

who pledge allegiance to other countries than they do our U.S. troops fighting in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

Supporting the American military and our veterans is more important than expensive giveaway programs to illegals.

And that's just the way it is.

STEM CELL RESEARCH VETO

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this House has repeatedly passed the bipartisan Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act to authorize Federal funds to be used for lifesaving research on embryonic stem cell lines that would otherwise be discarded. This type of research, conducted under strict ethical standards, is supported by an overwhelming number of Americans because of the hope it offers for the potential cures of many diseases, such as diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer and MS.

But yesterday, President Bush once again vetoed this important bill. In an attempt to save face, the President instead signed an executive order that will do little to advance essential medical research. The symbolic order is the President's attempt to score political points, but it fails to direct new resources or support for potentially lifesaving research.

A majority of this House and a majority of the American people are fed up with the Bush administration's stifling of this important life-affirming science. Democrats will continue to fight to promote important and groundbreaking research so that we can provide real hope to millions of Americans.

IN APPRECIATION OF ROB PORTMAN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Rob Portman and his service to our great Nation, first, as a fellow Member of the House; then as United States Trade Representative; and, most recently, as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Rob has proven to be an outstanding public servant. I know that Jim Nussle will be a competent successor and carry on in Rob's footsteps for the taxpayers. I am grateful my Republican colleagues and I had the opportunity a few minutes ago to thank Rob and wish him well.

Rob was the featured guest for our weekly Theme Team meeting. I appreciate Theme Team chairman JACK KINGSTON and Krista Cole on his staff for bringing a top-notch speaker every week. I wish Rob, his wife, Jane, and

their three children, Jed, Will, and Sally, all the best in the future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

TRADE POLICY

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, our current trade policies have had devastating consequences for families and communities in northeast Ohio and across this Nation.

The effects of these damaging trade policies are no longer theoretical; they are real. We need a truly new trade model that addresses the concerns raised by the American people in the last election. Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority over trade.

We must have strong and enforceable standards in our trade agreement. We must address the ever-evolving unfair trade practices used by foreign governments to protect their markets, such as currency manipulation, illegal subsidies and product dumping. We must replace policies that reward businesses for outsourcing jobs with incentives and sensible tax policies that will help our businesses and workers.

We need a new trade model now.

ABSTINENCE/FIDELITY FUNDING PROTECTIONS IN PEPFAR

(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, the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, called PEPFAR, has instituted a carefully crafted comprehensive approach to fighting the spread of AIDS.

This approach is based on the ABC prevention model that has proven highly successful in Uganda. This model was developed there by Africans in Africa. A stands for abstinence until marriage; B for be faithful, or monogamy; and C for condoms.

This approach is working to reduce AIDS prevalence. But the Foreign Ops appropriations bill that we vote on today seeks to gut this comprehensive approach. Specifically, the bill does away with funding protections for the abstinence and fidelity parts of the model. It would remove the mandate for the A and B portions in the model.

These are very important components, and these are the most effective in reducing AIDS occurrence. Just look at this chart illustrating the experience in Kenya, proof that abstinence and fidelity work.

I have an amendment to restore funding for these protections in a results-based comprehensive ABC approach. I urge support.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE, DEMOCRATS PROVIDE LARGEST FUNDING INCREASE EVER

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

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, last week, the new Congress adopted the most significant expansion of veterans health care in the history of the VA.

The real-life story of Lt. Sylvia Blackwood highlights why this is so important. Lt. Blackwood began suffering from PTSD after serving two tours of duty in Iraq. She found the strength to check herself into the VA Medical Center here in Washington. She was suicidal, but instead of receiving immediate treatment, she was directed to a waiting room. When she was finally admitted, she did not receive therapy or relief.

According to an in-depth series published by The Washington Post this week, unfortunately, Lt. Blackwood's story is not uncommon. An estimated one-third of all veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from mental health challenges.

America's servicemen and -women deserve the best care possible when they return from war, both for their physical and mental health. That is why this new Congress last week passed the most significant expansion and improvement in veterans health care in the VA's 77-year history. It's important for all Americans to take pride in that action.

"HOLD ONTO YOUR WALLET" CONGRESS

(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, well, here we are again. Another day, another several billion dollars in new spending proposed by this "Hold Onto Your Wallet" Congress. They have already passed the largest tax increase in history, and they spend too much money.

Today's tax du jour comes in the form of the Foreign Ops bill. The bloated 2008 spending bill will fork over \$34 billion of your tax money, an increase of more than \$3 billion. A subtle change means that under the current bill language, the Mexico City policy, which assures that nongovernmental entities that promote abortion would not be provided U.S. funding, could be completely disregarded and these entities would receive U.S. taxpayer funds.

