

Mr. Speaker, please let it be known that on this 24th day of May in 2006, that the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the contributions and achievements of John "J.J." Bouma and his 13 friends to raise awareness about ALS and wishes them well with their continued efforts.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KUBA FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Kuba, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Kuba for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING STAFF DEDICATION
TO FREEDOM

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank a very special group of dedicated Americans who have spent considerable energy assisting me in authoring this year's Republican Study Committee—RSC—budget: the Contract with America Renewed.

Russell Vought, the policy director at the RSC, and Stephen Sepp, my legislative director, dedicated themselves this spring to helping me compile a budget that reflected the spirit of the first budget that the new Republican majority passed in 1995. I am very proud of the work that Russ and Stephen produced, and they deserve special recognition for their dedication to the advancement of freedom.

Additionally, I would like to thank the valuable members of my Washington, DC, staff who assisted with this effort: Mike Walz, Leigh Carter, Jennifer Daniels, Jamie Notman, Kyle Jackson, John Martin and Melanie Davis. Each individual provided legislative and administrative support for me during this extremely demanding project, and I am grateful for their service.

I would also like to thank my staff located in the Fifth District of Texas. Each and every one of them contributed to this budget, and I would like to publicly recognize Richard Sanders, Rebekah Kay, Margaret Smith, Barbara Luce, Beth Peters and Amanda Hodges. I am personally indebted to them for their service and sacrifice to the cause of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO KIPP UJIMA VILLAGE
ACADEMY EIGHTH GRADERS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the eighth graders at KIPP Ujima Village Academy, a top performing middle school in northwest Baltimore. KIPP is an acronym for Knowledge is Power Program and is part of a network of free college-preparatory public schools in under-resourced communities throughout the United States. Established in the summer of 2002 in Baltimore, these eighth graders at KIPP are recognized as the first graduating class at this outstanding school.

These students have spent the past 4 years completing a rigorous program. The school day begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5:30 p.m. They also participate in a mandatory 3-week summer program and attend educational activities on Saturdays throughout the school year.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that these students and their families face challenges, with more than 87 percent qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches. Yet, there are no entrance requirements or selection criteria. The students are chosen through a lottery of all students who live in the zone and want to attend the school.

The results, though, are remarkable: Students excel academically, develop confidence and leadership skills, and experience the world through local and out-of-State field lessons. And after 4 years at KIPP, many of these students have earned acceptance to competitive college preparatory high schools throughout Maryland. In fact, KIPP Ujima Village Academy has one of only two Baltimore City public middle schools that achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in 2005.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the KIPP Ujima Village Academy eighth graders on their graduation and in wishing them the best of luck in the future.

H.R. 5122, NATIONAL DEFENSE AU-
THORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2007

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FY 2007 Department of Defense Authorization bill. This legislation includes many necessary provisions to improve the quality of life for our military and their families. I strongly support the 2.7 percent pay raise for active duty members and the funding increases for equipment and body armor.

The legislation also includes an important provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide Congress with a report on the Department's 10-year strategy for addressing threats related to Iran, Iraq and the Middle East. It is critical that our country deals with these complicated issues in a thoughtful and deliberate

way with a clear plan for a successful outcome.

However, I do have some very real and serious concerns about the bill. First, this legislation increases co-pays for military families that purchase their prescription drugs from a pharmacy. While I am pleased that the committee rejected the President's proposal for Tricare premium increases, it is unfair to add to the out of pocket health care costs of our military men and women that serve our country.

This Congress has the responsibility to have a real discussion about the future costs to the American taxpayer of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead, H.R. 5122 includes authorization for a \$50 billion bridge fund for the costs of the wars once again through supplemental funding. We are entering our fifth year in Afghanistan and our fourth year in Iraq. It is time for this Administration and Republican House leadership to be honest about providing for the costs of these conflicts and account for these dollars in the regular budgeting process rather than passing the entire cost on to our children and grandchildren.

I am also extremely disappointed that the Majority would not accept an amendment offered by Mr. ISRAEL regarding military chaplains. Mr. Chair, this amendment simply would have added language requiring that chaplains show "sensitivity, respect, and tolerance" for members of the military of all faiths. It continues to guarantee that military chaplains pray in accordance with their own faith but would have realigned the language with current military guidelines.

However, overall this bill makes important changes that will increase the safety and quality of life of our military and their families. I am proud to support our troops serving around the world and at home and to vote in favor of this bill today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACK
PORRINO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Porrino for his years of dedicated military service and for his commitment to serving the community.

Jack was born in Italy and came to the United States when he was 8-years-old. At age 18, he became a United States Citizen. Jack enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1969, and began what was to become a distinguished career in the service of this country. He served in the Air Force from September 1969 to May 1972. He then joined the Air National Guard, where he served until October 1989. After 20 years of service, Jack retired from the Armed Services with the rank of Master Sergeant.

In 1993, Jack started working as a groundskeeper at the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. Within a year, he was promoted to Superintendent of the Cemetery and maintains that position to this day. As Superintendent, Jack has had an overwhelming influence on the improvement of the Cemetery. He established an aggressive fundraising effort by instituting several programs to promote donations

and recruit volunteers. As a result of the programs, countless individuals have donated time and funds that enabled the Cemetery to purchase trees, benches, pavers, floral vases and other items that have improved the aesthetic value and made it easier for individuals to pay their respects to the veterans who are interred at the Cemetery. During Jack's tenure as Superintendent, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has undergone many expansions and has become the second busiest cemetery in the Nation. As part of the expansion and improvement efforts, Jack redesigned the monument section, converted several areas to water efficient desert landscaping, and assisted in the building of the Cemetery Chapel. As the final resting place for over 20,000 of our Nation's military heroes, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has truly become a beautiful place to honor those veterans. This is due, in no small part, to Jack Porrino's dedication to making the Cemetery the best it can be.

