

the great State of Florida in their focused persistence and unassailable desire to succeed. My colleagues, I take great pride in representing the University of Florida and congratulate Coach Billy Donovan and the entire university on this great accomplishment.

THE NEW DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, over the past 3 months, the new Democratic Congress has reached across the aisle to work with Republicans on legislation that is going to produce positive results for the American people. We vowed to run this House differently than the Republicans, and since day one, we have lived up to that promise.

During our first 100 hours, we passed legislation increasing the minimum wage, reducing the cost of prescription drugs, making college more affordable, securing our Nation by implementing the 9/11 recommendations and ending subsidies for big oil companies.

Since that time, we passed legislation that changes the direction of the war in Iraq, but also fully funding our troops and supporting our veterans. At the end of last month, we also passed a budget resolution that balances our budget within 5 years, something that the Bush administration and his budgets have not been able to do.

Not only is our budget fiscally responsible, it also increases the funding for children's health care, for education and for veterans health care, all without raising taxes. Yes, we are going in a new direction.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most of us just returned from 2 weeks talking with constituents. In the Third District of Texas, folks only had one thing on their mind, illegal immigration.

They were hopping mad that illegal immigrants come into this country at all. They told me any proposal that would grant automatic American citizenship to illegal immigrants would be blanket amnesty, and they're right.

People have waited years to become American citizens through the legal proper channels. Granting blanket amnesty to untold millions of illegal immigrants undercuts the merits of creating a legal citizenship program. Just like in the 1980s, if we grant amnesty now, many more illegal immigrants will simply flock into our country and demand their day for amnesty. America must be a Nation that respects the rule of law and enforces it.

□ 1020

TIME FOR NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, during the President's weekly radio address, he accused the Democrats of spending 68 days pushing legislation that would undercut our troops.

During his tour of the Middle East yesterday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, "The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited." He goes on to say, it has a positive impact "communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment."

So who's right? Either the Secretary of the Defense, who is calling for the Iraqis to take ownership of their country, or the President, who is playing politics here at home? The Congress has provided the President the one thing he has refused to develop after 4 years of war: a policy to get the Iraqis off the sidelines and onto the field.

So after years of chaos and bloodshed, when the administration asks for more troops and more time and more of the same, we are calling for accountability of the Iraqis and a responsible redeployment of U.S. troops. Our troops are bearing all of the responsibility for the President's policy, and the Iraqis have no accountability.

Secretary Gates, thank you for your honest assessment of what it takes to bring a new direction to Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ANDREWS). The Chair reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to others, as in the second person.

YVETTE CADE—VICTOR NOT VICTIM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in 2005, Yvette Cade walked into the Maryland courtroom of District Judge Richard Palumbo to extend the restraining order she had on her estranged husband. She was tired of the abuse. She wanted "an immediate and absolute divorce."

Judge Palumbo, however, refused to grant the victim's request, made snide remarks and dismissed the assault case, including the protective order. Two weeks later, Yvette Cade's estranged husband walked into her place of business, doused her with gasoline, struck a match and set her on fire.

Miraculously, Yvette Cade survived this brutal attack. She received third-degree burns over 60 percent of her

body, yet she refused to let her physical injuries silence her voice. She became an outspoken advocate against domestic violence, urging women in abusive relationships to leave. She has appeared on "Nancy Grace" and "Oprah."

During this National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we honor remarkable people like Yvette Cade who speak out for victims. Tonight, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus will award Yvette Cade the Unsung Hero Award for triumphing over her personal tragedy to become a victor rather than a victim.

And that's just the way it is.

FINDING A BETTER WAY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask all of us what kind of Nation are we when we neglect the needs of our senior citizens.

In the past 2 weeks, I have received over 15,000 cards from voters in Wisconsin, just like this one from Elaine in Peshtigo which reads: "I am soon an 80-year-old woman and a widow. My husband and I farmed, and we certainly had hard times the first years. But the years now are harder for old people. Oil companies take a huge profit. The CEOs make a salary no man on Earth is worth. The pill companies are taking huge profits with no consideration for our old people. The people of my generation lived through the Depression, World War II and two more wars, and now, in our old age, we face other obstacles."

