

he was confronted with an accusation of treason by one of the Nation's most prominent and well-funded liberal advocacy organizations.

Last week the Senate took the appropriate course of action to officially, and in a bipartisan fashion, condemn this atrocious act on a distinguished war hero. I call on the Democrat leadership to follow the Senate's lead and allow for consideration of House Resolution 644.

The men and women of our Armed Forces have committed themselves to the defense of this Nation. I ask my colleagues, who will come to their defense when their integrity and patriotism come under attack?

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, in a bipartisan manner, Congress enacted the Children's Health Insurance Program to provide health coverage to those who need it the most. Since that time it's been a success story providing health care coverage to 6 million children.

When I was a member of the Texas State legislature, I had an opportunity to help implement the first CHIP program in the State of Texas there in Laredo. Again, it's a story that's worked very well.

In fact, as the program grew, the number of uninsured children in our Nation has dropped dramatically, even though child poverty was on the rise and many of the families were losing their employer-based health coverage.

Unfortunately, this trend has started to reverse itself. For 2 years in a row the number of uninsured children has increased. There are now 8.7 million children in our Nation who are uninsured. Those numbers are a clear sign that Congress needs to pass a bipartisan agreement that was reached last week and will be on the floor today that will provide access to quality health insurance to 10 million low-income children.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan agreement. Again, Democrats and Republicans need to come together for the Nation's children.

BURMA PROTESTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, the world has witnessed an incredible display of courage in the face of tyranny in Burma. Buddhist monks have been peacefully marching throughout the streets of Rangoon, as well as 25 other cities throughout the country. These pious men, revered by their countrymen, are peacefully calling for an end to the

brutal military dictatorships that have held the country hostage for over four decades.

Citizens are beginning to stand in support of the peaceful demonstration, at times protecting the monks from possible violence from riot police by linking arms, acting as a human shield. The military junta has warned that it may take action against the protestors, action that has been terribly violent in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in solidarity with the people of Burma, who wish only for freedom and an end to the military dictatorship. And I call on the military regime to respect the will of the Burmese people to live in freedom.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

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

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. This day gives each of us the opportunity to remember the victims of violent crimes and offer our support to their families.

As a career law enforcement officer, I saw firsthand the devastation violent crimes bring to victims and their families and to the communities where they occur. And I understand the need to defend victims rights in the aftermath of their unspeakable loss.

In honor of those victims, I'm proud to join my colleague from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) in introducing legislation to prohibit America's most heinous criminals and murderers from profiting from their crimes. Our bill, the Stop the Sale of Murderabilia to Protect the Dignity of Crime Victims Act, would fight the exploitation of criminal activity by preventing criminals from selling their wares in public auction. I can think of no better way to honor the victims of murder than supporting this bill.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) for his resolution, and I want to join him this morning. And I'm honored to stand here this morning as part of the first National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims to pay tribute to the memory of those whose lives have been tragically cut short through senseless acts of violence in this country. Let us and their families know that they are not alone.

Of course we must continue to devote the resources necessary to the local, State, and Federal levels to protect our communities from falling victim to future criminal acts, but we cannot for-

get those who have already been victims, particularly the victims of murder and the families that struggle to rebuild their lives after such heinous acts.

This day also enables us to recognize and thank those victims assistance organizations, like Parents of Murdered Children, that happen to be headquartered in my district in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the National Center for Victims of Crime, that provide ongoing support to the surviving families. The strength, comfort, and compassion that these organizations provide to families and friends of murder victims is immeasurable and should not go unrecognized.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment today to remember these victims and their families and the organizations that provide assistance.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS LOST ITS WAY

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Congress will take up a continuing resolution to fund the Federal Government after September 30. While the House has passed all 12 of its appropriation bills, Senate Republicans continue to obstruct efforts to finish the process over in the other Chamber, making the continuing resolution necessary.

In our appropriations bills, we rejected the President's most harmful cuts and made targeted investments in veterans care, education, health care, homeland security, and law enforcement. And we did this all by remaining fiscally responsible.

This is something new around here. Past Republican Congresses refused to abide by the pay-as-you-go philosophy. As a result, they turned a \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus under the Clinton administration into a \$3 trillion deficit today.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan summarizes the Republican stewardship of the Federal budget best when he states in his new book: "The Republicans in Congress lost their way."

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats will continue to be fiscally responsible.

FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the continued politics being played with this year's veterans funding by the majority party. Last week, 44 Members of Congress sent a letter to the Speaker urging her to immediately bring a conference report on veterans funding before the House. Our goal was to pass this funding and avoid the political gamesmanship of the appropriation process. Earlier this year,

the House and Senate both passed veterans funding with overwhelming support. The fiscal year ends on Saturday.

Unfortunately, it has become clear that the top Democratic aides intend to hold our veterans hostage. A spokeswoman for the House Appropriations Committee called our letter and efforts to pass veterans funding immediately just "a cute diversion."

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing cute about withholding funding for veterans benefits. There is nothing cute about withholding funding for veterans health care. There is nothing cute about Democrats using veterans as political pawns in their appropriations strategy.

I urge my colleagues not to let veterans funding be held hostage any longer. Our veterans are saying, don't betray us. Pass the fiscal year 2008 appropriations.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote for legislation supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

For nearly 100 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has served a straightforward and noble mission, honoring the dead by helping the living and by providing friendship.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we have nearly 10,000 VFW members, another 4,500 members of the Ladies Auxiliary. I'm honored to be their representative in this House and to work with them to ensure that all of our veterans and their families receive the full support and benefits they have earned.

The VFW has been an outspoken advocate for veterans rights. It has called for expanded health care for veterans, increased funding for research into traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. It has also asked for improved access to health care and for veterans support for mental illnesses and treatment.

When I met with my veterans advisory committee last fall, one prominent member of the VFW asked me to support a sufficient budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am happy to report that the 110th Congress passed the largest budget in the 77-year history of the Veterans Affairs.

The House of Representatives has heard the call of the VFW and other veterans organizations and has passed bills to support and fund these critical issues.

STOP THE SALE OF MURDER-ABILIA TO PROTECT THE DIGNITY OF CRIME VICTIMS ACT

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, later today I will introduce legislation, the

Stop the Sale of Murderabilia to Protect the Dignity of Crime Victims Act. And I will introduce that legislation with my good friend and former sheriff from Indiana, Congressman ELLSWORTH.

Before coming to Congress, I served 33 years in the King County Sheriff's Office. I have seen the pain on the faces of victims and victims families, unexplainable, unimaginable pain that covers their faces and their families for the rest of their life.

And, unfortunately, criminals today who are in our State and Federal prisons are using their fame and notoriety to make a buck. The Internet has become a gateway to an industry coined as "murderabilia," where tangible goods owned and/or created by convicted murderers are sold for their profit.

Today, on the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, I'm privileged and honored to honor the memory of all victims. And my bill aims to shut down this business.

STRENGTHENING THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush was running for re-election in 2004, one of the major promises he made during his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention was to strengthen the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Back then, the compassionately conservative President vowed to, and I'm quoting now, "lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance program."

That's exactly what this Congress has done. A bipartisan agreement that comes to the floor today would enroll more than 4 million more children in the Children's Health Insurance Program who are already eligible. And based on his past statement, you would think that President Bush would be praising this agreement. He is not. In fact, he's threatening to veto the bill because he says that we are trying to expand the program beyond its original intent. That's just wrong. Our bipartisan agreement does nothing more than what he vowed to do back in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words. The President should follow through with his promise and support our efforts to ensure 10 million children have access to health care.

ALAN GREENSPAN AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, in Alan Greenspan's new memoir, "The Age of Turbulence," the

former Fed Chair criticizes Republicans for abandoning fiscal discipline.

It's no wonder: the current Bush administration has racked up over one-third, about \$3.2 trillion, of our nearly \$9 trillion total national debt. In fact, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush are responsible for incurring almost three-quarters of our total national debt, according to a new analysis from the Joint Economic Committee.

Republican administrations over the last 30 years have made us a Nation of debtors, vulnerable to the economic and political decisions made half a world away. We need a new direction.

Democrats in Congress are committed to getting our fiscal house back in order.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a) and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission:

Mr. DINGELL, Michigan
Mr. GILCREST, Maryland

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL AWARD BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Congressional Award Board:

Ms. SHELLA JACKSON-LEE, Texas
and, in addition,
Mr. Paxton Baker, Maryland
Mr. Vic Fazio, Virginia
Mrs. Annette Lantos, California
Ms. Mary Rodgers, Pennsylvania

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
June 28, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)) I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis of Florida to the Congressional Award Board.

Mr. Bilirakis has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.