In addition to his dedication to the Veterans' Cemetery, Jack is committed to strong family values and community involvement. He and his wife Kathleen have been married for 36 years. Together, they have three children and one grandchild. Jack coaches Little League Sports and serves on the Board of Directors in his Home Owners Association. He also teaches Bible study classes at his church for children and adults and regularly speaks to Veterans' and civilian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Jack Porrino. He has dedicated his life to serving his country and honoring America's Veterans. As a result of his leadership and advocacy, the Southern Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery has become a place of dignity, honor and beauty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSE
OLLERVIDES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jose Ollervides, a highly regarded anchor with KLDO TV News, a subdivision of Univision. He was recently honored by the Texas State Teachers Association with the prestigious Texas School Bell Award for his excellent coverage on educational issues that affects teachers and students in the State of Texas.

Mr. Ollervides is a highly intelligent, driven professional who is well-regarded in his community and among his peers in the broadcasting industry. He graduated from Universidad Del Noreste, in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico with a Licenciado in Ciencias De La Comunicacion, which is similar to a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.

Within ten years of his graduation from Universidad del Noreste in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico, he attained the prestigious position of being a television reporter for the KLDO TV Station, an affiliate of Univision in Laredo, Texas. The station was rated by Nielsen as #1 for the last five years, where due to his strong work ethic, he was instrumental in reporting important news and events for the community of Laredo, Texas,

and other affiliates such as KWEX TV Station in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the great honor bestowed upon Mr. Jose Ollervides by the Texas State Teachers Association.

H.R. 4297, TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican's tax reconciliation bill. This legislation is a cynical tax giveaway for the wealthy paid for by slashing services critical to families and heaping debt on future generations.

H.R. 4297 includes \$70 billion in tax breaks—primarily an extension of capital gains and dividend tax cuts. Almost half of that \$70 billion will benefit those making over \$1 million a year. In Minnesota, 68 percent of the benefit of this bill will go to only 2 percent of taxpayers. Those making \$200,000 or more will see an average benefit of over \$6,000, while those making under \$75,000 will see a return of only \$55 on average.

The Majority party has focused tax relief on a chosen few rather than providing tax relief for everyone. Even though tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003 have already provided millionaires with an average tax cut of \$109,000, Republicans have again chosen to prioritize further gains to those who need it the least at the expense of middle-class families. The alternative minimum tax, which is a critical problem facing middle-class families, is shortchanged by this proposal. This bill provides only a one-year extension instead of honestly dealing with this issue. In addition, because these tax cuts are partially paid for by cuts to student loans and health care, working men and women are paying twice in this Republican plan.

This bill also fails to address critical issues such as extending the research and development tax credit, the tax deduction for student loans, and the deduction of state and local taxes—provisions that make an enormous difference in the lives of families across the country. For example, the student loan tax deduction provides opportunities for more families to access higher education, resulting in better paying jobs, which fuels our economy.

Our national debt is nearly \$9 trillion. In the last 5 years, President Bush has borrowed more than \$1 trillion from foreign governments and financial institutions. It is clearly not the time to add billions of dollars to the debt in order to provide more wealth for those most fortunate. This is a fiscally and morally irresponsible plan and should be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not reflect the priorities of Minnesota or American families. With our country facing a growing deficit, a stagnant job economy, and spiking gas prices, it is not the time for reckless spending through tax cuts. Democrats have offered an alternative that targets relief for families without adding to the debt burden facing our children and grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless bill and support economic policies that

benefit families, increase our competitiveness, and reduce our national debt.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NEVADA
NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Nevada National Guard, and I honor them today for their service to the State of Nevada and our Nation.

The Nevada National Guard is comprised of 2,072 soldiers and 994 airman totaling 3,066 members. The Nevada National Guard has participated in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle. According to the Army National Guard's Bureau of Statistics, Nevada's contributions in support of these missions ranked among the top in the nation in overall percentages during 2003 and 2004. The following seven Units of the Nevada National Guard and Air National Guard have participated in the global war on terror: 1864th Transportation Company, Kuwait/Iraq; 1/21st Cavalry, Ft. Irwin, CA; D Company, 113th Aviation, Afghanistan; Detachment 45, OSA, Kuwait; 593 Transportation Company, Iraq; 152nd Airlift Wing & 152nd Intelligence Sqdn, Iraq; 192nd Airlift Sqdn & 152nd Maintenance Sqdn, Puerto Rico.

In addition to their national mission, the Nevada National Guard serves the State through a number of regional missions which include firefighting, security assistance, and natural disaster response. In August of 2005 the National Guard responded to Louisiana's call for help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Rita by providing emergency management assistance, security, and evacuation assistance to the gulf coast region.

The Nevada National Guard is a key player in Nevada's drug control and prevention efforts. By partnering with Federal, State, and local officials and providing intelligence gathering expertise, the Guard is helping Nevada communities win the war on drugs. Nevada's Guard continues to serve our Nation throughout the world in the global war on terror and is ready to respond at a moment's notice whenever needed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute the members of Nevada's National Guard and their families, and I honor them today for their service and dedication to our great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN W.
MONTOKA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John W. Montoya, chief patrol agent for the Laredo Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, for his incredible dedication to the city of Laredo, TX. He will retire from his long and distinguished 29 years of service in the Border Patrol on Friday, May 26, 2006.

Mr. Montoya was born in Albuquerque, NM, where he spent his youth, and later attended