

Private property ownership is vital to both our freedom and our prosperity. The Kelo decision now puts every home and every business owner on notice that their property may be taken by the government at any time.

This is not the American way, Mr. Speaker. The Court's decision is an abdication of its responsibility to protect individual property rights, and it is a gross misinterpretation of the Constitution.

As we approach our Nation's Day of Independence, we should be concerned about protecting our freedoms, not curtailing them. A just and wise government values individual ownership and protects it.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day. Our Nation is built on many, many important tenets, and protection of private property is certainly not the least of them.

EXPRESSING THANKS

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on yesterday this august body amended the Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill to include \$7.7 million to fight discrimination in housing. I stand before this body today, Mr. Speaker, to thank all of the persons who supported this amendment, both Democrats and Republicans because it could not have been done without bipartisan support, and for that, I am thankful.

I also thank my staff, Mr. Speaker, because no one does anything without a capable, competent and qualified staff, and I think I have one of the best.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank another group of people. On yesterday, we had another event wherein we had to leave rather untimely. I want to thank those many security persons who work on our behalf. They are not only helpful and respectful, they are also full of care for us. Mr. Speaker, as we rush out, they rush in to uncertain danger. I want them to know that we care about them. Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what we pay them, but whatever it is, it is not enough for the service that they render.

HONORING BARNEY CHAPMAN

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and friend, who after 37 years is retiring as an officer of the largest credit union in my congressional district, the America First Federal Credit Union.

Barney B. Chapman's service to constituents' financial needs in my district over the years is impressive, but his work in the community is the reason he deserves the respect and thanks today.

The organizations which have benefited from him include: The Air Force Reserves, Boy Scouts of America, Chamber of Commerce, Legislative and Military Affairs Committee, the Federation of Independent Business, several Governors Advisory Boards, Salt Lake Community College, the Junior League, Junior Achievement of Utah, the United Way, Weber School District and Weber State College.

Like the good old boy scout that he is, Barney Chapman does his best to do his duty to God and his country and to help other people at all times, but I am particularly grateful for his commitment to the Air Force. A good airman lives by three principles: integrity first, service before self, excellence in all he does. These are the Air Force core values, and as a full colonel retired, they are his as well. They typify the life of Barney Chapman, and for that, I do honor and thank him today.

REPUBLICAN REFUSAL TO FUND VETERANS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are still waiting. It has been a week now since the Department of Veterans Affairs finally admitted that veterans health care funding was short \$1 billion. As a result of that shortfall, VA facilities around the country can no longer schedule appointments for new veterans.

House Republicans, however, do not seem to be too concerned. Democrats have tried repeatedly over the last week to offer amendments that would provide the VA the \$1 billion so veterans can get the services they were promised, but Republicans have shot down every effort to increase funding.

Last week, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) tried to offer an amendment to the Labor-HHS bill to eliminate the Republican VA funding shortfall, but the Republican majority refused to allow a vote. Then, yesterday the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) wanted to offer the amendment to the Transportation spending bill, and once again, Republicans refused to allow a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this House should not adjourn for the 4th of July recess until we honor our promise to our veterans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELDER PANTHERS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Ohio's number one-ranked Elder Panthers capped off a season of domination in grand fashion by celebrating its 12th State baseball championship.

Here is my dentist's son, the catcher, Billy O'Conner, and pitcher, Matt Klausing, moments after the win on the front page of the Delhi Press.

The 3-0 shutout over Toledo Start gave the Panthers 28 victories for the year, the most in school history, and marked the third consecutive Division I State baseball championship by a Cincinnati area team following in the footsteps of fellow GCL rivals Moeller back in 2004 and St. Xavier in 2003.

Cincinnati Elder is no stranger to being honored on this House floor for its long-standing tradition of athletic and academic excellence.

It gives me great pleasure to, once again, congratulate Elder High School and its players and coaches and students and teachers and parents on capturing yet another State title. As always, they make the west side of Cincinnati proud.

An Elder Panther family, the Lysaghts, dropped off this T-shirt at my office, celebrating the win, and this La Salle Lancer intends to wear it with pride. Go Elder.

□ 1015

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

(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, this past Monday, June 25, marked the eighth anniversary of the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. At 9:50 p.m. local time, a truck bomb exploded with the force of 20,000 tons of TNT, and 19 Americans were left dead, Americans who were due to return home 2 days later on June 27.

Mr. Speaker, we now know that this was one of the first battles in the global war on terror, and we have since seen other such battles, and other Americans have lost their lives. Now we are engaged in what the President describes as a forward strategy of the war on terror, and he articulated that vision again for the American people 2 nights ago, and I was grateful for his ability to do that.

Mr. Speaker, the recollection of our record in what has happened in the past 10 years' time around the world has so changed everything that we do in this House, and the events of last evening have shown us one more time how the world has changed around us.

I salute the families of the men and women who died at the Khobar Towers. God bless them, God rest their souls, and God bless every one of our American troops serving today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. 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 on the further consideration of H.R. 3058, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 342 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3058.

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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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Mr. MCHUGH in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday June 29, 2005, the amendment by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 194, line 7.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 210, line 18, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 210, line 18, is as follows:

TITLE IX—GENERAL PROVISIONS,
GOVERNMENT-WIDE

DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND CORPORATIONS

SEC. 901. Funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to pay travel to the United States for the immediate family of employees serving abroad in cases of death or life threatening illness of said employee.

