

any other country on the planet. It unwillingly hosts a number of radical terrorist groups that have killed hundreds of Indonesian citizens and hundreds of foreign visitors to Indonesia's shores. It sits astride vital trade routes linking the Middle East to the Pacific.

We want Indonesia to succeed, and we will continue to support the Indonesia Government and the Indonesian people. But uncritical assistance to the TNI will only hinder Indonesia's democratic transition and undermine our interests in that country.

We know Indonesia faces a serious terrorist threat and that the Indonesian authorities must act to protect their nation's citizens from that threat. We have urged closer U.S. cooperation with Indonesian police authorities to face down terrorism, and we support efforts to fund, train, and equip the Indonesian police's antiterrorism units. We applaud the Indonesian Government's determination to vet all members of such units to make sure they have not been involved in human rights violations.

We do not dispute that the TNI could play an important and appropriate role in Indonesia's own fight against terrorism, but we cannot ignore the institution's history of human rights abuses. We should not lend American support to an unreformed TNI, a TNI that no Indonesian democratic institution can hold accountable for human rights abuses. Congress clearly expressed its intent in this regard.

We will find ourselves on shaky ground—and place our counterterrorism strategy in the region at risk—if we do not press for reforms in an Army that considers itself above the law.

I strongly urge the State Department to reconsider its decision to waive in such a preemptory fashion the restrictions placed upon military assistance to Indonesia by this Congress. The administration needs to provide Congress with a better sense of the benchmarks it is using to encourage TNI reform and measure TNI progress. And it needs to use its waiver authority more judiciously if it expects Congress to continue granting such authority.

DORRANCE SMITH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Committee on Armed Services favorably reported the nomination of Mr. Dorrance Smith to the full Senate. Mr. Smith is an experienced and highly accomplished television executive, who has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. I have a copy of Mr. Smith's biography, and I would note that he is a four-time Emmy award winning television producer who spent 9 months in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 where he served as Senior Media Advisor to Ambassador Paul Bremer. I have met with Mr. Smith on several occasions. I believe him to be highly qualified, and I fully support his nomination.

At a full Armed Services Committee hearing on October 25, 2005, and later, at an executive session of the Armed Services Committee on December 13, at which Mr. Smith was present, he fully and respectfully answered all questions posed to him. Many questions focused on an op ed article he wrote as a private citizen that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on April 25, 2005. In this article, based on his "in the trenches" experience as Ambassador Bremer's senior media advisor in Baghdad, Mr. Smith questioned the practice relied on by major media outlets in the United States of airing video of insurgent attacks supplied by the Arab satellite news channel Al Jazeera. I am satisfied with Mr. Smith's responses. I would note that no major media outlet, except Al Jazeera, expressed any concern about Mr. Smith's op ed.

The post of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs has been vacant since June 2003. Mr. Smith is an outstanding nominee. I urge favorable, rapid action by the full Senate on his nomination.

I ask unanimous consent that the above-referenced biography be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DORRANCE SMITH

Dorrance Smith is a four-time Emmy award winning television producer, political consultant, and media strategist who has worked over 30 years in television and politics.

Mr. Smith spent nine months in Iraq in 2003–2004 where he served as Senior Media Adviser to Ambassador Paul Bremer. He was responsible for developing a state of the art communications facility in Baghdad for the Coalition Provisional Authority and a public diplomacy strategy for the United States government. In addition, Mr. Smith was asked to overhaul the fledgling Iraqi Media Network. By April, 2004 this effort was deemed so successful that the terrestrial channel—Al Iraqiya—was launched on satellite. For his efforts he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

More recently he has been a consultant to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the 2004 Republican National Convention.

A four time Emmy Award winning ABC News and Sports producer, he has held a number of positions at the network, including serving as the first executive producer of "This Week with David Brinkley."

From 1989 until 1991, Smith was the executive producer of ABC News "Nightline." During his tenure he was responsible for the weeklong "Nightline" series originating from South Africa, which covered the release of Nelson Mandela. The broadcasts won an Emmy award. In addition he served as executive producer of the prime time special "Tragedy at Tiananmen—The Untold Story," which was honored with the duPont Columbia University Award, the Overseas Press Club Award and an Emmy. "Nightline" also won an Emmy in 1991 for outstanding news coverage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Prior to his work on "Nightline," Smith was the executive producer of the number one rated Sunday public affairs program, "This Week with David Brinkley," a post he held from the program's inception in 1981

until 1989. During his tenure the broadcast received the first Joan Barone Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, and was named the Best National TV Interview Discussion Program by the readers of the Washington Journalism Review.

In 1991 Smith left ABC News to become Assistant to the President for Media Affairs at the White House. In this capacity Smith handled all television and radio events involving President Bush, members of the White House staff and Cabinet. In addition his office handled all regional media; coordinated media strategy for administration officials seeking confirmation; and organized the debate preparation during the 1992 political campaign.

