

I join today with Representative JON PORTER, my cochair for the Congressional Tourism and Travel Caucus. What we want to point out is that the greatest strengths of America lie in its land and its people and the best way to know that is to get out and about, or be a tourist.

One doesn't have to go far. They can be in their own community. We will also see many people from other parts of the world coming to the United States this summer. And our issue is to make awareness of this. Reach out. Thank people who are in the tourism industry, whether it is a bus driver or an airplane pilot or a waitress in a restaurant. Celebrate the greatness of America. Look at this building, this town, this great city, the great people that have built the history of this town.

Tourism is everywhere, and tourism is the greatest asset America has to expose.

□ 1015

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) celebrating America, and that's great news. There are a lot of things that challenge us as a country, but there are some great things happening. Mr. FARR and I are cochairmen of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, and we are here today to talk about National Tourism Week.

I represent the great State of Nevada, where we have about 45 million visitors a year to our communities. But more importantly, the tour and travel industry in this country represents number one, two and three in every economy across the United States of America. Seven hundred billion dollars annually is spent on tour and travel, and that's about \$109 billion in tax revenues. That's \$22,000 a second, \$1.3 million a minute, \$80 million an hour, and \$1.9 billion a day is spent on tour and travel in the United States. It is the largest employer in the country, with 7.5 million jobs. International spending is \$108 billion.

I would like to recognize, for all those communities, and all those folks that represent the tour and travel industry how important it is to our economy, but also how important is to the world to share in this great America.

HOUSE WORKS IN STRONG BIPARTISAN FASHION TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day today, this House will send our military a strong mes-

sage, that we are going to provide them the equipment and the benefits that they so desperately need and deserve as they continue to fight two different wars in Iraq, and certainly in Afghanistan.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, will help protect our troops on the battlefield by providing \$4 billion for special vehicles, transportation, that is going to be used in these two wars.

At a time when our equipment is being worn out, the legislation also creates a Defense Readiness Production Board that will identify serious readiness issues and will then allow the board to address those issues through funds that are placed in a Strategic Readiness Funds.

In this House, we certainly have differences on how to proceed in Iraq, but we are united in ensuring that our troops are taken care of, both on the battlefield and here at home.

Let's support this bill today.

MARIETTA

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Marietta, Georgia on being named one of the Nation's top best communities. The National Civic League has designated Marietta as an All-American city for its exemplary and innovative work to strengthen the community through citizen participation.

Marietta was recognized for several programs that cut to the heart of the city's commitment to improving the lives of its residents. The Marietta Reads program helps children develop critical literary skills. The M-STAR program helps reduce crime. And the Marietta Revitalization Program helps to create affordable housing and foster safe communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous and well-deserved honor, as the citizens of Marietta have put their hearts and souls into strengthening our community. In fact, Marietta is only the fourth Georgia city to ever achieve this distinction in its 57-year history.

We all know that when our friends and neighbors come together for the common good, something special happens in our cities. Schools improve, the economy is bolstered, and our streets are safer. I am incredibly proud that Marietta is leading the way on these important initiatives. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the city of Marietta, its Mayor, Bill Dunaway, its members of Council, and especially my councilman, Van Pearlberg.

ROTELLA INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud to rise today in honor of the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School in Waterbury, Connecticut, which recently received the Ronald Simpson Deserved Merit Award. This award, considered the highest recognition for magnet schools in the Nation, is given to only one school a year for its exceptional academic standards and achievements.

The Rotella School is a dynamic learning community of 600 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Rotella serves urban and suburban students who represent a diverse group of backgrounds from around Waterbury. Its unique, art-based curriculum challenges students to excel, and encourages them to express themselves through arts.

Students who are exposed to the arts have higher test scores, better school attendance and increased self-discipline. Rotella is a testament to the power of arts in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to stand here today in recognition of Rotella, its administrators, its students for their contribution to our community. They are truly an inspiration to Waterbury. I also commend Rotella's principal, Gina Calabrese, for outstanding work at Rotella and receiving this distinguished award.

CARSON FARIS, RN

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we passed a resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week. While AmeriCorps' particular design provides a tuition reward, true volunteering comes with the expectation of nothing in return.

A woman from my hometown of Ocala, Florida so embodies pure selflessness that I would like to praise her today publicly.

Carson Faris is a registered nurse and a certified occupational health nurse specialist with E-One. However, her caregiving nature does not end there. Nurse Faris mentors addicted women through the rocky path of recovery. Further, in addition to her own 10 pets, she shelters at-risk cats and serves on the board of directors for the Humane Society of Marion County and volunteers at the animal shelter. Also, she serves as an advisory board member for the Marion County unit of the Florida Blood Centers. Oh, and by the way, she is the treasurer of the Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses.

