

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

El Paso Community College where he earned an associate in business administration. He also attended the University of New Mexico and the University of Texas at El Paso. He and his wife, Silvia, have six children.

Mr. Montoya first joined the Border Patrol in 1976 as an agent in the El Paso Sector. In 1982, he was promoted to supervisory Border Patrol agent, a position he held until 1987, when he was promoted to deputy regional chief of the Border Patrol for the INS Regional Office in Dallas, TX. In 1990, he left the regional office for an appointment as assistant chief patrol agent for the Del Rio Sector, and after another tour in the Dallas Regional Office as assistant regional director for Border Patrol, he returned to Del Rio for the position of deputy chief patrol agent. In 2004, he was appointed and selected for the Senior Executive Service, SES, which is made up of leaders with proven executive skills, who have a strong commitment to government and to public service.

As chief patrol agent for the Laredo Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, he was responsible for an area of 110,000 square miles and 172 river miles of border, with a large staff of 987 agents on board and 126 support personnel. The Laredo Sector extends as far north as the Oklahoma border and includes the cities of Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and Houston. His service in law enforcement and protecting our border is truly commendable. It is always sad to lose such a valued member of the law enforcement community in South Texas, and I wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of John W. Montoya.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the reckless budget proposed by President Bush and House Republicans.

H. Con. Res. 376 is a \$2.7 trillion budget that will add \$1.1 trillion to our debt over the next 5 years. If this becomes the law of the land, our budget deficit will hit near record levels in 2006 and 2007. But that's only part of the story. The budget provides for no funding for Iraq and Afghanistan past 2007, although we have heard from President Bush that this war will last at least until 2009. Nor does it address tax issues facing middle class families—such as the alternative minimum tax. In addition, this bill includes a provision to raise the debt limit for the fifth year in a row—resulting in a \$3.7 trillion increase since 2001.

This budget imposes painful cuts on children and families while allowing our national deficit to continue to spiral out of control. Cuts to health care, education, veterans' services, and the environment are all made in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. But because even these devastating cuts do not equal the level of tax giveaways proposed, this budget forces future generations to pay for the mistakes of today.

Mr. Speaker, this budget does not reflect American values. It cuts education—from early education through higher education—when we need to reinvest in American global competitiveness. It cuts funding for public health and health research—shortchanging potential life-saving research and health care providers struggling to serve current populations and to prepare for a possible pandemic. It cuts homeland security funding by \$6 billion—as our Nation is involved in conflicts around the world and American good will is waning. Most outrageously, this budget cuts funding for veterans' health care by \$8.6 billion over 5 years. At a time when we're asking more of our service men and women and their families, this type of across-the-board disinvestment is short-sighted and negligent and should be rejected.

Congress can and should pass a budget that is fiscally responsible and protects the priorities of the American people. Democrats offered an alternative plan investing in education, health research and veterans' benefits while balancing the budget by 2012. This plan, offered by Mr. SPRATT, would keep America competitive by making needed investments and reduce the burden of staggering Federal debt on future generations.

I urge my colleagues to support the Spratt substitute and reject the dangerous owe-as-you-go policies put forward by the Bush Administration and the Republican Majority in Congress.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, Hamas is first and foremost a terrorist organization. Ideologically, its charter is a clarion call for the destruction of Israel. In practice, the group has dedicated itself to murder and violence against innocent Israeli civilians. No election, no matter how democratic it is viewed by procedural standards, can wash its hands of the blood of its victims.

That is why H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, is an essential piece of legislation. The bill would prohibit all direct aid to the Palestinian Authority as long as it is led by Hamas or any other group that refuses to renounce terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist, and accept previous agreements.

There is no room for ambiguity. Last month, Hamas praised a terror attack in Tel Aviv as a legitimate act of self-defense. Just the other week, Jordanian authorities arrested 20 Hamas terrorists who were smuggling Iranian-made Katyusha rockets and tank missiles. Weapons are being smuggled across the Egyptian border as well. It cannot be tolerated.

For the most part, the Quartet has stood firm in isolating Hamas. The United States, the European Union, Canada and other nations have blocked the direct transfer of funds to the new Palestinian Authority and prohibited political contact with Hamas officials. The legislation before us codifies this approach.

H.R. 4681 also advances creative solutions to meet the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people without empowering or enriching a terrorist regime. The legislation is carefully crafted to maintain assistance to the Palestinian people, while giving confidence to American taxpayers that aid will not be used to prop up Hamas leaders.

Direct U.S. assistance to the Palestinian people has always been primarily administered through non-governmental organizations via the USAID West Bank and Gaza aid program. H.R. 4681 makes this program, which accounts for the largest per capita U.S. aid contribution in the world, more central than ever. While some have expressed concern that requiring advanced notification and justification to Congress for non-humanitarian aid will delay or impede support for such programs, these concerns are misplaced. The modest conditions will only bring greater transparency and improve the quality and focus of the programs funded. Pre-certification is not necessary for the distribution of humanitarian aid.

In addition, the bill provides substantial flexibility to continue U.S. support for the independent Palestinian election commission and assistance to the office of President Mahmoud Abbas to support the peace process. Considering the hopes and expectations that the Hamas government will collapse, such support is imperative to build a viable political alternative that is moderate and free from the rampant corruption of Fatah candidates that alienated Palestinian voters.

United States foreign policy in the Middle East is full of nuance, but when it comes to Hamas our message must be black and white: we will not reward terrorists or terrorism.

H.R. 4681 conveys this timely and important message and it is worth our strong support.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MR. JETTIE PURNELL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring and celebrating the life and work of Mr. Jettie Purnell. One of Halifax County's most notable citizens, Mr. Purnell's work in civil rights and labor rights has changed forever the lives of the people of the First Congressional District and those of people far outside its limits.

As a young man, Mr. Purnell was thrust into service during World War II as a soldier in the U.S. Army. He continued his patriotic service by fighting racism at home and playing a key role in the civil rights movement. His work continued as he moved aggressively and persistently to unionize local textile mills. Mr. Purnell led the fight for justice and equal rights, and also led a successful effort to designate a section of U.S. Highway 158 as George Thomas Young Drive.