

I opposed from the beginning and which has already cost our country over \$400 billion. Without a strategy for success or an end in sight, the Congressional Budget Office predicts the price tag for military costs alone will reach \$600 billion by the end of this decade. The added costs of long-term healthcare for our veterans, reconstruction assistance, and economic aid will of course raise this figure exponentially, prompting some of our Nation's best economists to predict that the long-term costs of this war will rise as high as two trillion dollars. Meanwhile, the loss of our best and brightest young people can never be measured.

Going into war without the approval and support of the international community and without a plan for the post-war occupation period has resulted in a Nation less secure now than at the end of major combat operations. Despite the heroic efforts of our military, and the hundreds of billions of dollars poured into Iraq, it is now on the brink of civil war. We've seen how disastrously this administration's strategy, or lack thereof, has played out in Iraq, and yet we continue to circumvent the normal budget process, putting hundreds of billions of dollars on the national credit card without any plan for success, any plan to begin the process of bringing our troops home, or any plan to turn Iraq over to the Iraqi people.

Mr. Chairman, I voted in favor of our last emergency supplemental bill because, among other things, the bill instructed the Department of Defense to provide a detailed report to Congress of its military expenditures in Iraq and Afghanistan to finally allow us to track how the Administration was spending the taxpayer's money. Despite this language, the General Accounting Office reported in November numerous problems in DOD's processes for recording and reporting costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, the GAO found that neither DOD nor Congress can reliably know how much the war is costing, nor the details on how appropriated funds are being spent. The facts are not being made available and Congress is operating and appropriating without them.

Congress is not fulfilling its responsibility to act as the steward of the National Treasury. I, along with several colleagues on both sides of the aisle, have cosponsored legislation that would restore oversight and accountability to our budget process. Several of my colleagues have called for hearings and investigations into how funds are being spent in Iraq. These efforts have been met with near-total resistance by the Majority leadership in the House, and by the administration. Time and again we who are elected to keep close watch over spending are being denied the necessary tools to do our jobs.

The good in this bill is increased funding to address the crisis in Darfur, our fellow Americans affected by the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and the language preventing the Dubai Ports deal from moving forward. I've supported these efforts in the past and were these provisions to be considered properly under normal budget procedures, I would support them.

Whether or not Members support the war in Iraq, it's becoming clearer day by day that the President's policies are unsustainable. Without a change of direction and a clear plan for success, I cannot in good conscience continue to

pass off trillions of dollars to our children and grandchildren to fund this debacle.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 58 on the Millender-McDonald amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF JOHN PETER SMITH HOSPITAL'S DEDICATION TO CHARITY CARE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Peter Smith Hospital as it celebrates 100 years. JPS has been serving the citizens of Tarrant County since its humble beginnings in 1906.

John Peter Smith Hospital has always retained its identity and mission to providing charitable care. Starting with a very small staff and limited space, JPS has tirelessly committed itself to the improvement of their patients' health.

In the past 20 years alone John Peter Smith Hospital has expanded outside the confines of the typical hospital. They have opened an AIDS clinic, a women's center and other multiple clinics across the county. Most recently, John Peter Smith Hospital has established a new hospital with 30 beds in south Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to celebrate John Peter Smith Hospital for its 100th anniversary of actively providing quality health care to the thousands in need. As their representative, as a doctor and as a citizen of the 26th Congressional District, I am grateful for JPS Hospital's service.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. JOSEPH SKRHA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Rev. Dr. Joseph Skrha, as family and friends gather to celebrate his 80th birthday and his continued love and devotion to his North Broadway neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Skrha's joyous life is centered around family, faith and community. His closest confidant, his wife of nearly fifty-two years, Betts, along with their children—Joseph Ray, Betsy, John, the memory of their beloved son, Paul, his son-in-law Daniel, daughter-in-law Patricia and grandchildren, Katie, Christopher, Rebecca and Nathaniel—are the guiding stars of his life, illuminating a path they walk to-

gether—a journey of hope, strength and healing that he continues to share with the residents of the North Broadway community.

Dr. Skrha was born, raised and still lives on Broadway Avenue in Cleveland—in the heart of the neighborhood that he's served his entire life. He graduated with honors from both John Carroll University and Loyola University Medical School, completed his residency at St. Alexis Hospital then focused on establishing a family medical practice. Dr. Skrha could have practiced anywhere, but he turned down every offer to move away from the neighborhood that personifies the word 'home.' As a caring physician and an ordained Roman Catholic Deacon, Dr. Skrha's dedicated service has softened the hard urban edges of the North Broadway neighborhood. Dr. and Mrs. Skrha's united focus on making a difference in their community has not wavered. They continue to channel their social activism into numerous civic endeavors, including their volunteer efforts on behalf of the University Settlement, The Broadway School of Music and the Arts, and the Cleveland Sight Center.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of Rev. Dr. Joseph Skrha, as we join with his family and friends to celebrate his 80th birthday. Dr. Skrha's keen mind, compassionate heart and gentle energy continues to inspire, energize and strengthen the lives of the residents of North Broadway and far beyond—including my own. I wish Dr. Skrha an abundance of health, peace and happiness in his continued journey of faith and hope, today and for all time.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RAYMOND FLOYD

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Raymond Floyd for his service to our Nation, the game of golf and the Masters Tournament. Few events in the world of sports can compare to the pageantry, beauty and grace of the Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. And there are even fewer individuals who have contributed to that prestige as much as Raymond Floyd.

Early in his career Raymond Floyd became a role model for young people with his dedication to the game of golf, his family, and family values.

Raymond was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1992, he was honored as Golf World's "Man of the Year." Then, in 1994, the Floyd family was named "Golf's Family of the Year" by Golf Week magazine.

