

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Michael in the United States House of Representatives.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a truly good man. With the passing of President Gerald Ford, the House of Representatives lost its most distinguished alumni, and America lost a great patriot who always placed his country's good ahead of his own political interest. Gerald Ford was a man of absolute integrity and profound personal decency.

Much has been said about President Ford's distinguished career in the House and as President. Many will rightly recall his absolute integrity and his profound personal decency. To build upon those remarks, I would like to share some of my personal interactions with Gerald Ford. I had the honor of meeting and working with former President Ford on many occasions after he left office. I found him to be the same man in private that he was in public—decent, honorable, and self-deprecating in his humor and observations. He was shrewd without being devious and wise without being complicated.

Madam Speaker, President Ford had genuine connections to and affection for Oklahoma and Oklahomans. He told me on several occasions that he became Vice President and ultimately President because of the late Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, who supported his nomination for the Vice Presidency. He always remembered that Oklahoma was one of only two Southern States that he carried in 1976. Indeed, once while making this point to me, he recalled the exact margin of victory—13,266 out of over 1 million cast.

Madam Speaker, during a memorable 1976 campaign stop in Oklahoma, President Ford said, "It's great to be in Oklahoma, the home of Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn't like, and the Oklahoma Sooners, who never played a team they couldn't beat." I later told him that single line won Oklahoma for him. "Well," he responded, "talking college football is pretty good politics in a lot of places. You might try it if you're ever campaigning in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, or just about anywhere in the South." It is still one of the best pieces of advice I ever got from a practicing politician.

President Ford paired his intelligence with empathy and his candor with modesty. He was as politically astute as he was personally decent, something that all too many people forget. He was absolutely loyal to his party while still approaching politics in a pragmatic and bipartisan manner that made genuine political compromise possible. The House was all the better because of his character, and so too was our country. When speaking to the

Congress, the President said with his usual humility that he was a Ford, not a Lincoln. Today, only the best among us might be able to call themselves Fords.

We will all miss him very much, Madam Speaker, and I strongly urge support of H. Res. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 14 on the motion to recommit (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING TIM LEININGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tim Leininger, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tim has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tim has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tim Leininger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Tim in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A DIVISION I FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2006 Southlake Carroll High School football team, which on Saturday, December 23, 2006, earned the title of 5A Division I State Champions and finished its season a perfect 16–0.

The Dragons rallied in the second half to deliver a 43–29 come-from-behind victory over Austin Westlake and on that day it was clear to everyone in the Alamodome that the Southlake Carroll Dragons are a genuine Texas high school football dynasty. In seven seasons under Head Coach Todd Dodge, the Dragons have amassed a 98–11 overall record and have gone 79–1 in the past 5 years. The team has won three consecutive national titles, won the last four of five State championships and has tied the Texas high school record with seven state titles. This

year, Southlake Carroll is also ranked as the consensus No. 1 team in the country by seven national polls. The Dragons have shown they are simply the best high school football program in decades.

Throughout its historic championship runs, Southlake Carroll has represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness and dignity—and its immaculate seasons will be recounted for generations to come throughout the state of Texas.

I could not be more proud than to represent Southlake Carroll High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2006 season such a memorable one.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 12: "no"; rollcall No. 13: "yes"; rollcall No. 14: "no"; rollcall No. 15: "yes."

RECOGNIZING SEAN MCCALMON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sam McCalmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Sean in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on January 4 and 5, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I had a

death in my immediate family that required me to remain in South Carolina.

Regarding the votes that I missed please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present: rollcall vote No. 3—On Ordering the Previous Question—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 4—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 5—On Agreeing to the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 6—On adoption of Title I of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 7—On adoption of Title 2 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 8—On adoption of Title 3 of the Resolution—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 9—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay”; rollcall vote No. 10—On Motion to Commit with Instructions—“yea”; rollcall vote No. 11—On adoption of Title 4 of the Resolution—“nay.”

TRIBUTE TO PAULA STONITSCH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved teacher Paula Stonitsch of Petaluma, California, who passed away December 13 at the age of 90. Mrs. Stonitsch was that special kind of teacher who, like many wonderful educators across the country, is remembered for a lifetime by the children she inspired.

For over 40 years, Paula taught at Petaluma High School where my four children—and many others—learned to care about their government and to understand how it works. Her own children were also in her classes, where she reminded them that they must earn their grades like everyone else. She also taught night classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, SRJC.

Born in San Francisco in 1916 to German-speaking immigrants who had high ambitions for their children, Paula Girbony went on to attend UC Berkeley, majoring in German and history, graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, and earned a teaching credential at UC Berkeley.

In 1941 she married Gottfried Stonitsch of Petaluma, whom she had met through friends of relatives there. She moved to Petaluma to join him and began teaching German and American history at the high school in 1951 and German classes at SRJC in the 1960s. In 1962, Paula Stonitsch won a Fulbright Exchange Teaching Scholarship which enabled her to teach for a year in Germany where she conducted her classes in German. She retired from Petaluma High School in 1990 but continued teaching at the JC until shortly before her death.

