 to the entertainment capital of the world that welcomed a record-setting 40 million tourists last year.

I remember as a girl with my family driving out west in search of the American Dream and finding it in Las Vegas, Nevada. Over the years, I have watched Las Vegas become the quintessential American city. Economic opportunity and the optimistic attitude of our citizens welcome thousands of new residents and millions of tourists every month.

I am proud to be a part of the Las Vegas community; and I wish my city, Las Vegas, a happy 100th anniversary. The best is yet to come.

IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE PRISCILLA OWEN

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Justice Priscilla Owen, Presidential nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Since her nomination in May of 2001, the Democrats have continuously threatened to use the filibuster to block a vote on her nomination, and she is unable to be confirmed. All judicial nominees deserve a fair up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. This judicial obstruction is unprecedented.

I personally know Justice Priscilla Owen. Her record on the Supreme Court of Texas is outstanding and she deserves the opportunity to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals. Justice Owen has had broad bipartisan support, including the support of three former Democratic judges on the Supreme Court and a bipartisan group of 15 past Presidents of the State Bar of Texas.

If the Senate employs the constitutional option, it will not be changing the rules; it will simply be restoring the precedent and a 200-year tradition. Justice Owen deserves a fair up-or-down vote, as do all of President Bush's judicial nominees.

CHILD SUPPORT REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2005

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

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Child Support Reinvestment Act of 2005. This much-needed bill will provide States, including my home State of California, with important penalty relief, allowing more money to flow where it should: to the children of our State awaiting their past-due child support payments.

California is in the process of developing the largest single statewide automated child support collection system