Raymond Floyd's record in golf includes 62 victories worldwide. He won two PGA Championships, one Masters Championship, and one U.S. Open Championship. He played in eight Ryder Cup competitions and served as captain for another Ryder Cup Team. He holds numerous scoring and course records. He is also the only player to win on both the PGA and Senior PGA Tour in the same year. He has also joined the legendary Sam Snead in winning during each of his four decades on the professional tour.

In addition to his accomplishments playing on the course, Raymond Floyd has made a

name for himself in the art of golf course design. His understanding of the game of golf, combined with a desire to create courses that are both beautiful and challenging has resulted in numerous quality golf courses.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond Floyd is among the names of the other greats in golf history. His accomplishments on and off the course will live forever.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 57 on the Neugebauer amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

#### CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS WESLEYAN BASKETBALL TEAM

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Texas Wesleyan Basketball Team on their victory over Oklahoma City for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Division I Men's Basketball Championship at Municipal Auditorium.

The unseeded Rams won the final game 67–65 to become the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Championship. The victory came when the Rams' senior guard, Ben Hunt, hit a three-point shot with 0.2 seconds remaining in the game. Senior forward Trevor Meier managed to tie the score at 64–64 which paved the way for Texas Wesleyan's climatic finish.

Additional honors came to individual team members when Evan Patterson was selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player and Head Coach, Terry Waldrop, was named the Rawlings-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Coach of the Year. The championship victory marked the first NAIA Division I Championship for Texas Wesleyan.

This victory was a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Terry Waldrop, Texas Wesleyan President Harold Jeffcoat, as well as the members of the Texas Wesleyan Basketball Team. I am honored to serve as their U.S. Representative.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. TIM CHESLEY

### HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the fine work and achievements of one of my constituents in Western North Carolina, Mr. Tim Chesley. Mr.

Chesley serves as an engineer for the National Forests in North Carolina and recently earned the U.S. Forest Service's National Managerial Engineer of the Year award.

A Forest Service employee for 30 years, Tim Chesley garnered this prestigious award for his outstanding management of programs, projects and employees. "His extraordinary response to the massive destruction, that resulted from the remnants of three hurricanes in September of 2004, plus his long-standing leadership as the assistant forest engineer for the past 22 years merits this award," wrote Forest engineer Lynn Hicks in the nomination letter.

Mr. Chesley was selected as the deputy planning chief and engineering liaison, when an incident command team was formed, after flooding from the hurricanes wrecked havoc on Forest Service lands over a two-week period sixteen months ago. Working six days a week, he coordinated the planning, design, reconstruction, and contract administration for the repair of hundreds of miles of National Forest roads and trails and for nearly 50 bridges as well as for campgrounds, fisheries, offices and other Forest Service facilities.

Mr. Chesley continues to coordinate the administration of contracts that will exceed \$35 million, and in July he helped secure another \$5.5 million in Emergency Relief of Federally Owned Roads funding. He was also responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of more than 150 engineering employees who have come to North Carolina, from across the country on temporary assignment, to assist with the storm recovery effort. As a manager for most of his career, he has supervised more than 30 people, including trainees, technicians and professionals. He is currently supervising seven engineering trainees, who were sent to North Carolina for one year in support of the hurricane damage recovery work.

A native of Conway, New Hampshire, Mr. Chesley received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, and his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and Transportation Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to his professional responsibilities, he has taken the lead on several major community projects, including raising funds and constructing playgrounds for Asheville's Kenilworth community and for Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Hendersonville. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Asheville Kiwanis Club where he has been a member for more than ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues in the House will be most appreciative of Mr. Chesley's devotion and hard work at the United States Forest Service. I am proud to announce that he will be presented the U.S. Forest Service's National Managerial Engineer of the Year award at a formal ceremony in Washington, DC on April 3, 2006.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, during rollcall vote No. 56 on the Sabo

amendment to H.R. 4939, I was on a leave of absence due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIEL MCPHERSON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel McPherson who, due to his superior performance, received the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches 2A honor as Player of the Year after scoring 26 points in the Lions' semifinal win over Tahoka High School.

As one of Ponder High's leading basketball players, Daniel, a 6–2 senior forward, manages to give his absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. He is aware that victory is a combined effort and would not have been possible if it was not for the incredible sense of teamwork put forth by all athletes.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Daniel McPherson and wish him the best of luck in his academic and athletic career.

#### TRIBUTE TO AGNES DALE SMITH

### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because on April 2, 2006, Agnes Dale Smith will celebrate her 100th birthday. Those who know and love her call her "Aggie" and she was born in Willow Hill, Illinois, in 1906. Such longevity is truly special and certainly deserves to be recognized and respected. It is truly amazing to think of all that America has experienced in the past century and to know that Aggie has witnessed it all.

In 1925, Aggie graduated from Robinson High School in Robinson, Illinois, where she served as Vice President of her senior class. She also wrote for the school newspaper and played intramural basketball and field hockey. On October 16, 1930, Aggie married Victor L. Smith. They would have one daughter, Emily Carol. Aggie went on to earn her Associate in Science degree from Vincennes University in 1967. Aggie then studied at Trinity College in Dublin during the summer of 1969. She also studied at American University in Washington D.C. as well as four other mid-western locations, including Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Illinois.

During her life, Aggie has seen and experienced much. For instance, she was appointed as a Volunteer Services Director during World War II and traveled to Chicago on three occasions to attend conferences. She also witnessed the investiture of Prince Charles in Wales. Aggie has attended four Republican National Conventions in her lifetime. She was elected National Vice President of Delta Theta Tau philanthropic sorority. Aggie also proudly served the Illinois Daughters of the Revolution as Division VI director for two years. In 1987, Aggie was named a Distinguished Citizen by the Robinson Chamber of Commerce.