

J is faster, more powerful, more reliable, easier to maintain, more technologically advanced and capable of flying higher and farther than ever before. Today, both U.S. and Allied C-130Js are performing operational missions in the Middle East in support of our warfighters, as well in support of the tsunami relief effort in Southeast Asia. The J is performing superbly and testimonials from the pilots using the new planes have been extremely positive.

Mr. Speaker, there is a glimmer of hope that the Department of Defense has realized the negative implications of this decision in the short and long term and may be working to reverse the decision. But we in Congress must continue to do everything in our power to ensure America's ability to transport troops and supplies and to perform critical humanitarian missions both today and in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

There was no objection.

BUDGET AND TRADE DEFICITS CONTINUE TO RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last week the President sent his 2006 budget request to Congress. Just yesterday, he added to that request for supplemental funds for fiscal year 2005. His own estimate shows staggering budget deficits to be handed down to the next generation, and to many future generations. In fact, this administration is setting new world records all over the place. Not only record budget deficits but also, importantly, record trade deficits. In fact, they have now created a two-headed monster. This administration is exporting its bankrupt economic policies around the world through failed trade policies. Just look at the numbers. Never has America had trade deficits over one-half trillion dollars. Last year, \$617 billion, every year going deeper and deeper, sinking deeper into trade deficit with our trade competitors around the world. This is not an issue for Republicans and Democrats.

This is going to hit everybody's wallets, from Wall Street to Main Street.

The trade deficit for calendar year 2004 smashed every record on the books. That is right. Over one-half trillion dollars. Now, who are these deficits with? Let us start with China. If you go out to San Diego and Los Angeles harbor, you can see ships coming in from Asia as far as the eye can see. Every single year of this Presidency, we have seen the red ink from China get deeper and deeper. In fact, last year we were in debt to them, just for last year, over \$162 billion. That was up almost a third from the prior year. The manufacturing portion of our overall deficit worsened to \$465.8 billion, 16 percent more than the record set the prior year. With every billion dollars, 20,000 more jobs in this country vanish. The deficit in advanced technology products, which was supposed to save us, worsened to \$37 billion in 2004, fully 38 percent worse than the record the year before. One can look in every sector with almost every major trading nation and America is deep in red ink.

One other dubious record. People talk about NAFTA. Here are the figures for Canada for 2003, the highest level on record, over \$67 billion. And with Mexico under NAFTA, the budget last year was close to \$50 billion, nearly a \$110.8 billion deficit in trade with those two countries under NAFTA in 2004. The net result of all of this is the weakening of our dollar. Even Bloomberg says the steady decline in the dollar is likely to resume again. Secretary Snow says the administration believes in a strong dollar, but what is happening does not match his rhetoric. Meanwhile, prices go up for our consumers in everything, including petroleum, which is the basis for gasoline, and prices have been going up there.

Make no mistake, America ends up owing somebody else. But, in fact, it is our children and grandchildren that end up becoming less independent as a nation because of these deficits as we see one industry after another decline. The President's trade deficits and budget deficits are setting these all-time records.

I ask myself, in the major sector of deficit, which is oil, when is America going to wake up? When are we going to have real leadership here in Washington for new sources of energy so that these numbers stop heading in a downward direction? Dependence is not what America's founders had in mind. They did not envision an America in hock to the world. We want an America that is strong and independent, not saddled with debt and beholden to foreign banks.

It is time to tell our President to stop; stop letting our trade partners walk all over us; stop negotiating trade deals like CAFTA that hurt our workers and give workers in other places no chance to improve their lot when there are no labor standards and environmental standards that are enforceable;

stop trading away America's economic future. America needs a positive economic future that will help create good jobs, new wealth and new opportunity, not the Bush administration's bankrupt trade and fiscal policies that send our jobs overseas, our wealth to banks in Beijing and Saudi Arabia, to whom we now owe interest, and the bill for all this nonsense to our children and grandchildren.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RAY RANGEL'S SERVICE AND ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional service of Staff Sergeant Ray Rangel and the ultimate sacrifice he paid to the country.

Ray Rangel had hopes of returning home this Valentine's Day. Unfortunately, a heroic act prevented this from happening. He was part of the Seventh Civil Engineering Squadron that was ordered to stay in Iraq. At age 29, Ray had been in Iraq since September and was proud to be part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Ray Rangel's ultimate sacrifice for his country devastated his parents, Federico and Priscilla Rangel. He was their only son and he acknowledged to them that if anything ever happened to him while he was overseas, to remember that he was doing what he loved to do and, that is, helping people.

A San Antonio native, Ray had attended South San Antonio High School and was a defensive back on the high school football team. He was well liked by all who met him. His sense of humor and his habit of cracking jokes earned him the nickname "Crazy Ray" among his teammates. After high school, Ray married his high school sweetheart, Selena, and together they had three sons and a daughter. Despite their busy schedules, Ray coached his oldest son's youth football team while Selena coached the cheerleaders for their daughter. Their three sons are now ages 7 to 11 and their daughter is now 5 years old.

Federico and Cynthia remember Ray as a devoted son and father. Through his own example, Ray taught his children of respect, discipline and service. Two years ago when Cynthia had to have surgery, Ray took leave in order to spend time and take care of her. In his spare time he would often take friends and family on fishing and hunting outings.

