

That is exactly what this new Congress has done is adopt the pay-as-you-go rules, the fiscal discipline that put us on a path to again putting our fiscal house in order and in balance with our priorities as we go.

But Mr. Greenspan's book, I don't think any time soon will be on the best seller list or talked about in Republican clubs or Republican book circles, lays bare what a number of us have been saying about this administration and the Republican Congress, that they, or as JOHN McCAIN quotes, "spend like a bunch of drunken sailors." And they have now left America stranded with mountains of debt.

The one thing that we can say about President Bush and the Republican Congress when it comes to the economy and the fiscal mess that they've left is that we will forever be in their debt. That is one thing that you can always say. But I find it most intriguing that Greenspan, who is a life-long Republican and served and worked with President Reagan, President Bush, President Clinton, President Bush, and President Ford, saw that this administration and this Republican Congress and cohorts, when they worked together for 6 years, left this country in a worse fiscal shape than the one they inherited. And all of us will be judged in our public life for the country we inherited and the country we left behind. And what we got left behind is nothing but a fiscal mess that those of us who have taken the tough votes and the tough decisions put America's long-term economic interests at the center of our economic policy.

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IN SUPPORT OF ONSLOW VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an important effort to honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans.

The Onslow County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation in Jacksonville, North Carolina, is a nonprofit organization that was established by veterans and supporters in 1998. It was created to raise funds for the construction of a memorial to honor the brave men and women from all branches of the Armed Forces who served their country in Vietnam.

More than 9 million veterans of the Armed Forces served on active duty from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. Of the 3 million men and women who served in the Vietnam theater, 300,000 were wounded and more than 58,000 were killed. The Veterans Administration estimates that nearly 200 of the surviving Vietnam veterans die each and every day.

Today, nearly 10 years after its formation, the goal of the Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation is

on the verge of becoming a reality. On the grounds of Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, land has been acquired adjacent to the Beirut memorial, and the first phase of construction is expected to begin later this year.

The design of the memorial consists of a gazebo over a reflecting pool and fountain encircled by a glass wall inscribed with the names of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Hidden within a dark gray granite base, lights will gently illuminate the engraved names on the curved glass memorial.

Once completed, the memorial will enhance the Beirut memorial and any further memorials built within the Lejeune Memorial Garden. By creating an environment where relatives and the general public can come to remember and reflect on the men and women who gave their lives in Vietnam, this memorial will attract thousands of visitors to Onslow County each year.

The Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation has raised and collected about \$1.2 million toward the \$5 million estimated cost of the memorial. In support of this worthy project, Mr. Kenji Horn and others who believe in this memorial have organized a fund-raising motorcycle run in Jacksonville, North Carolina, on Saturday, September 22 of this year. It is open to everyone, and all types of motorcycles are welcome. Registrations have come in from Florida, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Kentucky, and other States around the country; and more than 1,500 motorcycles are expected to participate.

Mr. Speaker, in today's world, we all are aware of the debt of this Nation, and we understand the reality that most worthwhile projects must be funded by the private sector. So it is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that people from around this Nation will be interested in learning more about the Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation. Our Vietnam veterans have earned this honor.

And I close, Mr. Speaker, by saying, please God, continue to bless our men and women in uniform, and please, God, continue to bless America.

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

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

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A BIPARTISAN WAY AHEAD

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, there is a bipartisan "way ahead" in Iraq if viewed in terms of progress for America's security and not solely Iraq's, with a strategy that focuses on our

natural interests in this conflict, not just the interests of Iraqis.

Our troops have served our country courageously and brilliantly, but our engagement in Iraq has degraded our security, pushing our Army to the breaking point so that it cannot confront other pressing security concerns at home and abroad. My military service as a 3-star admiral, having led an aircraft carrier battle group in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and served as Director of the Navy's anti-terrorism unit, convinces me that an inconclusive, open-ended involvement in Iraq is not in our security interests.

