

wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The event is an annual opportunity to recognize women who play and have played a critical role in the Armed Forces, both in times of war and peace, and currently now in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our troops and all of our service-women deserve our utmost respect for protecting our freedom. As of March 2005, an estimated 203,000 women serve in our U.S. military and another 142,000 women serve in the reserve units in the U.S. Armed Forces. These women give of themselves and make extraordinary sacrifices.

The Congressional Caucus of Women's Issues is committed to supporting women in our Armed Forces. As Democratic Chair of that women's caucus, I want to thank all the servicewomen for their unyielding courage, selfless commitment, and long-standing dedication to our military and our country. Let us remember them over the Memorial Weekend.

□ 1015

HONORING AMERICA'S MILITARY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's military men and women. As we approach Memorial Day, our grateful Nation says thank you to those who have sacrificed so much in the name of freedom.

We here at home often show our appreciation for all that our troops have done by sending care packages, letters and phone cards to them while they serve, but our appreciation for their efforts, their courage, and their valor go far beyond the battlefield. These selfless acts of heroism have helped maintain our most fundamental freedoms, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans, all earned with the help of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

At the same time, we have a responsibility to our veterans and their families. While Memorial Day is filled with parades and festivals in many towns across the country, let us not forget its true meaning: A heartfelt thank-you to those who serve our country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Americans to join me in thanking America's military men and women in all they do for us. Their sacrifices have proven that we should never underestimate the price of freedom and all it stands for.

SENATE SHACKLES DEMOCRACY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial

Day, we should recognize that the honor of our men and women in the United States military should be a yearlong event.

Madam Speaker, I rise to question the idea of democracy as articulated by the United States Senate. President Lyndon Baines Johnson indicated that a man cannot finish a race if his hands and feet are shackled. The furlough of democracy took place in the United States Senate.

The compromise on the filibuster is really an extinguishing of democracy. It is now extinct because now there is an override, if you will, on whether or not men and women can rise to the floor of the Senate and express the views of the minority, not a minority of African Americans or Hispanics or others, but simply the minority view. That is what democracy is.

It is an outrage that any qualification would be put on the rights of those in the United States Senate whom happen to be in the minority to speak on the issues of concern. The judges that will receive a vote today have great opposition from many in this country. Now the filibuster is not in place, because it has been limited, and now democracy has been shackled and tied.

AMERICAN EDUCATION BEING LEFT BEHIND

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in a recent Washington Times technology section, Fred Reed gives us good evidence while America is on the path towards a third-rate economy.

First, in 2001 through the end of the last school year, New York City 8th graders' failure rate in history and government grew from 61 percent to 81 percent. That is four out of five students.

Second, 22 percent of the students entering college in Indiana needed remedial math.

Third, this year's top U.S. university finished in 17th place in an international collegiate programming contest.

We are not preparing for tomorrow's economy. The world is getting more and more technical, and we are falling behind. While China is creating 350,000 engineers every year, while India is creating 80,000 software engineers every year, we are putting more and more of our students in remedial math. We have to change the educational environment in America if we are going to avoid becoming a third-rate economy.

Education is just one of the issues the Economic Competitive Caucus will be addressing this year so we can prepare for tomorrow's economy.

HONORING MAJOR BILL MCCOLLOUGH

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to salute and wish a hearty farewell to Major Bill McCollough of the House Marine Corps liaison office.

In the midst of a career in the field and leading troops around the globe, Bill was selected by the Marine Corps leadership to serve as a Congressional Fellow in 2002.

Representing the Nation's largest Navy-Marine Corps complex, I had hoped to get a military fellow with the right mix of brains, brawn, and ability to "get things done" to help me better serve the San Diego community.

I met Bill, and knew I had found the right fit. Bill worked a number of sensitive military issues for me with great skill and finesse. So our office quickly rewarded him with an expanded portfolio, including domestic issues of critical importance to my district.

Major McCollough impressed me with his professionalism, his good will and dedication to family and Nation. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with him and his family.

As he returns to Camp Pendleton, and likely another tour in the Middle East soon, I wish Bill, his wife, Caroline, and sons, Hunter and Jack, the best of luck and a fond farewell. They know they will always have a family here in Washington.

HONORING DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of women who have made an incomparable contribution to Northfield, Minnesota, and have set an example of service for all Americans.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for our children.

Next month the Josiah Edison Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Northfield will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Over the past century they have established a proud tradition of service from bestowing Good Citizen Awards to high school students to volunteering at VA centers and laying wreaths during memorial services.

The women of the Josiah Edison Chapter are mothers and grandmothers, business women, teachers, ministers and veterans united by a belief in God, love of country, commitment to preserving our history, and dedication to improving education.

As a proud husband of a member, I can assure you these women live their motto of "God, Home and Country." On this anniversary, I want to thank the

women of the Josiah Edison Chapter for their exemplary service and wish them continued success.

TRICARE FOR GUARD AND RESERVE

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, we have a lot to remember on Memorial Day. Today in south Mississippi, four families will be receiving death notices. Every one of those families had a young guardsman over in Iraq who was killed yesterday.

Last Friday, I visited Walter Reed. Five young soldiers were wounded, four of them amputees, every one of them Guardsmen Or Reservists.

Just last week the Committee on Armed Services passed an amendment that would allow Guardsmen and Reservists to buy TRICARE insurance for themselves and their families. Somewhere between the committee, where it passed, and the Committee on Rules, where it failed, it was blocked on a straight party-line vote.

So as we remember Memorial Day, I hope every Guardsman in America will remember the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM), the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), eight of the nine who never served a day in uniform who voted to see that our Nation's Guardsmen and Reservists cannot buy Federal health insurance.

EMBRYONIC RESEARCH

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, this week we have heard people of all types arguing vehemently either for or against embryonic research.

It is hard for lay people to cut through all this scientific mumbo-jumbo, so let me ask a common-sense question: At what point is it not okay for researchers to create life in order to destroy it? Some argue that we should destroy human embryos to try to save an existing life. That is just totally immoral. And it is not the government's place to fund destruction of those embryos with taxpayer money.

What makes America the strongest Nation on earth is that we protect those who cannot protect themselves. I commend the President for his promise to veto H.R. 810.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about a serious challenge facing our government. Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare are growing at alarming rates. By 2042, these three programs alone are going to comprise 26 percent of our gross domestic product. This number far exceeds today's entire Federal budget in relative terms, which is roughly 18 percent of GDP.

Our focus now in this House should be to strengthen Social Security and to ensure that it is around for our children and grandchildren. Along with the leadership of President Bush, this House must commit itself and take advantage of an opportunity to enact real reforms to the Social Security system, making this vital program better for all recipients.

We can no longer afford to have partisanship prevail on the other side of the aisle, and instead invite all to join the debate of ideas to ensure progress in this crucial debate.

PASS CAFTA

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I have been listening to our colleagues talk about the fact that we are approaching Memorial Day, which we are. It is a very important time to remember the war dead and people who today are continuing to sacrifice.

I have had the privilege of serving here for nearly a quarter century, and I remember very well in the 1980s when U.S. military men and women were struggling side by side with freedom fighters in Central America to ensure that we could see self-determination, the rule of law, and the development of political pluralism and democratic institutions.

Madam Speaker, we are going to, in the coming weeks, be voting on the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Every single president in Central America has made it very clear to us that if we want to maintain the things for which U.S. men and women in uniform gave their lives, along with many Central Americans, we must lock it in by ensuring passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

We need to think about that sacrifice made a decade and a half ago in Central America as we proceed with the prospect of keeping freedom alive.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1815, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Com-

mittee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 293 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 293

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and the amendments made in order by this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

SEC. 2. (a) It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report (except as specified in section 4 of this resolution), may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. Each amendment printed in the report shall be debatable as specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment (except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment).

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may recognize for consideration of