

store to multimillionaires." House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (Md.) said Bush's comments on fiscal rectitude "read like a passage from 'Alice in Wonderland.'"

This kind of rhetoric bodes ill for future cooperation on tax and spending questions, Penner said. "Unless there is some reduction in the vicious partisanship that has come to dominate our politics, it's very hard to imagine people coming together on anything," he said.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5385, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-472) on the resolution (H. Res. 821) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5385) making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST DAVID N. TIMMONS, JR.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express the heartfelt condolences of a grateful Nation and to honor the life of Army Specialist David N. Timmons, Jr. of Lewisville, North Carolina. Specialist Timmons passed away on May 5, 2006, while serving in Afghanistan.

Specialist Timmons served our country as a calvary scout assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. His strong patriotism and desire to make a difference led him to join the army after attending Forsythe Technical Community College.

Specialist Timmons was a loving son and brother. He leaves behind his father, David Timmons, Sr.; his stepmother, Cynthia Timmons; and his sister, Shalante Timmons. May God bless them and comfort them during this very difficult time.

We owe this brave soldier and his family a tremendous debt of gratitude for his selfless service and sacrifice. Our country could not maintain its

freedom and security without heroes like Specialist Timmons who make the ultimate sacrifice. Americans, as well as Afghans, owe their liberty to Specialist Timmons and his fallen comrades who came before him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Army Specialist David N. Timmons, Jr.

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

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

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN SONNY MONTGOMERY

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a former Member of this body, Congressman Sonny G.V. Montgomery of Meridian, Mississippi. Our Nation laid him to rest this week in his home State.

As a Congresswoman who arrived here in the early 1980s, it was my great privilege to serve on the committee which he chaired, the Veterans' Committee, which was his life here in the Congress of the United States. I can recall so many times, as a Member of that committee, what a gracious, gracious Chair he was. Even to the new young members who had much to learn. I remember so much of what he did and the camaraderie that he established as a very precious gift not just to the committee or to the Congress but to the Nation. And we could use more of that spirit here today.

I remember in 1984 when the Montgomery G.I. Bill passed in a Democratic Congress with his leadership, how generation after generation a young veteran would come to be able to afford an education and to obtain decent health care and what he did to strengthen our Armed Forces, including our Guard and Reserve, and given us the best Armed Forces that the world has ever known. He hardly ever claimed credit for that publicly, and yet he worked on it for years.

I can remember many State of the Union addresses where in what I called the Montgomery chair back there in the back row he would sit and he would welcome the Presidents from each party as they would come into this Chamber, and I cannot ever remember Sonny Montgomery losing his temper. If he did, I certainly never saw it.

I watched him when we struggled with the issue of Agent Orange. When some of the scientists who testified before the committee said, We really can-

not show causality, we cannot show that, in fact, this veteran has cancer because he was mixing Agent Orange in big vats with paddles in Vietnam back in the 1960s and early 1970s. And there came a point in the committee when Sonny said, You know, there is a time when you have to do what is morally right even though it may not be scientifically provable. And for the first time in the Nation's history since Vietnam we were able to treat veterans who contracted serious illnesses as a result of their service. Special centers were set up, such as in New York, in order that we could assess and learn about these terrible, terrible illnesses that resulted from exposure to Agent Orange.

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Sonny Montgomery traveled to the districts of the Members of his committee. I was so impressed, because many times we would get a veteran who, unfortunately, because of illness would be out of control in the audience, and Sonny had a way of moving his hand and talking to the veteran, kind of calming him down. He was an amazing, amazing man to watch.

He loved veterans. He loved Americans, but he had a special gift to be able to reach those who sometimes were distant. Half of the homeless in America are veterans. The work that he did as Chair of that committee helped us to recognize for the first time the problem of homeless veterans.

He got great assistance from a young Congressman then who had joined the committee, LANE EVANS of Illinois, who currently due to Parkinson's illness is in Illinois right now trying to heal himself. These men did so much for our Nation and for the improvement of the conditions under which our veterans serve.

I can remember when Sonny came to my district in Ohio. It didn't matter where you took him, to a Veterans Post, a Legion Post, a public meeting, people would stand and cheer. He was "Mr. Veteran" from coast to coast. And he left a legacy of improved education, of improved health care, of a veterans system that increased the number of health care clinics, both in urban and rural areas, to care for our veterans, and he took very seriously the slogan from Lincoln that is on the front of the Department of Veterans Affairs, "To care for them who shall have borne the battle, his widow or widower, and his or her orphan." He lived it.

He traveled the world. We improved cemeteries around the world for our veterans. We worked on housing programs to go beyond the GI single-family home mortgage to multiple family home construction.

He did so much so quietly and so effectively. Personally, he worked with me many, many years as we were trying to build the World War II memorial here in Washington in three different committees of jurisdiction, and yet was

that steady force that was always at our side as we worked for 17 years to move that piece of legislation from dropping it here in the hopper all the way to dedication just a few years ago here on the Nation's Mall.

His staff, Matt Fleming, Gloria Royce, so many people who served on that committee, knew that they had worked with a very great man, a man who always carried himself with great humility and great humor.

He was one of the founders of the Prayer Breakfast, the Bipartisan Prayer Breakfast here that meets every Thursday morning, and he offered the "sick and wounded report." He took an interest in every Member here, and he would know about their families and he would report to us on what was happening, and he built such a bond between people on both sides of the aisle.

I look at a certain Member whose voting record is different than mine, and I will say, how did I meet that person? My gosh, I met that person at the Prayer Breakfast with Sonny Montgomery.

He would go to the national meetings of the VFW or when the young winners would be selected from the Voice of Democracy awards at the VFW or through the American Legion and would receive standing ovations by thousands and thousands and thousands of people.

He was a two star general himself, having served in World War II, in Korea and then, of course, in the Guard, and he became a champion of the Guard and Reserve at a time when so many Americans were not really paying attention. He improved the facilities, he improved their opportunities.

So today, Mr. Speaker, in ending my remarks, I just want to say it was truly a deep, deep privilege to serve with Congressman and General Sonny G.V. Montgomery of Meridian, Mississippi. It is obvious the people of his district love him and appreciate him, and so does America. God bless him and God bless America.

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 BALTIC COUNTRIES' ENTRANCE INTO THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in opposition to the per-

ceived exclusions of the countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from an amendment offered by the Senate in the immigration bill yesterday.

While I approve of this amendment to allow for a 2-year trial expansion of the Visa Waiver Program, I disagree with the requirements that are placed upon countries that would want to participate. This program enables nationals of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa.

According to the language of Senate Amendment 4000, a country must provide "material support," which means that current provision of the equivalent of but not less than of a battalion, which consists of between 300 to 1,000 military personnel, to Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom to provide training, logistical or tactical support or military presence.

I feel that it is ineffective to place a number requirement on these smaller countries in the region. All the Baltic countries have been steadfast in support of allies of the United States since they gained their independence following the fall of the Soviet Union and have continued to be supportive in the ongoing war on terror.

While these countries are short of this amendment's required troop number, it seems to me that the best way to evaluate a country's eligibility for the Visa Waiver Program is to determine whether the country is a good ally and friend of the United States, not put a number on their commitment.

All these former Soviet satellite countries are continuing to actively work to implement the highest of technology with their border security, including biometric passports far ahead of some of their western European neighbors.

Currently, several of the 27 countries already in the Visa Waiver Program have committed zero troops to either mission. Why should such a requirement be placed on those countries that have already made a sacrifice, when others are rewarded for their non-participation?

Furthermore, small countries like Lithuania, with a population of 3.5 million, Latvia, with 2.8 million, or Estonia, with 1.3 million, clearly do not have as large a military as a country like Poland, which has over 38 million citizens, 30 million more than all three Baltic States combined. I feel that this is irresponsible to belittle the commitment and sacrifice to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom by not allowing them into the Visa Waiver Program with the specifics of this amendment.

Maybe if you combine the total deployment of the Baltic countries and add them up, which is as of my count today, 287 troops deployed, that is very close to the 300 minimum number. But, remember that these three countries combined still are 30 million people less than a country like Poland.

Also each of the Baltic States have troops participating in out-of-area NATO missions. One of the provisional reconstruction teams in Afghanistan is led by Lithuanian troops. Do these soldiers operating within the North American Treaty Organization not count toward their troop commitment in the language of this amendment? These are important questions that need to be addressed.

As Cochairman of the House Baltic Caucus, I understand the concerns that the Baltic countries have with this amendment, and I urge the conferees of the immigration bill to keep their concerns in mind as we work through the differences between both the Senate and the House.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL WULTZ

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more painful than a senseless death, particularly when a child's life is cut short.

As parents, we do everything we can to protect them. We keep them in car seats protected by seat belts and air bags. We watch what they eat and lock cabinets and plug outlets. We put safety knobs on exterior doors and put gates up at the top of the stairs and around swimming pools. We give them curfews and cell phones so we know where they are and when they'll be home. We teach them right from wrong and we impart our values.

And when they are older, we have no other choice but to hope for the best. We hope that all of the cajoling and caring, crying and cradling, helped them become the best grownups, parents, citizens, professionals, but most of all, we want to help our children to be the best people that they can become.

After all of that planning, preparing, protecting and sometimes panicking, most of us are blessed with the fact that our children do become adults.

So much of our children's lives are beyond our control, including their safety, yet we do everything within our power to protect them.

But what parent in God's name would expect their child to be killed in a terrorist attack? Blown up by a suicide bomber at an outdoor cafe? How does one guard against that? What product is made to shield them from explosives strapped to the body of a madman determined to destroy an entire people? How do we teach our children that