Ending this war is necessary, but how we end it is of even greater importance both for our security and our troops' safety. These two considerations, our security and our troops' safety, are the dual catalysts for a bipartisan discussion to end this war.

First, America's security. Our Army will rapidly unravel if redeployment from Iraq does not begin before spring, 2008. Today, 40 percent of all U.S. Army equipment is in Iraq. There is no Army unit now at home in a state of readiness able to deploy anywhere another contingency might occur in the world.

Second, the safety of our troops. Redeployment from Iraq will be lengthy. Moving 160,000 troops and 50,000 civilians and closing bases are logically challenging, especially in conflict. To ensure our troops' safety, it will take at least a year, probably 15 to 24 months. The "long pole in the tent" is the closure or turnover of 65 forward operating bases. Conservatively, it takes 100 days to close one forward operating base. It will be important to balance how many to close at one time, with calculations about surrounding strife, and the fact that Kuwait's receiving facilities to clean and package vehicles for customs and shipment back to the United States can handle only two to 2½ brigade combat teams at a time, with the fact that there are currently 40 brigade combat team equivalents in Iraq today.

Redeployment is the most vulnerable of all military operations, particularly because this one will be down a single road leading from Iraq to Kuwait, "Road Tampa." Such vulnerability is why, in 1993, after "Black Hawk Down" in Somalia, it took 6 months to extract our 6,300 troops safely and only then after inserting an additional 19,000 troops to protect their redeployment.

And what of Iraqi stability in the aftermath of our redeployment, which affects the region and, thus, our security? Because the redeployment of troops will take a long time, we can have a bipartisan approach to Iraq's security. To do this, we Democrats must turn from pure opposition to this war and an immediate withdrawal and begin to help author a comprehensive regional security plan that accepts the necessity for a deliberate redeployment.

In turn, the Republican leadership must accept that the U.S. Government

must also work diplomatically with Iran and Syria during this deliberate redeployment. While these two countries are currently involved destructively in this war, according to our intelligence community, these nations want stability in Iraq after our departure and, therefore, can play a constructive role.

I have consistently argued that a planned end to our military engagement is necessary and that such a date certain deadline would force Iraqi leaders to assume responsibility, providing Iran and Syria the incentive to prevent violence otherwise caused by our departure.

Our troops could either return home or deploy to regions such as Afghanistan, where terrorists pose a threat to our security, while others remain at our existing bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and on aircraft carrier and amphibious groups to ensure our interests in the region as we did prior to invading Iraq.

Because our Army must either start a lengthy redeployment or risk unravelling, we have the catalyst for a bipartisan agreement to end this war with a stable Iraq if we also work with Iran and Syria to meet this goal. However, this opportunity for a bipartisan congressional approach to convince the President to use diplomacy to bring about a stable accommodation in Iraq once our troops redeploy will undoubtedly require an initial redeployment deadline that is a "goal" instead of a "date certain." Therefore, despite my continuing belief that a date certain is the best leverage we have to change Iraqis' and regional nations' behavior, when faced with the otherwise assured consequences of a bipartisan stalemate on resolving the tragic misadventure in Iraq, this compromise is needed for America's security.

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.)

□ 1700

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF  
SHEIK SATTAR BUZAIGH AL  
RISHAWI

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, scripture tells us to mourn with those who mourn and to grieve with those who grieve. I rise today to join our allies and his family and neighbors and friends to grieve the passing by assassination last week of a courageous Iraqi in Anbar province, Sheik Abdul Sattar Buzaigh al Rishawi, a man 37 years of age that I had the privilege of

meeting this last April when I visited Falluja in Ramadi.