My friends, there is a better way of doing things in America, and by working together, we will find it with no patient left behind.

BALANCE BUDGET BY CONTROLLING SPENDING

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the battle of ideas is alive and well here in the House of Representatives where we have two different parties with two different philosophies; and nowhere is that more clear than in the budget debate that is occurring today.

In the budget that passed the House before the Easter recess, the majority passed the largest tax increase in American history. I just held 34 town hall meetings in my First Congressional District of Wisconsin, and my constituents are telling me they don't want to see the per-child tax credit get cut in half. They don't want to see the marriage penalty come back. They don't want to see income tax rates raised across the board. They don't want to see the death tax come back in full force.

The tax cuts that passed in 2001 and 2003 created 7.6 million new jobs. We don't need tax increases; but, unfortunately, the budget that the majority passed here does just that. It gets rid of all of that tax relief that created all of these jobs, and it gives the American people the largest tax increase in American history. I think it is wrong.

We on this side of the aisle, the minority, we believe in a different path: Balance the budget by controlling spending and keep taxes low. That's the way to go, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE CALL FOR CHANGE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in Congress have heard the call for change delivered by the American people last November. In just 3 months, we restored the necessary oversight of the administration and reformed the ethics rules of the House to lessen the influence of lobbyists and add transparency to the legislative process.

We answered the call for change in direction in Iraq and kept our promise to our Nation's veterans by voting to increase VA health care funding by \$11 billion.

We passed meaningful legislation that will help middle class families, lowering the cost of student loans and prescription drugs.

And although we won't be able to dig ourselves out overnight from the mountains of debt Congress and the administration built up over the past 6 years, the new Democratic Congress passed a budget that achieves balance in 5 years without raising a penny of taxes.

In short, Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the American people and changed the way Congress does business.

MINNESOTANS SAY: STOP RAISING TAXES

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, 7,000 Minnesotans stood on the steps of the St. Paul capitol in our State for the purpose of standing for freedom. It was a beautiful, sunny, ebullient Saturday morning, and 7,000 hardworking Minnesotans took their time away from their families and away from their work to stand on the steps of our State capitol to say: Enough is enough, stop raising my taxes.

The last vote I took in this body prior to our recess had the Democrats calling for the largest tax increase in American history and the largest spending increase in American history.

The people in Minnesota, Mr. Speaker, asked me to come back to this body

to fight for their freedom and to fight for the ability to hold on to more of their hardworking income, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

cuts should not and cannot be allowed to expire.

□ 1030

DEFUSING THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the President is going to talk to the congressional leaders about Iraq. It is his way of trying to defuse the will of the American people. He is going to talk about his vision for a military victory in Iraq. He is going to talk about his military escalation and how well it is working.

He is not going to talk about the bombing in the Green Zone last week, or the fact that about 3 hours ago there were 127 Iraqis killed by a suicide bomber. And it is only early morning. There is plenty of time left in this day.

The President will say there are good days and there are bad days. In truth, there are only bad days, and worse days in Iraq.

The only thing worth talking about is protecting our soldiers by getting them out of the Iraq quagmire. That is the only discussion worth having, because setting a timetable is the only way to protect and defend the U.S. soldiers he keeps sending into harm's way.

Don't give him an inch, Mr. Speaker. Bring our troops home.

THE TAX CREDIT GAP

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, American families are leaving billions of dollars on the table each year by not claiming tax credits that help families pay for child care, to send their children to college, save for retirement, or work their way into the middle class.

Taxpayers claimed nearly \$83 billion in tax credits in 2004. But families missed out on over \$10 billion in unclaimed tax credits, according to a new estimate from the Joint Economic Committee. You can find this report on my Web site at maloney.house.gov.

The IRS can help close this tax credit gap by reporting on the characteristics of households not taking advantage of these credits. This will help us conduct better outreach to families who are missing out on credits that reward their hard work and help them get ahead.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, during the break, I was home in my district in