

The growing numbers of minorities in the military and their families is especially important to note. One in 10 soldiers in the U.S. Army and one in seven marines are of Latino extraction, 7 percent of the U.S. Navy is Asian Pacific Islander, and 3 percent of the Navy and Marine Corps is Native American. But only 43 percent of the VA's staff is trained to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate programs, and only 24 percent of the facilities have translated materials into languages that are used by our servicemen and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support a bill I introduced, H.R. 5007, to ensure that veterans and their families receive culturally and linguistically competent health care, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

As we remember Memorial Day, we should not hinder but support our military veterans and their families. And I send my special condolences to the families of the 11 soldiers who died in Iraq from my district.

ON MEMORIAL DAY AND IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER KYLE JACKSON

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Chief Warrant Officer Kyle Jackson, a Sarasota native and an American hero.

By the measure of time, Kyle's life was too short. Yet in the words of Rudyard Kipling, he filled "the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds' worth of distance run."

A 28-year-old father of two, Kyle treasured the fullness of each and every day and treasured the fragility of every moment. His father, Gary, said that "he wanted to do his job and wanted to do it well." As a father and a son, as a soldier and a marine, Kyle gave the full measure of his heart and soul to the performance of all of his duties.

After September 11, 2001, Kyle heard the call to serve his Nation and reenlisted in the Armed Forces. Earlier this year, while stationed in Iraq, he answered God's call and gave to a grateful Nation his most treasured gift, his life.

Kyle is not unlike the many brave men and women who have died in our Nation's defense, except to his wife, Betsy, his daughters Alia and Keira, and all who were blessed to have shared a moment with him.

I wish to recognize Kyle Jackson for his extraordinary service to his Nation and to his family.

NUCLEAR IRAN

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the danger of a nuclear Iran may be the biggest security challenge facing America and the world, and now it appears that the Iranian regime might finally be willing to talk about ending their nuclear weapons programs.

This opportunity raises many questions. Can we depend on Iran to negotiate in good faith? Is Iran truly ready to renounce terrorism? And what will be the cost to the people of Iran if we engage a regime that oppresses its own people?

We must confront all these questions and scour our conscience for the answers. But these questions are dwarfed by a more immediate one: Do we have the courage, the foresight and the strength of will to seize this opportunity? Will we be brave enough to talk with Iran and risk a diplomatic failure? Or will we be so afraid to talk that we would risk war?

I ask the President to confront his fears, justified as they may be, and choose the courageous path of reaching out to engage Iran on a diplomatic formula to end the Iranian nuclear program.

IMMIGRANT SMUGGLERS AVOID PROSECUTION

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, 94 percent of the felons arrested for illegally smuggling aliens across the Mexico border near San Diego are never prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney. This is according to a shocking internal Border Patrol report just revealed by the Associated Press.

Are you surprised? I told the Attorney General about this problem on April 6, and I spoke on the House floor about it on April 27. On my recent trip to the Mexico border, Border Patrol agents in California told me that they have arrested the same coyotes 20 times but they are not prosecuted.

The pathetic failure of the U.S. Attorney in San Diego to prosecute alien smugglers who have been arrested 20 times is a demoralizing slap in the face to Border Patrol agents to who risk their lives every day. This U.S. Attorney has, however, recently prosecuted someone for selling a Mark McGuire baseball card with a forged signature.

Here is a tip: Stop worrying about baseball cards and start worrying about enforcing our immigration laws.

HOUSE GOP CANNOT GOVERN

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, during a 48-hour period last week, the House Republican majority once again demonstrated why they cannot govern. After weeks of arm twisting and two

failed attempts to bring up a budget, the Republican leadership finally forced a vote late last Wednesday. Democrats stood united against the budget. Republicans were forcing major cuts in education, veterans, health and environmental programs. Also, they would continue to shower millionaires with tax breaks.

Nevertheless, the Republican budget passed. Two days later, they saw the implications of that vote when a small group of House Republicans stripped \$50 million out of the military construction and veterans appropriations bill because the funding did not fit into the budget that they passed 2 days before.

House Republicans have nobody to blame but themselves. They are the ones who continue to put the needs of the wealthiest few above the needs of our veterans, our military personnel, our children and our environment.

The sad fact is that what America witnessed last Friday afternoon will be repeated over and over again here on the House floor until Republicans finally realize that their fiscal policies are out of sync with this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO PAM KOCHER, 2006 JOSEPH MOAKLEY AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY PUBLIC SERVICE RECIPIENT

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Pam Kocher of New Hampshire, the recipient of the 2006 Congressman Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service. Pam Kocher's service extends over three decades and includes serving in elected office at the local level and working for elected officials at the Federal level.

Pam's many years of service, coupled with her strong working relationships, came in very handy last summer when the Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegations were faced with the daunting task of convincing the BRAC Commission to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open. Pam's leadership in bringing together a community-based coalition was one of the driving factors in our success.

Pam credits her driving force as wanting to make government work for people. She stands for hard work, is a problem solver and knows how to bring people together to work towards a common goal.