SEC. 902. No department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this or any other Act for fiscal year 2006 shall obligate or expend any such funds, unless such department, agency, or instrumentality has in place, and will continue to administer in good faith, a written policy designed to ensure that all of its workplaces are free from the illegal use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances (as defined in the Controlled Substances Act) by the officers and employees of such department, agency, or instrumentality.

SEC. 903. Unless otherwise specifically provided, the maximum amount allowable during the current fiscal year in accordance with section 16 of the Act of August 2, 1946 (60 Stat. 810), for the purchase of any passenger motor vehicle (exclusive of buses, ambulances, law enforcement, and undercover surveillance vehicles), is hereby fixed at \$8,100 except station wagons for which the maximum shall be \$9,100: *Provided*, That

these limits may be exceeded by not to exceed \$3,700 for police-type vehicles, and by not to exceed \$4,000 for special heavy-duty vehicles: *Provided further*, That the limits set forth in this section may not be exceeded by more than 5 percent for electric or hybrid vehicles purchased for demonstration under the provisions of the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1976: *Provided further*, That the limits set forth in this section may be exceeded by the incremental cost of clean alternative fuels vehicles acquired pursuant to Public Law 101-549 over the cost of comparable conventionally fueled vehicles.

SEC. 904. Appropriations of the executive departments and independent establishments for the current fiscal year available for expenses of travel, or for the expenses of the activity concerned, are hereby made available for quarters allowances and cost-of-living allowances, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5922-5924.

SEC. 905. Unless otherwise specified during the current fiscal year, no part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be used to pay the compensation of any officer or employee of the Government of the United States (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the Government of the United States) whose post of duty is in the continental United States unless such person: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) is a person in the service of the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act who, being eligible for citizenship, has filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States prior to such date and is actually residing in the United States; (3) is a person who owes allegiance to the United States; (4) is an alien from Cuba, Poland, South Vietnam, the countries of the former Soviet Union, or the Baltic countries lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; (5) is a South Vietnamese, Cambodian, or Laotian refugee paroled in the United States after January 1, 1975; or (6) is a national of the People's Republic of China who qualifies for adjustment of status pursuant to the Chinese Student Protection Act of 1992: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, an affidavit signed by any such person shall be considered prima facie evidence that the requirements of this section with respect to his or her status have been complied with: *Provided further*, That any person making a false affidavit shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, shall be fined no more than \$4,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both: *Provided further*, That the above penal clause shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other provisions of existing law: *Provided further*, That any payment made to any officer or employee contrary to the provisions of this section shall be recoverable in action by the Federal Government. This section shall not apply to citizens of Ireland, Israel, or the Republic of the Philippines, or to nationals of those countries allied with the United States in a current defense effort, or to international broadcasters employed by the United States Information Agency, or to temporary employment of translators, or to temporary employment in the field service (not to exceed 60 days) as a result of emergencies.

SEC. 906. Appropriations available to any department or agency during the current fiscal year for necessary expenses, including maintenance or operating expenses, shall also be available for payment to the General Services Administration for charges for space and services and those expenses of renovation and alteration of buildings and facilities which constitute public improvements performed in accordance with the

Public Buildings Act of 1959 (73 Stat. 749), the Public Buildings Amendments of 1972 (87 Stat. 216), or other applicable law.

SEC. 907. In addition to funds provided in this or any other Act, all Federal agencies are authorized to receive and use funds resulting from the sale of materials, including Federal records disposed of pursuant to a records schedule recovered through recycling or waste prevention programs. Such funds shall be available until expended for the following purposes:

(1) Acquisition, waste reduction and prevention, and recycling programs as described in Executive Order No. 13101 (September 14, 1998), including any such programs adopted prior to the effective date of the Executive order.

(2) Other Federal agency environmental management programs, including, but not limited to, the development and implementation of hazardous waste management and pollution prevention programs.

(3) Other employee programs as authorized by law or as deemed appropriate by the head of the Federal agency.

SEC. 908. Funds made available by this or any other Act for administrative expenses in the current fiscal year of the corporations and agencies subject to chapter 91 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available, in addition to objects for which such funds are otherwise available, for rent in the District of Columbia; services in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3109; and the objects specified under this head, all the provisions of which shall be applicable to the expenditure of such funds unless otherwise specified in the Act by which they are made available: *Provided*, That in the event any functions budgeted as administrative expenses are subsequently transferred to or paid from other funds, the limitations on administrative expenses shall be correspondingly reduced.

SEC. 909. No part of any appropriation for the current fiscal year contained in this or any other Act shall be paid to any person for the filling of any position for which he or she has been nominated after the Senate has voted not to approve the nomination of said person.

SEC. 910. No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be available for interagency financing of boards (except Federal Executive Boards), commissions, councils, committees, or similar groups (whether or not they are interagency entities) which do not have a prior and specific statutory approval to receive financial support from more than one agency or instrumentality.

SEC. 911. Funds made available by this or any other Act to the Postal Service Fund (39 U.S.C. 2003) shall be available for employment of guards for all buildings and areas owned or occupied by the Postal Service or under the charge and control of the Postal Service. The Postal Service may give such guards with respect to such property, any of the powers of special policemen provided under 40 U.S.C. 1315. The Postmaster General, or his designee, may take any action that the Secretary of Homeland Security may take under such section with respect to that property.

SEC. 912. None of the funds made available pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall be used to implement, administer, or enforce any regulation which has been disapproved pursuant to a joint resolution duly adopted in accordance with the applicable law of the United States.

SEC. 913. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in this section, no part of any of the funds appropriated for fiscal year 2006, by this or any other Act, may be used to pay any prevailing rate employee described in