In 2001, Smith was designated by FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh to handle all media following the events of September 11th. In this capacity Smith was responsible for FEMA's media strategy for print, radio and television. Smith organized and distributed the now famous FEMA video feeds from Ground Zero. He reorganized the Public Affairs Office to meet the post September 11th media demands.

At ABC News, Smith became executive producer of all weekend news programming in 1980. He was responsible for the production and programming of "World News Saturday," "World News Sunday," "The Weekend Report," and "The Health Show."

Prior to his weekend assignment, Smith was Washington producer of ABC News' "The Iran Crises: America Held Hostage." He also served as ABC News Senior Producer at the 1980 Winter Olympics, the 1984 Winter and Summer Games, and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

From 1978–1979, Smith served as ABC News' White House producer. Smith joined ABC News as a Washington producer in 1977. Previously he was staff assistant to President Gerald Ford.

He began his broadcasting career at ABC Sports in 1973 as an assistant to the producer. In 1974 he was made Manager of Program Planning for ABC's Wide World of Sports.

Smith is a member of the Advisory Council for the George Bush Library in College Station, Texas.

He graduated from Claremont Men's College in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He lives in McLean, Virginia.

FIRST SESSION OF 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. ALLARD. I rise today to speak in review of the first session of this 109th Congress. I have served in the Congress since 1991, and I can say without exaggeration that this year has been the single most productive year I have participated in. As I will detail, we have passed numerous significant legislative items, some of which have languished in Congress for many years. We have stayed a determined course in the global war on terror, maintaining our commitment to our troops and to those eager to adopt a democratic way of life in place of tyranny. We have stayed a proven course to reduce the tax burden on Americans and on American business. Economic indicators in the markets, home ownership data, and employment all illustrate the wisdom of this course. This Congress has shown a very real commitment to principle. While there are those in this body and in the media who would like to deny it,

I am confident that this session of Congress will go down in history as singularly productive and representative of the will of the people.

The list of significant legislative items passed and signed into law this year is extensive. We got off on the right foot by passing a budget resolution out of the Senate on March 17, and the Congress adopted the budget conference report on April 28. This is amazingly early when compared to the struggles we have encountered in recent years. The Budget, as I have said many times before, is a vital blueprint for our work and a responsibility we must assume to serve the taxpayers. I am a member of the Senate Budget Committee and a former member of the House Budget Committee, and I am pleased to say that our chairman in the Senate has been as efficient and principled an advocate for good budgeting policy as I have ever worked with.

In previous years, we have also struggled to complete our work on appropriations legislation. The House, where appropriations measures are to originate, reported every single appropriations bill out of committee by June 21. The Senate passed every bill before October 27. Today, as we wrap up a few remaining issues, all but the Defense and Labor-HHS bills have been signed into law, but it is important to note that these bills were passed by the Senate in October. The leadership on both sides of the Capitol and the members of the various appropriations subcommittees certainly deserve accolades for making such quick work of these difficult legislative items.

Congress passed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act authorizing more than \$286 billion of investment in our national infrastructure. The Congress also took a major step forward this year by passing a comprehensive energy policy. A comprehensive energy policy will help America meet longer-term demands for energy. This policy will encourage greater domestic production, fuel diversity, research and development of new energy technologies, and an across-the-board improvement of energy infrastructure. One piece of this forward-looking policy includes the Oil Shale Development Act, which I worked on with my colleagues. This has been a prominent issue for years, but we have made the right policy decision, and it is one that will benefit millions of Americans in the decades to come. This year, Congress also addressed the energy needs of low-income families by increasing funds for the Low Income Heating Assistance Program, LIHEAP. Increased funding for this program will help those in need as winter grows more cold.

The work we have done on energy and transportation represents historic commitments to the public good. Virtually no aspect of our economic prosperity is unaffected by our fortunes in transportation and energy, and I am

pleased to have been a part of these policy achievements.

After years of opposition that cost consumers untold millions, Congress finally passed the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act, the first major revision to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code since 1978. This law will save approximately \$3 billion a year for consumers through lower interest rates and better products and services. Consumers will further benefit from The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act and the Class Action Fairness Act. The former puts an end to the frivolous lawsuits that sought to financially drain lawful firearms manufacturers for the acts of criminals, and the latter curbs abuses in our courts that have driven costs for consumers up without benefitting the public. Frivolous lawsuits forced the firearms industry to spend nearly \$200 million a year to defend itself from third-party actions and class action lawsuits had grown over 1,000 percent nationwide. Lawyers were getting rich while consumers suffered. These two bills represent a major accomplishment for both consumers and American business. We also passed the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Implementation Act which will benefit American business, consumers, and our neighbors in this hemisphere.

