

sides of the aisle that will work towards ending this open-ended commitment for their security and America's.

LANCE CPL. BEN DESILETS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets.

Ben was killed in Iraq on Tuesday. He was from Elmwood, Illinois, which is just west of Peoria, Illinois. He was a 2004 graduate of Elmwood High School.

In a statement from his family, it was described that Ben was killed behind the wheel of a Humvee when he died in the early morning hours. His mother is quoted as saying in an article in a local paper today, "He thought he was doing good. I was proud of him. It made him grow up a lot."

Today, as we honor Ben and all those who have fallen, and we remember our veterans on Memorial Day, we thank them for their service. We thank their families for their service and the great sacrifice that people like Ben and others have made in the name of freedom.

God bless Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets and his family.

IT IS TIME TO END THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. With the passing of the war supplemental, our creation, the Iraqi Government, must meet certain benchmarks of performance, including turning over most of their oil assets worth as much as \$21 trillion to international oil companies.

The administration blows up Iraq, is responsible for the deaths of perhaps as many as a million Iraqi citizens; the administration triggers a civil war, takes \$10 billion in Iraq oil proceeds, which disappear, and now tells the Iraqis they better start behaving or the U.S. won't give them more support.

This isn't politics; this is pathology. Instead of passing legislation to continue the war, we should instead deny funds for the war and begin documenting war crimes.

It is time this Congress took responsibility to bring the troops home, to end this war, to restore our Constitution and reconnect our country to the highest values of truth and justice.

A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in a continuing call

for responsible leadership in this House.

It has now been 107 days since the President called for Congress to produce a supplemental bill that will adequately fund the war on terror. And after more than 3 months of political theater and grandstanding, we have a leadership that hasn't produced anything. A bill will come before us today, hopefully that will fund the troops, and quite simply this will hurt our men and women in uniform.

These are not my words but those of a sergeant first class from Tennessee serving in Iraq who wrote to me recently. She has said this, and she is frustrated with some of the things in Iraq but is committed to her duty. And I would like to quote from her letter.

She writes, "I believe that before Congress keeps pushing to get us out of here just to get their sons and daughters home, they need to take a step back, talk to the soldiers." She continues, "I have lost several good friends, brothers and sisters in arms, to this place, but I do not want my children to come back here and clean up this mess if I had the capability to take care of it myself. I know that if we pull out now, the next generation will be right back here to finish what we did not, because too many people are worried about their own political agenda. I am proud to be an American soldier, doing my job to protect my country and help others."

God bless this soldier, and God bless all who with her serve.

□ 1010

UNDERSCORING THE NEED TO MAKE CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Democratic National Summit on America's Children underscored the need to keep critical investments in preschool education for children today so that society does not pay a higher price later. A new Joint Economic Committee report shows that investing in high quality education is a cost-effective way of improving the life circumstances of children, while also increasing the U.S. economic growth over the long term by as much as 3.5 percent.

Another report details the provisions in Federal and State tax codes that are available to help families with children. The credits offered by my home State of New York are among the most generous. Both reports are available on the JEC website.

Investing in our Nation's children not only helps them, but also helps produce an innovative workforce for the future and keeps our economy strong.

WHY THERE IS A MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day, we honor the warriors of America whose lives were taken in their youth for their country's future. In Southeast Texas, 18 of these men have been killed in Iraq in sacrifice and service for the rest of us. One of those was 20 year old Lance Corporal Anthony Aguirre of Channelview, Texas.

While on patrol with 20 other Marines in the desert sands of Al Anbar Province, Lance Corporal Aguirre stepped on an improvised explosive device. Since America's enemies hide in caves and won't face off with our troops, these cowards of the desert use these explosives to kill Americans. Rather than immediately jump off the IED, however, Aguirre stood firm and told his fellow Marines to clear the area. When his buddies were safe, he took his foot off the bomb. He died so others could live. Amazing men, these young Marines of the United States Marine Corps.

Later, as the funeral procession passed through the streets of Channelview, the crowds, estimated at 8,000, waved flags and stood in silence along the rural roads for this Son of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Aguirre and his fallen comrades are why we have Memorial Day.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE TO AMERICA

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Jewish American Heritage Month to recognize the contributions the Jewish people have made to our country.

I have come to understand that to the Jewish people, the word "heritage" has deep meaning. It is not simply a sense of pride or history. It is a belief that each person should in some way improve the world. The often quoted Rabbi Hillel asked the question, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, who am I?"

It is this same set of values that brings Jewish groups to the Hill advocating not just for so-called Jewish issues, but for issues that affect everyone; better education, better healthcare, more protections for the environment, free speech, and separation of church and state. The Jewish community feels a special obligation to repair the world, one little piece at a time, for all people, not just their own.

I am grateful to the organizations in my own district for their contributions to our community. From providing educational and social services, to involvement in local and national policy,

the commitment to improving our society is one of the many values I have come to respect in the Jewish community in Baltimore and across this Nation.