As the founder of a group called the Nut Ladies at St. John Lutheran Church in Petaluma, Paula was also known for her energies in supporting the church. Her group picked and sold walnuts, with the proceeds benefiting St. John.

Paula is survived by daughters Elizabeth Ravenscroft, Adrianna Rodgers, and Erika Stonitsch and sister Gisela Krueger.

Madam Speaker, teachers like Paula Stonitsch offer a rare gift to our young people, a gift that truly gives back to our country as these students grow up to become our citizens and our leaders. The generations of Petaluma children who were fortunate enough to study

with her will never forget the lessons she taught and the pride they learned.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to Title IV of H. Res. 6, adopting the rules of the 110th Congress. This title purports to uphold a commitment to fiscal responsibility, but in actuality it includes a mechanism by which the new majority may increase taxes for hard-working Americans. Ultimately, this title could facilitate tax increases while preventing tax relief measures for millions of Americans. Instead, the House should reaffirm our commitment to fiscal responsibility by passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution so that Congress does not spend more than it takes in.

To be clear, I do support an important provision contained in Title IV—namely, the provision concerning the long-overdue reform for congressional earmarks. I have long supported measures to bring transparency and accountability to the earmarking process to ensure that the American people know their money is not being squandered. In fact, I proudly supported H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act, as well as H. Res. 1000, both of which passed last year to amend the rules of the House to address earmark reform. These two measures were the first steps in ending the abuse of earmarks by a few members and increasing fiscal trust in Congress. I fully support the continuation of these efforts to crack down on earmark misuse and improve the financial transparency of our budget.

Regrettably, the important earmark reform provision of this title was coupled with a measure that could potentially increase taxes for all Americans. This provision, known as pay-as-you-go, or PAYGO, seems like a beneficial tool to fiscal responsibility on its face. PAYGO budgetary rules require new mandatory spending be offset by either other equal reductions in mandatory spending or by revenue increases. However, with plans for new direct spending programs and budgetary rules that do not accurately score the effect of tax reductions on future economic growth, PAYGO is really a policy of “tax and spend as you go.”

For this reason, I must reluctantly oppose this title. Instead, I will support the motion to commit, which will ensure Americans are not squeezed in their pocketbooks by requiring a three-fifths vote to pass any congressional tax hike. The three-fifths requirement was an important reform of the Contract with America, instituted in 1995 to protect Americans from unfair tax increases. By failing to guarantee this requirement, millions of American families and small businesses could be threatened by money grabs from greedy tax writers. This is not right. Over the past several years, our economy has seen levels of unprecedented growth as a result of the 2003 tax cuts. Today, with over seven million payroll jobs created and the Dow Jones Industrial Average at record highs, it would be irresponsible to jeopardize the economic progress we have made.

In addition, I call for the House of Representatives to consider H.J. Res. 1, which proposes a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. I have joined over 100 of my fiscally responsible and forward-thinking colleagues in cosponsoring this bill, which is a real solution to deficit spending. For the first time ever, this amendment would put it in our Constitution—in the very fabric of our democracy—that taxpayers’ money belongs to them and that Congress has the obligation of spending it carefully and responsibly. I wholeheartedly support this vital amendment and I sincerely hope this House will uphold our commitment to our constituents by considering and passing H.J. Res. 1.

Again, I cannot support Title IV of H. Res. 6 because it allows for a needless increase of the financial burden on all American families. Instead, I support the motion to commit and the Balanced Budget Amendment as real steps forward in reducing the tax burden on American families and committing ourselves to true fiscal responsibility. Our obligation to hardworking taxpayers deserve no less.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the legacy of former President Gerald R. Ford.

Although I never served with President Ford personally, I admire him for his record as a leader in the House of Representatives, and later for accepting one of the greatest challenges an individual can assume—the Presidency of the United States of America.

In the past couple of weeks, we have heard many historians talk about President Ford’s legacy of healing our nation in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal. At the time, he was sharply criticized for his decision to pardon President Richard Nixon, but now he has been lauded for moving this country forward. I think they are right. I admire him for the courage he had in making what was arguably one of the most difficult decisions a sitting president has ever made.

As a Midwesterner myself, I would like to think that it was some of the values and experiences that President Ford had while growing up in Michigan that helped shape him into the courageous and good-natured leader that he later became.

While President Ford played football for what we Ohio State University fans refer to as “the team up north,” he demonstrated his good-natured personality the day that he gave the university’s 1974-commencement address. It was just a few weeks after he became president and legendary football coach Woody Hayes was still at OSU. According to a recent story in The Columbus Dispatch, he said: “We just had our picture taken together and when that picture appears in today’s Dispatch, I’m pretty sure what the caption will say,” Ford said. “Woody Hayes and friend.”

President Ford loved our country, and he served it with integrity, which helped restore the public’s confidence in the presidency.