The provision would mandate U.S. subsidies to organizations that actively promote abortion in foreign nations. Abortion has been a tragedy for many women here in the U.S., and it will carry with it the same hurt and trauma when it's used abroad.

If this language stays in the bill, the American taxpayer would be actually paying for an abortion for someone half

a world away. I urge my colleagues to vote against new spending and “no” for taxpayer-sponsored abortions.

TWEETSIE RAILROAD 50TH ANNIVERSARY—JUNE 21, 2007

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Tweetsie Railroad, a western North Carolina fixture that has been providing fun and excitement to families for the past five decades.

Tweetsie Railroad, founded in 1957, was North Carolina's first-ever amusement park. Nestled in the mountains of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, it is home to the classic steam locomotive Tweetsie 12.

Tweetsie's historic lineage runs deep. This steam engine is the last remaining locomotive that ran a rail line connecting Boone, North Carolina, to Johnson City, Tennessee, through the rugged Appalachians.

The Wild West theme of the park permeates every aspect of the family entertainment that draws families from all over. Tweetsie Railroad is in a category of its own, situated in a beautiful mountain setting.

Away from the noise and rush of everyday life, this North Carolina fixture offers an escape from the worries of today with a glimpse of a bygone era. This retreat of family entertainment is part of a great American tradition, and I wish it many more years of delighting families with wholesome fun.

□ 1015

JOHN EDWARD DEAN

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of John Edward Dean's 90th birthday. John Edward Dean was born June 18, 1917 in Upshur County, Texas. He grew up in my district, in the town of Gilmer, where he attended Gilmer public schools and graduated from Gilmer High School in 1937. Mr. Dean would often ride horseback to school, and by the age of 15, he was hauling cattle to the Fort Worth stockyards to help provide for his younger siblings.

In 1945 he purchased Snider's sawmill in Gilmer, where the company will turn 70 next year.

John Dean is an American patriot, a servant who so many of us in east Texas have come to respect. He never missed a day of work or church due to an illness, and was never even hospitalized until age 70.

John and the love of his life, the late Jane Holmes, have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, and has given generously to the Gilmer community. His lumber company is one of Gilmer's largest employers, and was a pioneer in diversity.

He serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church of Gilmer, is a 20-year member of the East Texas Baptist University Board of Trustees in Marshall.

I stand here today to wish John Edward Dean a happy birthday, Mr. Speaker, and to pray that God may continue to bless him and his family for being such a blessing to so many others.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2764 pursuant to House Resolution 498, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 498 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2764.

□ 1017

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDEN (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

Pursuant to the order of the House on that day, no amendment to the bill may be offered except those specified in the previous order of the House of that day, which is at the desk.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2764

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED
AGENCIES**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Department of State and the Foreign Service not otherwise provided for, including employment, without regard to civil service and classification laws, of persons on a temporary basis (not to exceed \$700,000 of this appropriation), as authorized by section 801 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948; representation to certain international organizations in which the United States participates pursuant to treaties ratified pursuant to the advice and consent of the Senate or specific Acts of Congress; arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament activities as authorized; acquisition by exchange or purchase of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by law; and for expenses of general administration, \$3,820,018,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not to exceed \$10,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds in the “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” appropriations account, to be available only for emergency evacuations and terrorism rewards: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not less than \$363,905,000 shall be available only for public diplomacy international information programs: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to establish and operate a public/private interagency public diplomacy center which shall serve as a program integration and coordination entity for United States public diplomacy programs: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for compensation to the families of members of the Foreign Service or other United States Government employees or their dependents, who were killed in terrorist attacks since 1979: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available for compensation in the previous proviso may be obligated without specific authorization in a subsequent Act of Congress: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be available only for the operations of the Office on Right-Sizing the United States Government Overseas Presence: *Provided further*, That not less than \$5,000,000 shall be for the Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (title VIII) as authorized by the Soviet-Eastern European Research and Training Act of 1983 (22 U.S.C. 4501–4508, as amended): *Provided further*, That funds available under this heading may be available for a United States Government interagency task force to examine, coordinate and oversee United States participation in the United Nations headquarters renovation project: *Provided further*, That no funds may be obligated or expended for processing licenses for the export of satellites of United States origin (including commercial satellites and satellite components) to the People's Republic of China unless, at least 15 days in advance, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified of such proposed action: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading are available, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g), for the field examination of programs and activities in the United States funded from any account contained in this title.