

brokerage operations company. In addition to their humanitarian benefit, stem cells have the potential to be the next medical industrial revolution. America has always been the leader in medical technology. Minnesota in particular has been called Medical Alley. America and Minnesota need to be leading the way in stem cell research, not sitting on the sidelines, watching the rest of the world pass us by.

In closing, let me offer this: A generation ago, pioneers in medical research developed in vitro fertilization, a technique that has now enabled my wife and me to have two beautiful children. My kids are living examples of the power of medical research.

I do not support slowing down the discoveries this research offers to millions, and allowing other countries to surpass America's leadership in medical technology.

That's why I am speaking out now, for the next generation. I don't want my children or anybody else's children to be told one day, "You are paralyzed, and will never move again."

I support those who champion this important research and thank them for helping change the future.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act.

This important piece of legislation will make it easier for all students to attend college, and help reduce the burden on middle class families struggling to give their children a chance for a greater future with more opportunities.

Madam Speaker, if education is truly a priority of this country and this government, then let us act now and put our money where our mouth is. There is nothing more important to the future of this country than providing all of our children with a great education, and preparing them for a world which they will someday be required to lead.

Providing our children with the opportunity to receive an affordable college education is a legacy we can all be proud of, and is one that can define this 110th Congress in the most positive light.

At a time when college education is continually skyrocketing and middle and lower class families are seeing their budgets being constantly squeezed, lowering the interest rates on college loans will help those who need it most in our society.

Though some will say that the American economy has been booming over the last few years, and they will point to record increases in profits, salaries, and bonuses as proof, unfortunately Madam Speaker, many Americans have been left out of this great wealth and prosperity.

Today, we have an opportunity to help all Americans. By enacting this bill we are extending the opportunity for a brighter future through education to all sectors and classes of our society. American families need this bill. America needs this bill.

According to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance,

increased college costs will prevent over 4.4 million high school graduates from entering a four-year public institution over the next decade. I repeat, over 4.4 million, students will be unable to afford a quality college education over the next decade, Madam Speaker.

This restriction on higher education will not only hurt students and families, but it will have a devastating effect on our country as a whole.

At a time when the global economy is becoming more competitive and America's dominance in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology is being challenged by countries all over the world, we need to be providing more opportunity to our best and brightest students, and give those who have been stuck in the generational cycles of poverty and despair, a chance to improve their life situations, and give their families opportunities that have eluded them in the past.

By the year 2020, according to the American Youth Policy Forum, the United States will be facing a dire shortage of college-educated workers that threatens our entire economy.

Madam Speaker we must act now to confront this threat. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill with bipartisan support, because doing so makes sense, and failure to do so will lead to consequences down the road that will affect our entire economy and way of life.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF THOMAS G. LYONS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Tom Lyons, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family after his passing at the age of 75. Tom was a dedicated public servant who touched many lives and consistently rose to any challenge that came his way.

Thomas G. Lyons was born in Chicago in 1931, and he served his country honorably throughout his life. As a student at Loyola University of Chicago's School of Law, Mr. Lyons enlisted in the Army, where he rose to the rank of Captain in the Army Rangers, garnering recognition for his leadership and spirit.

Mr. Lyons took his lessons from Law School and the Army to his service as a litigator for the Cook County Assessor's Office, and later for the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

In 1964, Mr. Lyons successfully ran for a seat in the Illinois State Senate, where he would ascend to the Chairmanship of the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

In 1990, Mr. Lyons was elected to the Chairmanship of the Cook County Democratic Party, where he was its proud steward and a strong presence for seventeen years until his passing. During this period, Tom served with devotion and humility, always willing to lend a hand to any candidate, regardless of the scope or influence of the particular office.

In 1994, Tom was the recipient of an executive appointment by President Clinton to the American Battle Monuments Commission, in recognition of his years of service to our Nation and our military.

For over 40 years, Mr. Lyons dedicated his life to our Nation with steadfast dedication, humility, and geniality. In his home of Cook County, Tom's legacy of leadership will remain for years to come. Mr. Lyons is succeeded by his wife, Ruth, his three children, Alexandra, Rachel, and Thomas, and his eight grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Mr. Lyons. We will miss him.

ESSAY BY MR. ANDREW O'ROUKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Mr. Andrew O'Rourke for his articulate essay on the impact of the recent mid-term elections on the current U.S. policy in Iraq. Andrew is a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Marquette, where his studies have focused on communications, business, and political science courses. His hard work in school has resulted in good grades, and he plans on attending law school after graduation. I am truly impressed by his insights, as well as the quality of his work.