It was there that I learned from General Odierno, as well, in our nearly 1-hour meeting with Sheik Sattar about how what has come to be known, Mr. Speaker, globally as the Anbar Awakening was born. You see, it was this Iraqi sheik, whose father had been killed by al Qaeda in Iraq, his three brothers had been murdered by al Qaeda, who said sometime in late 2006, "I have had enough." What the general told me, and the Sheik affirmed, as he came across the river in Ramadi, sat down with the Marines perhaps in the same room where we are pictured here, and said, "How can we, as Sunni sheik leaders, work with you, American forces, and the Maliki government to rid Ramadi, to rid al Anbar of al Qaeda?"

It was the end of a bloody year in 2006, just a few months earlier that Ramadi was at the very center of what was called the Triangle of Death. According to National Intelligence Estimates, Ramadi was so far gone that it could not be reclaimed militarily. But Sheik Sattar stepped forward. He had a vision for driving terrorists from his community. As General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker reported to Congress last week and independent organizations, like the Brookings Institution, a left-leaning think tank, have confirmed, because of the leadership of Sheik Sattar and over 42 other Iraqi sheiks that he recruited, Anbar province is transformed. The city of Ramadi is transformed. It has truly been a miraculous turnaround with the virtual elimination of al Qaeda in western Iraq being the result.

Iraqi military leaders say to the world media, "We considered the sheik our first line of defense." President Bush just 10 days ago met with Sheik Sattar in Ramadi to celebrate the first anniversary of the Anbar Awakening. Of his passing, the interior ministry named a national police brigade after him. The leader of that ministry said, "We will be building a great statue for Sheik Sattar Buzaigh al Rishawi at the entrance of Anbar province so it will be a witness to his great accomplishments and those of the people of Iraq."

Amidst the thousands who gathered for his funeral on Friday in Ramadi, his brother would say, "All of Anbar is Abu Risha, so Abu Risha has not been killed." He went on to say, "I pledge to you, my father, my brother, my cousins, we will follow the road taken by Sheik Abdul Risha. We will follow it until we kill the last terrorist in Iraq." I was pleased to see that even this Sunday U.S. military forces took into custody a man believed to have been involved in his assassination.

We mourn with those who mourn. In my meeting with Sheik Sattar, he said a few things to me I will never forget. He said, "Congressman PENCE, when you go home, tell your people that we in Anbar believe that an attack on an American is an attack on an Iraqi." He

said, "Anyone who points a weapon at an American is pointing a weapon at an Iraqi." He also looked at me, at age 37, wearing those flowing robes with a pinstripe suit underneath them, he looked at me, and he said through those warm brown eyes, he said, "Anyone who tells you that Iraqis don't like Americans is lying to you." He said, "Iraqis love Americans." And then he asked me, sitting at Camp Falluja and Ramadi, why we would even discuss permanently leaving Iraq.

He was a man of hope, a man of courage, a man of conviction. I mourn his loss as should every American and every freedom-loving citizen of the world mourn the passing of Sheik Sattar.

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

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

JENA SIX

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that the Third Circuit Court of Appeals has tossed out the conviction of aggravated battery for 17-year-old Mychal Bell. I can no longer be silent about the ongoing struggle for justice for the six high school students in Jena, Louisiana, known as the Jena Six. These young boys, who were arrested after a racially charged school fight and charged with attempted murder following a noose hanging incident now face the prospect of losing much of their young lives to a tainted criminal justice system.

I have carefully reviewed all of the news accounts of the events surrounding this most troubling case. I have talked with the parents, and I have talked with the attorneys. I remain convinced that this case is a result of long-standing, deep-seated racial divisions in Jena, Louisiana.

It seems unreasonable that on a school campus the administration was unaware of the fact that white students had claimed the space under a tree and declared it off limits to black students. Even so, once the black students asked permission of the administration to sit under the tree and were granted permission to sit under the tree, the school should have recognized that a problem was brewing. The school should have initiated discussions surrounding the residual racial issues that existed in order to avoid a confrontation.

After the black students sat under the tree, it is reported that the white students responded by hanging three hangman's nooses in a tree. Given this country's history of racially motivated