Nurse Faris shines as a beacon of true volunteerism.

PRAISING EOSINOPHIL AWARENESS WEEK RESOLUTION

(Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, last month my congressional office was flooded with letters asking me to co-sponsor the National Eosinophil Awareness Week Resolution. All of these heartfelt notes, as it turned out, were authored by the family and friends of an 11-year-old girl who lives in my district, Jessica Seidel. Jessica and her mother are here with us today.

Jessica suffers from a rare eosinophil disorder that causes her body to mistake common proteins as foreign bodies. The disorder makes Jessica's life very hard. Only last week, she had to move out of her house because her basement flooded, rendering the house unliveable for her.

Despite these challenges, Jessica remains a remarkable girl. She is visiting me here in Washington today, and I am impressed by her poise and her courage. I am very pleased that on Monday, the House unanimously approved the Eosinophil Awareness Week Resolution. Our vote was meaningful and it was important, not only to Jessica and her family and friends, but to every sufferer of an eosinophilic disorder across the United States.

OPEN SEASON ON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat budget being brought to the floor today is not about leadership, it's about passing the buck, billions of them, onto our children.

This Democrat budget will raise taxes by more than \$200 billion over the next 5 years. And if these massive tax hikes don't bring in the revenue they want to keep expanding government, they will trigger more tax increases so they can pay for future spending. This is not leadership.

Despite the repeated warnings of every expert, this does nothing to deal with our Social Security and Medicare crisis. This is not leadership.

Tax-and-spend season is alive and well here in the House of Representatives.

Now, we can eliminate the deficit without raising taxes, but it will take setting priorities, making tough decisions to rein in our colossal government spending and working together. That's leadership.

This budget is forcing the American people to pay for a lack of leadership, and that's wrong. And the American people are watching.

THE ENSURING ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES ACT

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of international family planning.

In the developing world today, contraceptive supplies are often unavailable, placing the health and well-being of millions of people at risk.

Currently, the global gag rule limits access to contraceptives by prohibiting the U.S. to giving family planning aid to certain foreign nongovernmental organizations. That's why I have introduced the bipartisan Ensuring Access to Contraceptives Act of 2007 with my colleague, Representative CHRIS SHAYS.

Our bill carves out a specific exception to allow the U.S. to provide contraceptives to developing countries. In addition, this bill will double the amount of funding USAID is authorized to spend on these programs.

I urge my colleagues to join us as co-sponsors. This bill will help prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce incidents of maternal and child mortality, improve the health of women, and prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM E. COCHRAN

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to a fellow optometrist, a leader in our profession, Dr. William Cochran. For 24 years, he has led my alma mater, the Southern College of Optometry, and under his guidance the institution has flourished, turning out highly-trained optometrists and serving 60,000 patients a year. His commitment to his faculty, his patients and students are examples we can all follow here in the Nation's capital.

I congratulate Dr. Cochran on his retirement from the Southern College of Optometry and thank him for the example he has left for optometrists now and in the future. He has made a lasting, positive impact on hundreds of young students and continued to enhance and build a wonderful institution that I am very proud of, the Southern College of Optometry.

GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address America's legal black hole, known as Guantanamo Bay.

The administration would like us to believe that the 15 prisoners that were very recently sent to Guantanamo are typical of the other 772 that have been sent there over the last 4½ years. Many of them are still languishing 4½ years later, even though only four of those 772 have ever been charged with a crime. In fact, only 8 percent are alleged to have ever acted as a "fighter" against the United States. Only 5 per-

cent were actually captured by American forces. The vast majority were turned in for bounties by Pakistani or other northern alliance Afghan forces.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, we need to shine the light of the law on this situation, to ask the administration what are they going to do about people who are being illegally detained there without charges and with no plans as to how to fix this situation, which continues to undermine America's reputation and credibility throughout the world.

BUDGET GUARANTEED TO RAISE TAXES

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

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, later today we will have a budget on this floor proposed by the Democratic majority which is guaranteed to raise taxes by about \$200 billion. Now, that budget will also increase spending by about \$200 billion over and above the budget that the President proposed.

Do we think that those two numbers are the same by coincidence? No. And it's not an increase in spending by \$200 billion, it's an increase over the increase proposed by the President by \$200 billion. This is not a tax increase that we need to have. This is a tax increase that they want to have because they want to spend a lot more money than we are already spending, and we are already spending too much.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1427, FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 404 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 404

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment