

peacefully coexist with private health insurance. My colleagues, we have been saying that in the United States for years.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Stan Scroggins, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

O God, we thank You for blessing this Nation. Help us not to forget that with Your blessing comes our responsibility to bless the peoples of the Earth.

We confess our need for Your guidance. Extend Your mercy and love, forgive us of our self-seeking ways, and make us into a Nation after Your own heart.

We recognize that these are challenging days, and the decisions made by this House will have profound effect on our Nation and the world. Help every Representative to seek wisdom from You with every decision to be made.

Deliver us from our enemies, grant protection to our citizens, and forever allow this Nation to be a beacon of freedom and peace so that Your name will forever be honored on the Earth.

Hear our prayer, O God, and continue to bless America, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IDENTITY THEFT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, every year more than 3 million Americans have their identities stolen. That is one every 10 seconds. These incredible statistics show that identity theft both online and offline is not slowing down. Just this past week we learned of another incident where up to 40 million identities were compromised.

The last Congress overwhelmingly approved legislation known as the FACT Act, and President Bush signed it into law. It helps you to protect your identity by providing a free credit report every year, requiring creditors who lent money in your name to a thief to help you clear your name, and creating a single place where a fraud alert can be put on your credit history and honored all across America.

Congress has taken steps to strengthen identity theft laws, but the bad guys are still out there, and commonsense precautions are the key to help Americans from becoming victims.

Mr. Speaker, people do not give the keys to their house to complete strangers, and that same lesson applies to identity theft. I urge all Americans to guard the keys to their identity as we in Congress continue to find aggressive solutions.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

(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, depending on whom you listen to, the insurgents in Iraq are either in their last throes or they are growing in size and strength. But both the administration and critics seem to agree that the U.S. military will be deployed to Iraq for a long time to come. It is our quagmire.

Every day our forces wake up in Iraq, more die and are wounded, and more families on the home front are strained and suffer losses. At some terrible point in the future, the Nation's leaders will say, Enough is enough. Whether the number of casualties at that point will be 5,000 or 10,000 or 50,000, I do not know. Whether the cost at that point will be \$250 billion, \$350 billion, or \$500 billion, I do not know. At some point, the terrible arithmetic of the war will add up to overwhelm every body.

But this war can end another way. It can end if enough Members of Congress consider and cosponsor House Joint Resolution 55, a bipartisan bill introduced last week to require the President to initiate troop withdrawal no later than October 1, 2006. Thank the troops, and bring them home.

JUNETEENTH

(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. Mr. Speaker, there are many times that

this Nation has celebrated its freedom. One that comes to mind is the celebration after the Revolutionary War, then the celebration after Abraham Lincoln pronounced the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. But today I rise to celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday that is now celebrated across the Nation, but Texans and Louisianans know it well, for because the Union soldiers were too busy, the slaves in Texas, some 200,000, did not know of emancipation until 1865.

When General Granger landed in Galveston, he read the words, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the executive of the United States, all slaves are free." And so this weekend on June 19, across the State of Texas and Louisiana and around the Nation, we celebrated freedom. We sang, we spoke about freedom and the preciousness of it. We thanked America for its values and belief in freedom.

I would like to thank State Representative Al Edwards, a Texan and a constituent of my congressional district, who is known as the Father of Juneteenth. It is important to honor freedom wherever it is found.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by Public Law 108-375, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. KILPATRICK, Michigan.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM, Member of Congress:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for Imperial County, California, for documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedent and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,
Member of Congress.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material and that I may include tabular material on the consideration of H.R. 2863, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 315 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2863.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1407

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Mr. BOOZMAN (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first I want to say to the House that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) has been a partner in this effort from day one in preparing and presenting this national defense bill. It is a truly bipartisan appropriations bill to provide for the security of our Nation and to provide for the troops who serve our Nation and to provide them with the equipment and the technology necessary to accomplish their mission and to protect themselves while they do that. I extend my thanks to the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I also thank Chairman LEWIS of the Appropriations Committee for the support that he has given us as well as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee.

This appropriations bill is a good bipartisan bill, a nonpartisan bill. There

are no politics involved at all. It is simply to provide for maintaining our security and to provide for our troops. Copies of this legislation have been available for several weeks now. There have been reports distributed to all of the Members. Although this bill is \$3.3 billion less than the budget resolution provided for us, we were able to use some skillful oversight and be able to produce this bill at \$3.3 billion less than the President's request and less than the budget had provided.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill.

Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to come to the floor to present the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006. This legislation includes \$363.7 billion in the base appropriations bill, of which \$363.4 billion is new discretionary budget authority.

In addition, \$45.3 billion is provided in a bridge fund to support ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; this is consistent with authority provided in the budget resolution, and follows the lead of the Armed Services Committee, which authorized \$49 billion for this purpose in the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Subcommittee allocation for the base bill is \$3.3 billion below the President's request. This presented us with some difficult challenges, but I believe we have made appropriate choices given our allocation.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, was a full partner in this process. This bill was developed with bipartisan support and deserves bipartisan support.

Let me discuss some of the major funding highlights in the base bill:

For military personnel, we fully fund the pay raise of 3.1 percent as requested by the President, and we fully support quality of life and family-oriented programs.

To support our soldiers and their families, we have added \$30 million for Impact Aid and increased Family Advocacy programs by \$20 million.

In operation and maintenance, the base bill provides funding for critical training, readiness and maintenance activities at roughly the historical level for these programs; the overall increase is \$3.2 billion over the 2005 level.

In the Army acquisition accounts, we fully fund the request of \$882.4 million for 240 Stryker vehicles. We also fully fund the request of \$443.5 million for modifications and improvements to the M1 Abrams tank, an increase of \$326.5 million over the 2005 level.

In Naval aviation we fully fund the request for 130 aircraft, including 42 F/A-18's, compared to 115 total aircraft provided in fiscal year 2005. In addition, 8 aircraft are shifted back to the Air Force consistent with the restoration of the C-130J multiyear procurement contract.

In shipbuilding we make some significant adjustments to the President's request:

We are funding the new construction of 8 ships, as opposed to 4 new ships as proposed in the budget.

We continue production of an additional DDG-51 destroyer, which was proposed for termination in the budget.

Funds are provided to acquire 2, rather than just 1, T-AKE ammunition ships, consistent with the authorization bill.

In addition, we're providing funds for 3 littoral combat ships, 2 more than were included in the President's budget request.

For the Air Force:

We are fully funding the budget request for procurement of 24 F/A-22 Raptors in 2006, and advance procurement for 29 aircraft in 2007.

We are restoring funding for the C-130J multiyear procurement program by transferring funding from the Navy to the Air Force. The Air Force will procure 9 aircraft; the Navy will procure 4 tanker variants.

Full funding is recommended for the procurement of 15 C-17 aircraft, with advance procurement for 7 additional aircraft in 2007.

In the research and development accounts:

We follow the lead of the Armed Services Committee in recommending no funds for advance procurement for the DD(X) destroyer, but are keeping the program alive by providing \$670 million in R&D.

We are accelerating development of the CG(X) cruiser, by increasing funding from \$30 million to \$80 million.

Full funding of \$935.5 million is provided for 5 V-XX helicopters.

We provide a total of \$4.9 billion, as requested by the President, for research and development associated with the Joint Strike Fighter program.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill also includes \$45.3 billion in fiscal year 2006 funding to sustain the war effort in a bridge fund. The 2006 budget resolution reserves \$50 billion for contingency operations in support of the global war on terrorism. In addition, the Armed Services Committee proposed, and the House has approved, an authorization of over \$49 billion for the same purposes. This bill has slightly lower levels for the military personnel accounts and the procurement accounts based on more recent information we have received from the Department of Defense.

I believe the \$45 billion bridge fund in this bill for contingency operations is the responsible thing to do to support our troops. It will ensure they face no interruption in funding for the first six months of fiscal year 2006 as they face our enemies abroad.

Over 80 percent of the funds in title IX are provided for military personnel, and operation and maintenance accounts. In addition, \$2.5 billion is for intelligence activities; \$2.1 billion is for fuel and war consumables; and \$2.9 billion is for procurement to replace war losses and provide force protection for our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Chairman, this summarizes the major elements of the recommendations before you. We have not been able to meet all the needs identified by the Defense Department and by Members of Congress. However, within the budget constraints we faced, I think we struck a fair balance that deserves the support of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this legislation.