Growing up in a family with a history of military service, Ray enlisted in the Air Force soon after his high school graduation in 1994. This year would have been his 11th year serving in the U.S. Air Force. Ray had considered going to college after serving out his first enlistment contract. However, he found the Air Force to be such a rewarding experience and the people so

inviting that he decided to re-enlist and serve in the Air Force as a lifelong career.

Ray was well aware of the dangers that he would have to endure during his time in Iraq. He had to deal with being away from his family and friends. It was especially hard since Ray had to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas apart from his family and his wife and his young children for the first time. To cope with tough times, Ray would often make jokes to his family while he was away, saying that he was one of the lucky ones.

A firefighter based at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas, Ray lost his life trying to rescue fellow soldiers that had fallen into a canal while their particular Humvee flipped over. Ray's mother was told that her son was the first to jump in the water to help the soldiers, and his selflessness in this act demonstrates the best a person can be.

Ray Rangel is the first Air Force member from South Texas killed in Iraq. He is also the ninth U.S. service member from the San Antonio area and the 42nd from South Texas killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ray's parents remember that despite criticism leveled at President Bush over the U.S. occupation of Iraq, Rangel did not want his family to be bitter if he got hurt or killed. He would often remind his family that he loved his country and he wanted to serve the best that he could.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have had this time to honor Staff Sergeant Ray Rangel, a true hero that exemplifies the noblest qualities of the human spirit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

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

There was no objection.

WAR FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the War Funding Accountability Act, a bill that has been endorsed by the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate to conservative Democrats with reputations for being fiscal and defense hawks. The members of the Blue Dog Coalition are some of the most pro-defense, pro-military Members of Congress, from either party. We are dedicated to seeing our troops achieve success in Iraq and Afghanistan and we applaud the Iraqi people for their recent election success.

The War Funding Accountability Act, sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), is about those troops, the dedicated men and women of the United States Armed Forces who put their lives on the line every single day to defend our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I believe, as people across our Nation believe, that we must provide our men and women in uniform the resources they need to complete their mission as safely and securely as possible. Our military has performed brilliantly, protecting civilians, maintaining order and promoting democracy while facing threats and guerilla-style attacks every single day. My support for our troops is unwavering, and for that reason I have supported the supplemental requests that have come before this Congress. However, the job of Congress is to make sure that the money we are spending in Iraq is going to the appropriate places, going to our troops to keep our Nation's sons and daughters out of harm's way. We must make sure this job gets done right and gets done as soon as humanly possible.

So until all of our troops are withdrawn from Iraq, we need an accurate accounting method of where the money is being spent so that we can make sure our soldiers are adequately equipped and prepared. Accountability is not only patriotic, it is often determining of success or failure. If our troops do not have proper equipment, such as vehicles without armor plating, rather than them scrapping for scrap metal for do-it-yourself armor plating, we as Members of Congress can and should do something about it by redirecting the money.

The Department of Defense has received \$201 billion to date for the war on terrorism. While they have provided an allocation of some of these funds, they have not given Congress a full accounting. The White House has announced today that it will request \$81 billion more for these operations in its fiscal year 2005 wartime supplemental, including \$75 billion for the DOD. In addition, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the costs for the war could approach \$500 billion between this year and the year 2015.

There have been reports of wasteful spending. One private contractor, for example, overcharged DOD by \$61 mil-

lion to import gasoline into Iraq from Kuwait where the government agency provided the same service for less than one-third the price.

□ 2000

The same contractor reportedly charged taxpayers \$10,000 a day for unauthorized and unnecessary expenses at the Kuwait Hilton, even though the same people could have stayed in air-conditioned tents like those used by our troops for less than \$600 per day. The entire justification for having private companies is that contractors can supposedly save the taxpayers money, not cost the taxpayers dollars.

With the War Accountability Act we have an opportunity to regain the oversight voice that has been lost for too long.

Congress should not give up its oversight powers, Mr. Speaker, the power of the purse. And it should not write the Defense Department a blank check. The President needs to be held accountable for where our money is going. This is a responsibility that we have to the men and women serving in combat, to their parents, and to all American taxpayers who are footing the bill to ensure that the billions of dollars in supplemental funds are going to be spent in the most effective and efficient way possible.

I hope all of my colleagues will stand with the Blue Dog Coalition and start to support the War Funding Accountability Act, an act for America.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush submitted his budget to Congress last week, he said it represented his values and his priorities. If that is indeed the case we really should question both.

One really has to wonder if this budget document represents his priorities. You will remember 2 weeks ago during his State of the Union address, President Bush spent the majority of that speech talking about his Social Security privatization plan and the continued war in Iraq. Supposedly these were his priorities for the upcoming year.

And yet the President did not include the additional \$80 billion needed to fund the Iraq war or the trillions that will be needed over the next decade to fund his costly Social Security privatization proposal in his budget.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for the President to reverse our Nation's fiscal collapse if he continues to send incomplete budgets to Capitol Hill. The President can say that he is going to cut the Federal deficit in half in several years; but the fact is, that cannot happen if the President does not send us an honest budget.