I would like to highlight another recent achievement of this administration and of this Congress that we celebrated this week when the first shipment of U.S. beef since December 2003 arrived in Japan. As my colleagues know the Japan Government recently declared that U.S. beef is every bit as safe as Japanese beef and that the beef trade may resume. This is a tribute to sound science, the hard work of our beef producers, and the diligent work of policymakers. It is with some pride that I note the first shipment of beef to be shipped to Japan was sent from Denver, CO.

In addition to these notable and historically significant accomplishments, the Congress has also passed a more humble pair of consumer-friendly items in the Junk Fax Prevention Act and The Family Entertainment and Copyright Act. These aren't the kinds of bills that the Washington, DC, crowd may see as being vital national issues, but these are issues felt deeply by our constituents and the small business community.

It cannot be overstated that these policies have fostered continued economic growth and prosperity. More than 56,000 jobs were created in our economy in October this year, and more than 4.2 million jobs have been created since May 2003. Unemployment continues to steadily decline as more Americans than ever are working. This is a remarkable feat by policymakers, investors, small businesspeople, and families across the country. Our economy is strong.

Congress continued the national commitment to our men and women in

uniform in a variety of ways this year. Though we await completion on the Department of Defense appropriations bill, we have already passed into law more than \$80 billion for the further prosecution of the war in Iraq, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and aid for our international partners. We have increased the pay of our service men and women with an across-the-board 3.1 percent raise, increased housing allowances, increased bonuses for additional retention and recruiting, and increased specific bonuses for those deployed overseas. We have also increased the maximum life insurance allowed for an insured veteran or service member and secured more than \$140 million for body armor and personal protection.

I am particularly pleased with the steps we have taken to support our troops. Too often policymakers talk the talk without regard to action. It is my hope that we will continue to be responsive and supportive of our troops. The people of the United States are grateful for their dedication and courage. We tackled important veterans health issues this year, as well, by passing the Veterans Medical Services Supplemental. This legislation provided \$1.5 billion to meet our commitment to those who have served our Nation.

The same Defense supplemental appropriations bill included almost a billion dollars in aid for those impacted by the tsunami in the Indian Ocean almost a year ago, including more than \$650 million for the Recovery and Reconstruction Fund.

Though not a legislative accomplishment, this would be a good time to mention the tremendous yield we have seen from the years of work by this administration, the military, and Congress. This year started with Parliamentary elections in Iraq to democratically select those responsible for drafting the framework of a free Iraq. In October, the Iraqi people approved their new constitution, and the mechanisms of democracy are still working. In Afghanistan, after many years of turmoil, we also witnessed the free election of a Prime Minister and of the new Parliament. We must stay this course.

In the past year, we have also enacted a series of legislative proposals to provide relief to families in the gulf region. The unprecedented impact of Hurricane Katrina demanded an immediate response. The Gulf Coast Emergency Water Infrastructure Assistance Act, The Community Disaster Loan Act, The Natural Disaster Student Aid Fairness Act, Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Response and Recovery Act, and Katrina Tax Relief Act, among others, put us on the road to recovery. The pair of emergency supplemental appropriations bills that Congress passed total well over \$65 billion and have provided needed infrastructure, security,

and humanitarian relief. While there is a great deal of work to be done in the Gulf States, Congress has and will continue to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to this region.

Congress also engaged in one of the most important debates we could hope to have as far as our national security is concerned, that of enhancing the security of our borders. This year's Homeland Security Appropriations Act provides unprecedented funding to protect our borders from those who wish to enter illegally. This year we passed more than \$31 billion in new budget authority for the Department of Homeland Security, increasing border security accounts, providing an additional 1,000 border patrol agents, and providing more 220 detention beds.

Among the most high-profile issues of the year were the nominations, hearings, and thus far one confirmation for the U.S. Supreme Court. Not only did the Senate confirm John Roberts to the Court, but Justice Roberts was also named to be the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In the time since Chief Justice Roberts came before the Senate, we have also worked through a pair of nominations, one of which we will take up as our first order of business in the new year. The Roberts nomination demonstrated the value of our system and all of its various parts, working together for a greater good. I look forward to the timely hearings on Judge Alito's nomination and an up-or-down vote on his nomination.

This has been an amazing year of accomplishment for the Congress. As I said earlier, there has not been a more productive year in my time here. As proud as I am of these many accomplishments I would also like to discuss a few accomplishments a little closer to my home, the State of Colorado, where we have had a pretty big year, as well.

One of the ongoing projects I have worked on for many years now is the cleanup of Rocky Flats. This year, we secured more than \$560 million for the final stages of the cleanup. Contrary to what many may expect, this cleanup was completed ahead of time and below projected costs, serving both the region and the taxpayer by cleaning up this facility.

