

near his convoy in Iraq. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He was 28 years old.

My heart goes out to Travis's family: his grandmother, Violet; his mother, Barbara; and his siblings, Toscha, Amanda, Bissy, and Buddy. They too have sacrificed for our Nation. I am humbled by their strength and perseverance in the face of such hardship.

Pfc Anderson died performing the most noble of deeds serving and protecting his Nation and fellow countrymen. Travis and his family have exhibited a rare form of selflessness and courage.

I submit this recognition to the United States House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice so that Travis Anderson may live on in memory.

BIPARTISANSHIP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we passed the first of 10 appropriation bills by a large bipartisan majority. It was nice to see and has become somewhat of a common practice this year.

The energy bill was passed by this House by a vote of 249 to 183 with 41 Democrats supporting. The highway bill passed with a vote of 417 to 9 with 198 Democrats supporting. The class action reform passed this House with a vote of 279 to 149 with 50 Democrats supporting. The death tax repeal passed, 272 to 162 with 42 Democrats supporting. Bankruptcy reform passed this House by a vote of 302 to 146 with 73 Democrats supporting. And the continuation of government passed by a vote of 329 to 68 with 122 Democrats supporting.

The public needs to know that this is a very impassioned body, and we should really appreciate that; but the true test of how we work together is when we count the votes.

ASTRONOMICAL ARROGANCE

(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 considering putting weapons in outer space to give the United States the power to control the world. This astronomical arrogance pushes not simply aggression to new heights but may well preclude our Nation from spending money for anything other than weapons which will cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 states that it is "the policy of the United States that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind." Space was envisioned as a place of cooperation, of confirming human unity, a place where we could aspire to

build a new platform of peace, fulfilling the prophecy of the poet Browning, who wrote: "But a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

What has happened to our country? Why are we projecting fear and paranoia to such heights? Have we so lost our way and our faith that we are prepared to transform the heavens into hell? If the kingdom and the will of God is to be done on Earth as it is in heaven, what is to happen when the United States takes nuclear fire up to the gates of heaven? Such an offense against humanity could bring the wrath of God upon this Nation.

JUSTICE JANICE ROGERS BROWN DESERVES A FAIR VOTE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for over 200 years, judges have been confirmed by a simple majority vote.

When President Clinton was in office, his nominees required only 51 votes to be confirmed by the Senate. Unfortunately, Democrats have changed the rules and require today's nominees to receive an unprecedented 60-vote standard.

Justice Janice Rogers Brown of California is one of the many highly qualified nominees who are being denied a fair up-and-down vote. Justice Brown is the first African American to serve on California's highest court and was retained with 76 percent of the vote statewide in her last election. However, Democrats are denying her the opportunity of a fair vote simply because she was nominated by President Bush.

On Monday, Majority Leader FRIST explained in USA Today why the Democratic obstructionism is harmful to the American people and the constitutional process. When our court-houses sit empty, Democrats should not be focused on partisan games.

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

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes events happen one after another and no one calls attention to a pattern. Today, alarm bells should be going off about the rising threat of anti-Semitism. When Arab countries practiced anti-Semitism, when textbooks made Jews out to be devils, commentators here said, Well, that is just the Israeli conflict; do not worry. When some countries voted against Israel in the United Nations as a matter of routine, the pundits said it is just to win favor with oil-rich nations: Do not worry.

When synagogues are desecrated in France and Jews attacked in that country, the calm observers said: It is just peculiar to France, do not worry.

On April 22, the British Association of University Teachers representing nearly 49,000 higher education professionals decided to boycott all relationship and exchanges with Bar-Ilan and Haifa University in Israel. Now what do the "do not worry about anti-Semitism" crowd say? The very citadels of civilization are experiencing a rising tide of anti-Semitism. Not only Britain but the academics and intellectuals of Britain. We must call it out, confront it.

We have learned this lesson: the answer to anti-Semitism is not silence; it is not acquiescence. It is to call it by its name and fight. I call on the Bush administration to join me.

HARRY REID AND FBI FILES

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns about a character assassination. This is a 21st-century form of McCarthyism being perpetrated by the Democratic leadership in the United States Senate.

I was deeply troubled by the Senate minority leader's statement on the floor of the Senate on Thursday about His Honor Judge Henry Saad of my home State of Michigan. Judge Saad, whose nomination to the Sixth Circuit Court of the United States Court of Appeals has been obstructed by the Democrats in the Senate, was unfairly and unjustly targeted by the Senator during the debate about filibustering.

The minority leader publicly alluded to Judge Saad's confidential FBI file. He intimated there was something troubling or at the least disconcerting in the file. These FBI files are raw. They have not been fully vetted, and every judicial nominee has one. What is most troubling to me is that the Senate minority leader either knew, or should have known, that this was a low blow. He either knew, or should have known, that Judge Saad cannot even see his own file. He cannot even defend himself. The Senator is smearing a man who is not allowed to respond by the Senate's own rules. That, of course, is hitting below the belt.

Mr. Speaker, the Senator is instituting a modern-day version of McCarthyism. I ask him to stop smearing and to start leading.

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA, MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise very proudly to congratulate Antonio Villaraigosa as the newly elected

mayor of the City of Los Angeles. Believe it or not, the last Latino mayor elected in the City of Los Angeles, which is overwhelmingly Latino and African American and Asian, was back in 1872. Can we imagine what a whirlwind of change has occurred?

