

would allow Members to assist in efforts to locate and to recover missing children.

First enacted in 1985, this program authorized the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice to prescribe guidelines under which the government and franked mail may be used to help find and recover missing children. The law also authorized the Senate Committee on Rules and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards to establish guidelines for the use of franked mail in the House and Senate.

Although the law was reauthorized three times, the underlying statutory authority expired in 2002. H.R. 4416 would permanently reauthorize this very important effort. The placement of photos of missing children on government and congressional mail will greatly assist in locating and recovering children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Ranking Member Millender-McDonald, for sponsoring this bill; and I urge my colleagues to include photos of missing children on their official and franked mail.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from Congressman Vernon Ehlers, chairman of the Committee on House Administration, regarding the bill before us that is under consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write concerning H.R. 4416, a bill to permanently reauthorize the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children. H.R. 4416 was ordered reported by the Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on House Administration received a joint referral on the bill because of the Committee's jurisdiction over matters concerning Congressional franking privileges. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

Sincerely,

VERNON EHLERS,
Chairman.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time; and I hope that our colleagues support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4416.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-OMAN FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-
118)

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This FTA enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region. The FTA will benefit the people of the United States and Oman, illustrating for other developing countries the advantages of open markets and increased trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Congressional approval of this FTA will mark another important step towards creating a Middle East Free Trade Area. Like our FTA with Bahrain that the Congress approved in December 2005, and our FTA with Morocco that was approved in July 2004, this FTA offers another important opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation. Oman is leading the pursuit of social and economic reforms in the region, including by selling state-owned businesses, encouraging foreign investment connected to broad-based development and providing better protection for women and workers. It is strongly in our national interest to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 2006.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 109-528) on the resolution (H. Res. 845) requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, documents relating to the termination of the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility's investigation of the involvement of Department of Justice personnel in the creation and administration of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, including documents relating to Office of

Professional Responsibility's request for and denial of security clearances, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1900

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.)

ILARIO PANTANO'S MEMOIR

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might speak at this time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2005, I rose on the House floor in defense of former Marine Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, who had been accused of premeditated murder for his actions in April 2004 that resulted in the deaths of two suspected Iraqi insurgents.

At that time I encouraged my colleagues to support a resolution calling on the United States Government to dismiss all charges against Lieutenant Pantano who had defended the cause of freedom, democracy and liberty, while serving as a platoon commander in Iraq.

In an action of self-defense, Lieutenant Pantano made a split-second battlefield decision to shoot two suspected Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Lieutenant Pantano did his duty as any marine officer should when faced with the enemy.

Following a 5-day military hearing in May 2005, the truth of Lieutenant Pantano's innocence prevailed, and he was cleared of all charges. Lieutenant Pantano left the Marine Corps following the dismissal of the charges brought against him, as the media frenzy surrounding his case may have put him or other corps members at greater risk were he to return to duty.

As an outstanding leader and dedicated servant to the Marine Corps and our Nation, I believe Lieutenant Pantano's resignation was a great loss for the Marine Corps and a great loss for America. Mr. Speaker, I recall these events to draw attention to the recent release of a memoir by Lieutenant Pantano, coauthored by Malcolm McConnell, entitled: "Warlord, No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy."

Ilario Pantano first enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 17 and was inspired to reenlist following the terrorist attack of September 11 of 2001, 10 years after his service as an elite marine sniper and a veteran of Desert Storm.

Answering the patriotic call to duty, Lieutenant Pantano voluntarily left a successful career in finance to head to officer's training school in Quantico, Virginia. As a platoon commander in Iraq, Lieutenant Pantano was praised by his fellow marines and superiors as a capable and devoted leader and an intelligent and motivated officer who embodied the Marine Corps principles of honor, courage, and commitment.

As someone who had the pleasure of meeting Lieutenant Pantano, along with his lovely wife, Jill, and his two sons, I believe every American would benefit from reading the inspiring story of such a great American and a military hero.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that those who read Lieutenant Pantano's story will come to a better understanding of the depth of his strength and heroism, both on the battlefield and in the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking God to please bless the men and women in uniform and to ask God to continue to bless America.

RAISING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a disease that has a profound impact on those it afflicts. Autism is a bioneurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3.

Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function. Individuals with autism typically have difficulties communicating and interacting with others and often engage in repetitive behaviors. Individuals with autism often suffer from numerous physical ailments, which may include allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, sleeping disorders and more.

Some may be surprised, Mr. Speaker, to learn that autism is diagnosed four times more often in boys than girls. Its prevalence is not affected by race, region or socioeconomic status. According to the National Autism Association, autism and related developmental disorders affect one in 166 people across the country, 10 times as many as just a decade ago.

No one knows for certain what causes autism. Some believe that anything from genetics to certain vaccines can lead to autism. Those with infants and toddlers should watch for the early signs of autism, which include no big

smiles by 6 months, no sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by 9 months, and no babbling by 12 months, no words by 18 months, and any loss of speech or social skills at any age.

I wish to repeat that, Mr. Speaker: those with infants and toddlers should watch for the early warning signs of autism, which include no big smiles by 6 months, no sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by 9 months, no babbling by 12 months, no words by 18 months, and any loss of speech or social skills at any age.

Autism, however, does not affect life expectancy. Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved. This makes it imperative that appropriate resources are available to help people with autism and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to take to this floor over the coming weeks and months to highlight the impact autism has on those it afflicts and those who care for them. I hope by doing so that I can help raise awareness about this disease and encourage greater understanding about the importance of research into its prevention, detection and treatment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5672, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 109-529) on the resolution (H. Res. 890) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4973, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-530) on the resolution (H. Res. 891) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to say a few words about the U.S. economy, which has been actually quite good. It is quite amazing for us here in the House with all of the responsibilities that we have and with all of the responsibilities outside of the beltway that the American people have to just take a minute or a few minutes, I guess, to review the current economic situation.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, some of the observations are quite apparent to me, and I just wanted to share these observations with my colleagues and with others who may be present.

According to Mr. Speaker, to most neutral observers, including the Federal Reserve and a consensus of private economists, the economy is doing quite well and is quite healthy. Indeed, if anything, there seems to be a little concern in some quarters that the economy may have been growing too fast, a concern with which I do not agree.

The economy actually grew 4 percent in 2004 and advanced at a rate of about 3.5 percent in 2005. The growth rate for the first quarter of 2006 is expected to be very robust, consistent with the trend of strong growth since 2003.

In the first quarter of 2006, the economy expanded at a blistering rate of 5.3 percent. Now, these are all figures and statistics that we can vividly see because, in effect, we have already been through them. Looking ahead is a somewhat more difficult exercise, and an exercise that I often refer to others with whom I communicate from time to time.