

while serving his country in Iraq. Each day, men and women in the Armed Forces face danger in the hope of bringing peace and prosperity to those in need. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor. Chad Maynard was from Montrose, CO. All his life he wanted to follow in his father's and brother's footsteps and serve in the Marines. He volunteered to serve in the Marines and was proud to wear our Nation's uniform. He was the pride of the ROTC and the local community. We should honor his dedication and courage and leadership.

He was a good man, a strong and courageous man. He was everything a soldier should be. He was the kind of person that boosted our pride in being an American. On Wednesday, June 15, 2005, Corporal Chad Maynard was killed in Ramadi, Iraq. Chad Maynard made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

My heart goes out to Chad's parents Gene and Cindy, his brothers Jacob and Jeremiah and his sister Breanne. And to his wife Becky and their yet unborn child, I offer these words of condolence. Your courage in this time of hardship humbles all of us. We will not forget your sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this recognition to the United States House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice so that Chad Maynard may live on in memory.

#### IN MEMORY OF JAKE PICKLE

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

Mr. DELAY. What a good man he was, Mr. Speaker. What a friend, what a gentleman, what a servant. James Jarrell Pickle was born on October 11, 1913, the son of a grocer and his school-teacher wife, and died June 18, 2005, a statesman of the first cut. He was in many ways the story of his country in the 20th century. Some of his earliest memories were of soldiers returning home from France, heroes back from winning the First World War. He witnessed the roaring twenties as a teenager and came of age—much like our Nation itself—during the Great Depression.

After graduating from the University of Texas in an age when the country turned to Washington for help, Jake Pickle came to Washington to help. He became a congressional aide, and quickly put his heart and mind into service for his country. That commitment to public service, though, was not to be limited to desk work. He served honorably in the United States Navy as an officer aboard the USS *Miami* and *St. Louis* during the war in the Pacific.

After the war, Pickle returned home to Texas to make his way in the world as a young entrepreneur, spending his postwar years, as so many of his countrymen did, earning his share of America's peace dividend. He returned again

to Washington in 1963, this time as a young Congressman, the winner of a special election in Texas' 10th Congressional District.

Representative Pickle learned early that the 1960s would give no quarter to half measures. Sides had to be chosen and stands had to be made. J.J. Pickle cast his first significant vote in this building in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of only a handful of Southerners to do so. A Southerner in the days of Jim Crow, he feared the vote would destroy his young career. Instead, Mr. Speaker, that vote of conscience and courage came to define him. He served nobly in this body but never forgot he was a Texan serving in Washington, and not the other way around. His family and his constituents, Texans all, were his passion and he loved them all with the heart of a servant.

It was in 1983, when he led the effort on the Ways and Means Committee to solve the short-term crisis facing Social Security, that Pickle reached the pinnacle of his congressional service. Over his 31 years in Congress, Jake Pickle served millions of people in his Austin-based district, and if he had his way, he would have gotten to know every last one of them. He was a good man, a good friend and a great Congressman. I think what may sum up his life and death is this: That as much as we will all miss his service to our Nation, he will still probably miss the opportunity to serve even more.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the President's Social Security plan. Social Security represents the values of hardworking communities that Americans in small towns across this country hold dear. It is the fulfillment of our Nation's promise that if you work hard and follow the rules, you will be rewarded for your lifetime of work with a secure retirement.

Today, Social Security keeps 50 percent of seniors out of poverty. No politicians should be allowed to take away the retirement benefits that workers in rural America have earned through Social Security. As a part-time farmer myself, I know how much rural families rely on Social Security. Farm families have tight budgets, even in good years, and most do not have access to employer retirement accounts such as 401(k) plans. Instead of standing up for our rural communities and values, the President's Social Security plan cuts benefits and jeopardizes the most important safety net in rural areas for retirees, survivors and the disabled.

All of rural America needs to read the fine print on President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. Protecting the promise of Social Security

is important to every worker, to every generation and to every family, especially to rural America.

#### THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WIEDERKEHR WINERY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the Wiederkehr Wine Cellars near Altus, AR. Many of my colleagues might be surprised to know that fine wine is being produced in this small western Arkansas town and, in fact, has been for the past 125 years. In 1880, Johann Andreas Wiederkehr emigrated from Switzerland to America, choosing a spot in the beautiful Ozark Mountains to plant the grapes, blackberries and persimmons that would make the blend for his first wines. He chose the spot in the Ozark Mountains to settle because the soil, climb and shape of the countryside closely matched the conditions that had led to some of Europe's greatest wines.

One of the finest wineries in the country, the original cellar has been converted into the Weinkeller Restaurant, specializing in authentic dishes from the Wiederkehr family's homeland of Switzerland. The cellar is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Wiederkehr family on this milestone. I encourage my colleagues to take a tour of Arkansas' wine country on their next vacation.

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#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, recently some Senate Republicans have unveiled a proposal to dedicate the Social Security surplus to private accounts. Having worked in an administration that not only proposed saving Social Security first, but having dedicated the Social Security surplus funds to strengthening the system, I assume that this new idea has some concepts of how to pay back the \$800 billion that has already been taken out of the surplus over the last 6 years. All of a sudden we have discovered we are going to dedicate the Social Security surplus to Social Security.