Antonio Villaraigosa is one of the Nation's most promising leaders of our country. I served with him in the State assembly and he served as the assembly speaker for the great State of California, where he helped to expand the Healthy Families program, which we know here as at the Federal level as the S-CHIP program, and helped to pass one of largest park bonds in the State of California which helped to identify areas in low-income communities to establish urban conservancies. And my district was a proud recipient of one of the largest urban conservancies in California.

Antonio is one of those individuals who will bridge the gap in our communities. He is about empowering people, empowering our communities, putting public safety and education first, and helping to fight crime.

I look very much toward his leadership and know that the country is looking at our great State of California, and especially Los Angeles; and I am proud to say that a portion of my district, he and I have similar jurisdiction in the community of El Serreno. So he is a champion, someone I continue to work with, and I extend the best wishes to him and his family.

THE ECONOMY AND JOBS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last year's trade deficit reached \$670 billion. Our Federal deficit was over \$300 billion. Top-rate jobs have gone overseas. How did we get in this situation? How did we get in this position?

Mr. Speaker, over the last generation Congress has passed laws with good intent, but with terrible consequences. Our government has created barriers to creating jobs, and the results have not been good.

Other nations are rising to the challenge of tomorrow's economy. China is graduating 350,000 engineers every year. India graduated 80,000 software engineers last year. While we are reducing the number of visas for creative talent in America, other countries are developing their talent.

Mr. Speaker, we have to change the environment in America and remove the barriers created by Congress. If we are going to avoid becoming a third-rate economy in the future, we have to pass legislation like the Central America Free Trade Agreement so we can create jobs, strengthen our economy, balance the trade deficit, balance the Federal budget right here in America. We can do it by passing this legislation along with others, Mr. Speaker; and as

we lead the challenge for competitiveness in America, we hope that our colleagues will join with us from the other side of the aisle.

□ 1015

SENATE AS THE NEW WHITE HOUSE RUBBER STAMP

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Senate Republicans, at the prodding of the White House, will soon attempt to abolish the use of the filibuster when it comes to judicial appointments. It is clear that the White House is encouraging this action so it can have more control over the United States Senate. For over 200 years the right to filibuster, or the right to unlimited debate, has been a Senate tool that encourages compromise and moderation. Compromise and moderation, not two words that you equate with either this House or the White House unfortunately.

President Bush does not like to compromise. That is why he is unhappy with having 95 percent of his judicial appointees approved by the Senate. Despite the fact that he has had more judges approved than any President since Reagan, Bush encouraged Senate Republicans to take the nuclear option by reappointing judges that could not receive bipartisan consensus during his first term.

The President is also not a moderate. He said that conservative judges Scalia and Thomas are his favorites on the Supreme Court.

The President is encouraging this extreme action so that he can eventually have Senate Republicans rubber stamp conservative justices to the Supreme Court, without any attempt to find common ground. This democracy should not tolerate this abuse of power.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEMOCRAT PLAN

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, goodness gracious. The day has finally come. The Democrats, after 5 months, have proposed a way to fix Social Security, and they will fix it all right, by raising our taxes. That is right. The new Democrat plan would increase taxes to fix Social Security.

The proposal would hike taxes by 6 percent on middle class families and small business owners. What more can we expect from the tax and spend party, Mr. Speaker? Instead of transforming the program, by modernizing retirement security, the Democrats want to use an old method, by raising taxes.

But there is a new, better solution, Mr. Speaker: personal savings accounts, personal retirement accounts.

By allowing younger workers to put a portion of their Social Security taxes into personal retirement accounts, we lessen the liability on the program and we fix Social Security in a lasting and sincere way.

When folks have personal retirement accounts, there is no Social Security surplus for politicians to raid, and we do not have to worry about Democrats raising taxes to do it.

Personal retirement accounts, Mr. Speaker, a new solution to update and strengthen an old program.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the extreme action Senate Republicans want to take later this week has nothing to do with seven judges who have yet to be approved by the Senate. No, the Senate has approved more of President Bush's nominees than any President since President Reagan. In fact, he has had so much success that he is now presiding over the lowest court vacancy rate in 15 years.

The Republican power grab is about clearing the way for a Supreme Court nominee who only needs 51 votes instead of 60 votes.

Conservative Senate Republicans do not want a David Souter or a Stephen Breyer, judges who were confirmed with nearly unanimous bipartisan support. Instead, they want a Clarence Thomas, who was confirmed with only 52 votes and has since been proven to be an extremist on the Court.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Republicans are preparing to blow up 200 years of tradition in the U.S. Senate, abusing their power now, so they can have greater control over the judiciary later on. That is not how our Founding Fathers envisioned the checks and balances that exist between the branches of our government. The sad fact is, I do not think my colleagues on the other side of the aisle care.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days Congress will consider legislation to make taxpayer dollars available for what is known as embryonic stem cell research, setting the case for an imminent Presidential veto.

In 2001, President Bush made the moral dimensions of scientific testing on human embryos clear. These are the principles.

It is morally wrong to create human life to destroy it for research. Also, it is morally wrong to take the tax dollars of millions of pro-life Americans