THE END OF THE BLAIR ERA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the decision of British Prime Minister Tony Blair to resign on June 27th marks the end of an era in U.S.-British relationships. Blair's extraordinarily close alliance with President Bush has been a major force on the world stage since the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

The Prime Minister has been an eloquent and passionate leader in confronting global terrorism. He deserves credit for his central role in the global war on terrorism and for having the courage to act on his convictions in the face of tremendous opposition within his own party and from other European governments.

His steadfast support for the United States in the 4 years since 2001 and his key role in building the international coalition of the willing demonstrated principled leadership as well as vision.

The strong U.S.-British relationship will certainly endure under Blair's successor. However, there is no doubt that this relationship was made better because of Tony Blair.

AMERICANS WILL BE HEARD ON ENDING THE WAR

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that Congress is poised to approve a short-term funding proposal for Iraq without strong conditions to phase down this war. I, for one, will not vote for it. But the sad fact is that we don't yet have a majority in this House to end the war.

Yet it is hardly a victory for the Bush administration. Congressional support is slowly crumbling, even among Republicans, as the politicians are catching up to where most Americans are on this war.

I would urge people not to be discouraged by the vote today, but to keep up their spirits and their pressure. Americans will be heard, and this nightmare will end.

REJECT AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress return home for the Memorial Day weekend, as we honor the sacrifices of our men and women who have given their lives in

defense of our Nation and of its values, I hope that every American will remind their elected representatives that in honoring that sacrifice, our elected representatives have an obligation to uphold the rule of law, to preserve our borders and to preserve this Nation's financial security for the future.

In so doing, every American ought to demand that their elected representatives reject this monstrous amnesty bill, which proposes to legalize 14 to 20 million illegal aliens, honoring those who have broken our laws, threatening the financial security of the Nation by more rapidly bankrupting Social Security and all of our financial social welfare programs, and driving this Nation more rapidly towards that financial brick wall which is so rapidly approaching.

In my office, 100 percent of the phone calls received have been in strong opposition to this bill. Every other Member of Congress from the Republican side that I have visited has received equally strong opposition.

I think it is vitally important for Americans to rise up, as we did in the Dubai ports deal, and demand that our elected representatives honor the sacrifices of our fallen soldiers by rejecting this mass amnesty bill over the Memorial Day break.

ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN NEEDED FOR IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will vote on a war spending bill that does not call for accountability. Unlike the previous Iraq supplemental, the bill we are voting on today does not provide the American people with a path to end this war. For me, the issue of accountability is imperative. Without a real accountability plan in Iraq, there is no telling how long this war will continue.

We were elected to bring a new direction in Iraq, and I will continue that fight, along with many of my colleagues. As I have made clear time and time again with my votes, I fully support our troops and their families. But I also believe that it is Congress' duty to support a change in the Iraq policy that will meet our national security objectives.

When the people of South Florida chose me to be their voice in Congress, they put their trust and faith in me to represent their values and priorities. Along with the people of South Florida, I will continue to stand up and work toward a new policy in Iraq.

For these reasons, I will vote against the Iraq supplemental bill today.

DEMOCRATS WILL KEEP PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party and the President will make it clear today to the American people that they own this war; hook, line and sinker.

The President and his Republican colleagues will be successful today in continuing the Iraq war, but this is a pyrrhic victory at best. The Democratic leadership is allowing this bill to pass because, unlike the President, they will not leave our troops unprotected in battle. It is our troops and their families that are the only ones being asked to make any sacrifice in this war, and this President's policy is unworthy of their sacrifice.

The only sacrifice requested of the rest of us has been to go out and spend our tax cuts at the mall. Meanwhile, the Iraqi parliament is preparing to take the summer off, probably using some of the missing \$9 billion to sunbathe along the Mediterranean. Our soldiers risk life and limb to secure their country, which is in the midst of a civil war, and they go on vacation. Ask yourself if you think this is a war worthy of our soldiers' sacrifice.

We Democrats will do everything, legally and legislatively, to bring our troops home as soon and as safely as possible. That is our pledge to the American people, and we will keep it.

□ 1020

TURNING THIS WAR AROUND

(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, there are two sets of issues coming before this Congress before we finish up our work this week. One is the President's request for a blank check to finance this war for the remainder of this fiscal year. I cannot and will not support that.

This House will also consider funding for children's health insurance, gulf coast recovery and drought relief for our farmers. I will indeed support that.

We have put forth a plan in this House to the President. He has rejected it time and time again. I will continue to fight. Even though this proposal before the Congress today provides benchmarks, it is not enough. Even though it requires reports to Congress in July and September, it is not enough.

My pledge is for a new direction to turn this war around, to bring stronger accountability, stronger support for our troops, and bring them home safe, sound and soon.

LIVES IN THE BALANCE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to quote Jackson Browne's "Lives in the