Another long-term project that I have worked on is the destruction of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Depot. By working with the Department of Defense, we have increased funding and maintained good management principles to meet our treaty obligations in the destruction of more than three-quarters of a million chemical weapons on site.

Just down the road from Pueblo is Fort Carson. I recently held a town meeting at Fort Carson to discuss a variety of issues important to that base and to that community, including the political process that accompanies BRAC. We secured more than \$120 million in military construction funds for new barracks and training at the facil-

ity as well as securing funds to prevent encroachment at the base. Even further on up the road is another jewel in America's military infrastructure, the U.S. Air Force Academy. Our ongoing efforts to assess progress and address problems at the Academy have been very productive thus far, and we secured \$18 million to upgrade academic facilities and family housing this year. It is with some pleasure that I can also say I attended all four board of visitor meetings at the academy this year.

This has also been a year of accomplishment for Colorado's space industry. This year we added \$60 million for military satellite projects in Colorado, secured \$12 million for the space control facility at Peterson Air Force Base, and \$6 million for the space warning facility in Greeley. In keeping with these efforts to modernize and expand our posture in space I held four Space Power Caucus events. Space is indeed a great frontier, and it is one where we must maintain an aggressive stance. Just as it is important that the military sector be moving forward in space, it is equally vital that our workforce and our students learn about space science and perform cutting-edge research. This year we secured more than \$10,000,000 for student space programs at the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, the Challenger Learning Center, and the Space Foundation. The students who will benefit from these programs are our future.

Students in my home State will likewise benefit from our continued support of the University of Colorado's Center for Micro and Nano-technology, which will receive three-quarters of a million dollars for cutting edge scientific research that dwells on the cutting edge. Congress has seen fit to support Colorado State University's Pueblo campus, as well, providing \$250,000 for the Western Forensic Law Enforcement Training Center.

I spoke earlier of the importance of the highway bill and its impact on our Nation's infrastructure. In Colorado, this will translate in to a variety of projects. We secured \$80,000,000 for the T-Rex highway improvement program, \$5 million for the west corridor, and \$9 million for the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies, a statewide coalition of agencies focused on the future of mass transit in my home State. Our successful year of investment in infrastructure includes a variety of projects around the State, including projects such as the Rio Grande bike trail in Garfield County, funding for the Pikes Peak Highway, State Highway 145 from Dolores to Stoner, the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, and Frisco's West Main Street.

In the Agriculture Appropriations Act we secured more than \$300,000 for the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services for the Russian Wheat Aphid Resistance, Stress Tolerance and Quality Enhancement Project, more than 800,000 for infectious disease research to the Center

for Economically Important Infectious Animal Diseases at Colorado State University, and almost \$900,000 for the National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, comprised of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Cornell University, and the University of Georgia.

Our efforts this year also yielded \$400,000 for tamarisk eradication efforts, more than \$10,000,000 for new science and technology facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and \$10,000,000 for design and construction of a new NREL Administrative Facility, and more than \$55,000,000 for the Animas-La Plata project. In addition to securing funding to help my home State combat chronic wasting disease, we worked this year to direct the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service at USDA to begin to promulgate rules for dealing with this disease.

Another ongoing project that I have been pleased to work on with my colleagues is the modernization and expansion of the Centers for Disease Control lab in Ft. Collins. This facility, which provides vital research on vector-borne disease, will receive \$24,000,000 this year.

We have been very fortunate in the State of Colorado. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues in recognizing the vital research, military, and educational facilities housed in Colorado.

On a more personal note, this year I opened a new State office in Durango, CO. I would like to urge colleagues, if they have not been, to pay a visit to this charming mountain community in southwestern Colorado. Durango offers terrific recreation in summer and winter, and I look forward to being able to enhance my constituent service with this new office.

Each of my State offices and my office here in Washington joined with the University of Denver and the University of Northern Colorado this year to host the sixth annual Allard Capitol Conference. This year, we hosted more than 100 Colorado citizens for 3 days of civic learning and participation. This annual conference is one of the most enjoyable things I am able to do with constituents each year.

It has been an extraordinary year of accomplishment for the Congress and for Colorado. We have a tremendous amount of inertia going in to the second half of the 109th Congress, and I look forward to the new year and all of its challenges.

CLERICAL ERROR CLARIFICATION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I submit for the RECORD a clarification to the conference report to accompany S. 1932, the Deficit Reduction Omnibus Reconciliation Act, to correct a clerical error in drafting in Section 11101(a)(2) regarding bankruptcy fees. The language, "in paragraph (2) by striking '\$1,000' and inserting '\$2,750'", refers to the wrong subsection of the bankruptcy code. The language should read, "in paragraph (3) by striking