I congratulate and thank Pam on her years of hard work and dedication to New Hampshire, New England and our great Nation.

SOME POLITICIANS JUST DON'T GET IT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let me take you back to another time, 1986, and at that time, America had a problem with illegal immigration. They said we had about 3 million illegals here in the country. And in that debate, many people said that we needed to provide amnesty to those who were working here because we couldn't deport all of them and our country needed the labor.

In exchange for granting amnesty, Congress and the American people were promised that the Federal Government would vigorously enforce our border. The illegal aliens got amnesty all right, and many became citizens, even though they violated the law to get here. But the Federal Government did not secure our border. The results of that action? An estimated 12 million more illegal aliens in our country today.

Some are again calling for amnesty with a promise for stronger border controls. But the American people are not buying it again, and neither is a majority of this House. The American people and a majority of this House are demanding border security first.

And as the Who said, "We won't be fooled again!"

No amnesty.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MOX PROGRAM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during my service, I have worked with my colleagues from South Carolina and Georgia, especially GRESHAM BARRETT and CHARLIE NORWOOD and our four U.S. Senators, to ensure a mixed oxide facility is built at the Savannah River Site. Two weeks ago, we were grateful when 396 Members of Congress voted for the defense authorization bill and approved a measure which funds and delinks the U.S.-Russia MOX programs.

After celebrating this tremendous victory, we were extremely disappointed to learn that there is an effort to eliminate all funding for the MOX program. While I respect my colleagues, I strongly disagree with their decision and will continue to fight for this critical funding to be restored in the coming weeks.

I believe the MOX program is the most viable way for America to reduce its excess plutonium supply, and we must move forward with our non-proliferation commitments as we end future storage in South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

VETERANS IDENTITY PROTECTION ACT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, many of us are talking about our veterans. And as we approach Memorial Day, it has been with great sorrow and great concern that we have noticed some of the headlines and the information on personal data of veterans being stolen. That is of tremendous concern to us, and I want to thank Chairman BUYER and the Veterans' Affairs Committee for their prompt actions in addressing this issue.

I also would like to call to the attention of the House a piece of legislation that my colleague, Representative SIMMONS, and I are working on. It is the Veterans Identity Protection Act of 2006. We will be filing the bill on Friday. Mr. SIMMONS is a Vietnam veteran, and he understands the problems that veterans face every day.

We know that veterans have placed their faith in the government to responsibly protect their personal information, and that that trust has been damaged. That is why the Blackburn-Simmons bill requires that more stringent controls be placed on the management of personal data. We also want to help those veterans monitor their credit to be certain that no one has stolen their identities.

Government has an obligation to these men and women who have been breached in the loss of this information, and we want to be certain that that obligation is met. Mr. Speaker, I would commend the legislation to each of our colleagues and encourage them to join with us in supporting the veterans of this great Nation.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4755

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor H.R. 4755, the Federal Aviation Administration Fair Labor Management Dispute Resolution Act of 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

THE CASE FOR BEING IN IRAQ

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, public opinion polls show shrinking support for the war in Iraq. No doubt the nonstop media coverage questioning President Bush's motives for going to war have contributed greatly to these poll numbers.

But where is the coverage of the progress being made in Iraq? A recent 230-page Pentagon report analyzing thousands of Iraqi documents and interviews with officials from Saddam Hussein's regime is extremely enlightening.

The report shows Saddam's well-established support of terrorist activities

dating back to 1994. This includes the establishment of terror training camps within Iraq's borders, and one document shows Saddam's son, Uday, coordinating a martyrdom operation called Blessed July aimed at targets in the West.

Russian President Putin has publicly stated that Russian Special Services had received information that Saddam's officials were preparing attacks on the U.S., and he reported this to the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the American people hear more about the facts that supported our decision to go to war. We must maintain our resolve to fight extremist terrorists, and we must finish the job in Iraq.

INTRODUCTION OF ZERO BASELINE BUDGET ACT

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Republican leadership on passing a budget resolution for fiscal year 2007. However, I must point out that the resolution we passed last week provides for a \$27 billion increase in nonemergency discretionary spending over fiscal year 2006, when we spent more than we did in fiscal year 2005, when we spent more than we did in fiscal year 2004, and so on.

The Federal Government has a long track record of spending more money than it takes in. Our fiscal irresponsibility has to stop somewhere. That is why I am introducing today a bill titled the Zero Baseline Budget Act of 2006. This bill will amend the misnamed so-called Balanced Budget Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, which instructs Congress to continue spending more money than it takes in every year by creating a budget baseline that automatically increases over the previous year's spending.

The Zero Baseline Budget Act will instruct the CBO to provide a baseline that has no automatic increases and does not contain emergency and supplemental spending over the previous year. The baseline for the next year will merely be the sum of the year-long spending bills in effect for the current year.

This way, an increase is an increase, a cut is a cut, and the status quo is neither. What a novel idea, for the government to say what it actually means.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.