I welcome their new-found conviction, but I assume it also includes an idea of how to pay back the \$800 billion that we have already diverted from the surplus already diverted from Social Security. What I did not read is how they are going to do that.

The Democratic position has been consistent since 1998: Save Social Security first. The President lacks a plan

on how to do that. The half-baked plan being touted in the Senate fundamentally misses the goal here, which is to strengthen Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not fools. They have rejected the President's proposal for privatization, and they will undoubtedly reject this new proposal. People like the security that comes with Social Security.

#### GUANTANAMO BAY PRISONERS EAT WELL

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pancakes with syrup, whole wheat bagels, scrambled eggs. That is not what I had for breakfast this morning, but there is a good chance that the terrorist prisoners at Guantanamo Bay were eating this morning. And it is not something that prisoners held by the Nazis, the Soviets, Pol Pot, or any other despot would eat.

Yet some on the other side of the aisle have advocated closure of the prison at Guantanamo Bay. The prison there has held 800 suspected al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists; 235 have already been released; 61 are awaiting release or transfer.

The information shared by these prisoners has saved countless lives here and around the world. We go to great lengths to ensure proper treatment of detainees. In addition to good meals, we take care to offer the freedom of worship freely, like supplying copies of the Koran and prayer rugs. Each person is treated according to the Geneva Convention, though none of these prisoners meets the qualifications of soldiers under that treaty.

The left is content to criticize and demagogue, but Gitmo is a part of the war on terror. And as long as it stands, the soldiers there will be treated properly. That is more than I can say for dozens of prisoners executed by al Qaeda in the past.

#### BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

(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, two reports from today's New York Times which prove why we need to continue to move in the direction of bringing our troops home from Iraq: The first, a new classified assessment by the Central Intelligence Agency says Iraq may prove to be an even more effective training ground for Islamic extremists than Afghanistan was in al Qaeda's early days, because it is serving as a real-world laboratory for urban combat. The report goes on to say that officials have said Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other countries would soon have to contend with militants who leave Iraq equipped with considerable experience and training.

The next report says the following: that Iraqi rebels are refining bomb skills and pushing the G.I. toll even higher. Improved explosive devices are now sufficiently sophisticated to destroy armored Humvees. That means our soldiers are more vulnerable and that casualty rates will go higher than ever.

It is time to bring our troops home. Support House Joint Resolution 55, a bipartisan bill to bring our troops home.

#### THE PRIORITY FOR THIS NATION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this is the 68th session day that we have had in this 109th Congress. We have passed bankruptcy reform, class action reform, an aggressive agenda, and many of the Democrats are voting for this agenda.

And today we are continuing to move forward with an appropriations bill. We are going to be passing the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill. And I would like to take a moment to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the Committee on Appropriations chairman, on a provision in this bill. This bill will do something we have talked about doing a lot: reducing spending, prioritizing. Fifty-six programs will be terminated, programs that have outlived their usefulness. It will be a \$3.8 billion savings for the taxpayers.

And why do we have our focus on priorities? Why does this majority have its focus on priorities? Because we know funding the war on terror, keeping this homeland safe, preserving freedom, is the priority for this great Nation.

I commend the leadership for their good work. I look forward to the debate on this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN JAKE PICKLE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to the late Congressman Jake Pickle, who will be funeralized today in Austin, TX. What a giant. What a generous spirit. What an outstanding patriot and leader. And I am grateful that he served the people of Texas and the United States of America.

Yes, he was someone who had the common touch. In fact, many would speak of his travels from Washington to Austin where he worked the airplane aisles to shake hands with all the constituents and others who were flying back and forth with him.

He was committed to justice in this country and made a powerful vote

when he voted for the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He made it out of conscience and passion and what was right.

And then I think what he thought was his greatest achievement because of his common touch, he helped fix Social Security in the right way, in a bipartisan manner, and had it to last for 40 and 50 years.

We are grateful for his life and my deepest sympathy to his family and friends. But all we can say today is farewell to our friend. We thank him for his service. We thank him for being a great patriot. We thank him for loving America and thank him for loving Texas.

#### THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, almost 3 decades ago, the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth came together and made an historic agreement to have one regional airport. This local agreement was codified by congressional action known as the Wright amendment.

There are those in Congress today who now seek to repeal the Wright amendment. But, Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that if there is a change to occur to that agreement that it should come from the local level and not from Washington. I think the mayors and county officials on both sides of the Trinity River should make this decision, and if they come to us, if they propose a change to the agreement, then and only then should Congress become involved.

Our community in North Texas is fortunate to have two thriving airports. We serve millions of satisfied customers and employ hundreds of thousands of North Texans. We should not jeopardize that which is working well already.

As a Republican, I am all for competition. But as a Republican, I am also for local control, and I do not believe in a Washington top-down approach to problems. And, finally, as a Republican, I believe it is important to keep our word and keep our covenant, and that is exactly what we should do with the Wright amendment today.

#### WHY AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION IS NEEDED

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last week the Iraqi Bureau Chief for Newsweek Magazine left Iraq after being there for 2 years and wrote one final report entitled "Good Intentions Gone Bad." Rod Nordland said the turning point in the war was the Abu Ghraib scandal. Nordland wrote: "The abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib alienated a broad swath of the Iraqi public. There is no evidence that all the mistreatment and