Andrew's essay encapsulates much of the frustration with America's direction that has been felt by my constituents in the First District of Indiana. His essay also expresses the desire for positive change in America. Andrew compels his readers to think hard about what this country means to them. He writes of the pitfalls of shortsightedness in foreign policy, as well as the importance of protecting our civil liberties here at home. Finally, he calls on the need for bipartisanship in order to form a strong-willed consensus for the road ahead.

Madam Speaker, Andrew O'Rourke is an example of the great potential exhibited by the young people of northwest Indiana. Below, you will find the text of his essay, which I would like to have included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Andrew O'Rourke for his well-written essay. I wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

While Democrats are better equipped now to make some difference in President Bush's foreign policy, no force will be able to influence the President more than a united Republican thrust in favor of U.S. troop withdrawal.

President Bush has proved rather stubborn on the subject of his foreign policy, specifically the aspects of said policy pertaining to Iraq and well, the entire Middle East in general. Despite the sweeping restructuring of the House and Senate during the mid-term elections, President Bush appears still to have no intent on altering the current policy in Iraq. An excerpt from a recent New York Times editorial summarizes my argument quite well. The like-minded author of this article believes that the President, "for all of his professed pipe dreams about democracy in the Middle East, refuses to surrender to democracy's verdict at home."

It seems an indictment of our system, supposedly the best in the world, that a mid-term election could serve the umbrella purpose of a referendum on one specifically controversial and pivotal policy, only to have

the said election results have absolutely no effect on the policy. That does not fit the definition of representative democracy I was raised to believe in since grade school. Elected officials do not possess the right to represent the people when and if they chose, as though they know best. We do not live under a benevolent dictator, where the power of decision is placed in the hands of a ruler whom we must trust to make a conclusion we are otherwise deemed incapable of making ourselves. Nor do we live in a country where the wealthy elite enjoy all of the authority, sending young men and women of the poor and middle classes off to become maimed Purple Heart veterans and dead Medal of Honor heroes, fighting in an utterly fruitless quagmire of a war. Especially of late however, the aforementioned possibilities seem likely explanations for the current shameful, stubborn, and painfully simplistic foreign policy utilized by our great nation, with its outrageously gigantic economy, technologically superior mechanized army, and not to forget, insatiable thirst for pure, unadulterated, according-to-hoyle victory. Although many would love to believe such a naive, black-and-white definition of victory, sadly like most things in this world it is not that simple. Victory is a word that, for every conceivable variable, from the largest, most holy mosque destroyed by American artillery fire to the youngest Iraqi girl whose parents were brutally murdered by either a Sunni or Shiite death squad, has numerous definitions. You cannot limit yourself to one characterization of what victory is, for that is a direct route to complete failure and disappointment, as we see everyday on CNN, when we are told the story of another Joe Everyman 21-year-old private-first class from anywhere USA who was killed on a humvee patrol mission aimed at securing the other ninety-five percent of Iraq not secured over three years ago when we triumphantly declared mission accomplished, and were immediately showered with flowers by the Iraqi people. And to those within this country who believe that to withdraw will be a crushing blow against American pride and standing in the world, expound such blind patriotism when it is your son or daughter walking the streets of Baghdad with no idea whether the next street corner will be populated by a nearly invisible IED, exactly like those that have crippled so many young, promise-filled Americans, or one of the many deceptively well-hidden snipers who make steady sport of firing potshots from a spire outside of an untouchably holy Mosque, hitting our young men and women when they least expect it. It is for these American heroes that I, along with most Americans must hope President Bush's current policy is a success.

Because I know in my heart of hearts that this administration is too prideful to consider taking a hint from the American people, or the 9/11 Commission, or the Iraq Study Group, I am forced to cheer for any alternative to the current policy of "stay the course" while simultaneously hoping that the abovementioned "course staying" rises like the Phoenix from the ashes and succeeds. If Mr. Bush's strategy is a success, which it appears as though, barring some unforeseen circumstance, it most definitely will not be, it will be a victory for the American fighting man and woman, because until the next pre-emptive war, they will be safe. But will the next be somewhere in Asia, Northern Africa, or most likely the Middle East yet again? Iran and Syria both seem hell bent on becoming America's Tour of the Arab World stops two and three.

Most likely it will take Republican pressure and lots of it to revise in any way the single-minded policy of this administration. Nevertheless, it is a heartrending day for de-

mocracy when the resounding message of the American people is deemed secondary to the egocentric and stubborn strategy of a few white men (and black woman) who call a giant, white, house on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. their office.

To reiterate an earlier point, the leaders of this nation are not free to choose what is in our best interest, when we the people have clearly and resoundingly spoken against the current ideals and strategies. The current policy quite simply costs too many Americans and Iraqis their lives without a foreseeable goal or proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Rather, they have a solemn obligation to represent the views of the people of this country. But who knows? Maybe a benevolent dictator would make things a whole lot easier for most people in this country. Who likes freedom anyways?

TRIBUTE TO GIFFORD CARL RAMSEY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Gifford Carl Ramsey, a fellow trooper and colleague in the Florida Highway Patrol. He died on January 10, 2007—a victim of cancer—and will be buried this Saturday, January 20, 2007, at Glendale Baptist Church in Miami-Dade County's Richmond Heights community.

Born on January 16, 1959, to Gifford and Agatha Ramsey, he was affectionately called "Spanky" by those of his closest friends and teammates, who played on the football team at Florida A&M University. Awarded a full athletic scholarship, he led the Rattlers on the gridiron by winning two consecutive national football titles in 1977 and 1978, and was honored as Division I-AA and Black College All-American.

Ever since I have known Trooper Ramsey as a member of the Florida Highway Patrol's 66th Recruit Class of 1982, he eminently served above and beyond the call of duty until his promotion to Sergeant in July 2006. He also volunteered as chaplain of the National Black State Trooper's Coalition and became the vice president of the Florida Coalition of Black State Troopers.

Responding to an inner calling of consecrating his life to the service of God, he affirmed his vocation by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in 1988 and joined the congregation of Glendale Missionary Baptist Church under the tutelage of the late Reverend Joseph Coats, Sr. On January 20, 1993, he met his future wife, Lisa Smith of Philadelphia, PA, and married her a year later on July 9, 1994. Two children, Jarrett and Jayla, were born out of this happy union. Thereupon, he and his wife became partners in God's Vineyard, and in 2001, Trooper Gifford "Spanky" Ramsey was ordained a Deacon of Glendale Baptist Church.

Blessed with an unenviable commonsense approach to life, he was also imbued with the rare wisdom of recognizing the strengths and limitations of the members of his congregation and those he served. Trooper Ramsey went about the duties of his profession, and he also became a missionary at home and abroad, serving a short-term tenure in Cape Town, South Africa.

Trooper and Deacon Ramsey was my good friend, and I am deeply saddened by his passing. He was my mentor ever since I became a trooper in the Florida Highway Patrol in 1989. Indeed, he will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment of public service, and the awesome power of his religious vocation to minister to the youth under the aegis of programs such as the Juvenile Justice Center Read Aloud Program, the Governor's Mentoring Initiative, Special Olympics Fundraising Events, Child Passenger Safety Details in both Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. His faith was deep and genuine, and his love for Glendale Baptist Church defined his dynamic friendship and understanding. No one who knew Trooper "Spanky"—and being struck by his sunny disposition and optimism—went away not acknowledging the presence of a caring community leader.

Like the God he faithfully served during the remaining years of his life, this trooper and gentleman came and lived among us that we may have life and have hope more abundantly. True to his faith, Reverend Ramsey would urge us to believe that his death does not represent an irrevocable finality, and he would assure us that he will live on in the good deeds he left behind. Indeed, no life could be more revered for having fulfilled his vocation as God's faithful steward. I will cherish the wonderful memories I have of his magnificent friendship.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4, and I congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for keeping their promise to the American people by taking this important step to place access to quality care for America's seniors and fiscal responsibility for taxpayers over increasing corporate profits.

The Republican Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 included an unprecedented provision outright prohibiting the Federal Government from negotiating for lower prescription drug prices. The result was predictable. Drug company profits soared, while drug prices increased for seniors and persons with disabilities. A July 2006 New York Times article reported that pharmaceutical companies may have received a more than \$2 billion windfall last year as a result of the transfer of low-income Medicaid recipients into the Medicare Part D program. Profiting from the sale of medications for our most vulnerable citizens is unacceptable.

H.R. 4 will require the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, to negotiate for lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation does not say how the negotiating authority should be implemented, but instead allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to determine the best way to negotiate for the lowest prices.

I have held several town halls in my district about Medicare Part D, and each time my