

benefits for their 432,000 retirees. In comparison, non-U.S. auto manufacturers spent roughly just \$23 million for their 1,200 American workers and American retirees.

And one would think that after decades of commitment the Big Three have shown to the American worker that that would earn them the admiration and the sympathy of the Democratic leadership. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case. The Democratic leadership that should be holding up the domestic auto industry as models of corporate responsibility are instead trying to ram through increased CAFE standards that will put U.S. auto workers in the unemployment line and likely bankrupt U.S. auto companies.

I urge my colleagues to reject these policies which will help our foreign competitors, and instead stand up for American jobs.

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD 1ST BATTALION, 133RD INFANTRY

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to welcome home the Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry. The Ironman Battalion returns to Iowa today after a 22-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While serving in al-Anbar province, the Ironman Battalion provided transportation security for more than one-third of the fuel used by coalition forces in Iraq.

It is with a heavy heart that I note that the 133rd Infantry lost two soldiers. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

Now that the 133rd has returned home, we must honor their service by providing for their health care and productive futures. Our commitment to these citizens must extend throughout their lives.

On behalf of the Second District of Iowa, I thank the soldiers of the 133rd Infantry for their service. It is with great pride and gratitude that we welcome them home today.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SECRETARY NICHOLSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(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, last Tuesday, Secretary Jim Nicholson resigned from his position at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a highly decorated combat veteran, his experience in the Army for over 22 years gave him insight into the needs of veterans. He has implemented many reforms since assuming the lead-

ership of the VA in February 2005. He established electronic medical records for the nearly 8 million people in the VA health care program. This enabled the successful transition of veterans from hospitals damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

In addition, Mr. Nicholson improved care for veterans with brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, mandating screening of all returning veterans for signs of PTSD, and adding mental health services at more than 100 medical centers.

Secretary Nicholson also hired suicide prevention counselors at each of the VA's 153 facilities and established a 24-hour national suicide prevention hotline.

I want to thank Secretary Nicholson for his commitment and leadership, and wish him well in his future endeavors. God bless him.

JAMES MADISON'S "POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS"

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from James Madison, chief author of the Constitution, from remarks he wrote on April 20, 1795, which sound as though they could have been written today.

"Of all the enemies of true liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it compromises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes. And armies and debts and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few.

"In war, too, the discretionary power of the executive is extended. Its influence in dealing out offices, honors and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds are added to those of subduing the force of the people. This same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manner and of morals engendered in both. No nation can preserve its freedom in the midst of continual war. War is, in fact, the true nurse of executive aggrandizement."

COMMENDING COLLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

(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, I rise today to congratulate the prestigious independent school districts in Collin County, Texas, for their sterling reputation and superior education.

Forbes Magazine, long-time experts on all things money, recently ranked

the public schools in Collin County as second in the entire Nation for the best education for your dollar. What a tremendous distinction.

The students' overall average score was 1102 on the college entrance exam, and the schools boast a 92.2 percent graduation rate. This demonstrates that knowledgeable teachers, community pride, parental involvement and top-quality schools are all working together to achieve academic success.

I want to personally commend the cities of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie and their independent school districts for this exceptional award and national recognition for what they do best, teaching our kids and making the future of Texas and the United States even brighter.

Congratulations to all concerned.

NO PERMANENT MILITARY BASES IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our intelligence agencies have confirmed that al Qaeda is stronger in numbers and effectiveness than it has ever been. And that's because 5 years ago, when we had bin Laden cornered and crippled, we outsourced the job of capturing him. And then we diverted our focus and our resources to Iraq, which turned out to be his greatest dream realized because it gave him so many propaganda tools as a rallying cry and a recruiting tool. And that's just what happened.

And now, when President Bush says that he envisions a military presence in Iraq similar to South Korea, well, we've been in South Korea for 50 years, this plays into their propaganda. We need to make clear there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq; that we are not there as occupiers, but rather as liberators.

Let's start getting serious about winning this global war on terrorism. We can start today by passing the resolution declaring that the Congress is unequivocally opposed to permanent military bases in Iraq.

□ 1030

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support this morning of the funding levels included in the State and local law enforcement in H.R. 3093. This legislation reverses a dangerous downward trend in the Community Oriented Policing Services program, the COPS program.

Specifically, it increases the COPS budget to \$725 million, which is a \$183

million increase over last year. It also includes \$80 million in additional money for the Byrne grant system.

I was the sheriff in Seattle up until 2½ years ago for the last 8 years of my career. I was in law enforcement 33 years. As a sheriff, I used the Byrne Grant funds. I used the COPS money. We worked together with our communities. We worked together with business. We made our communities safe. It is a vital program, a useful program, a necessary program.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have freedom, we cannot feel safe in our neighborhoods until we know we are safe, until we know our law enforcement is there to protect us. The COPS grant does that.

THE CHAMP ACT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we introduced the CHAMP Act, an essential package that addresses the health care needs of our children and seniors while also meeting the needs of our doctors. I am particularly proud of our efforts to ensure that 11 million children receive the health care coverage they need to lead healthier lives.

Today, we are at a crossroads on children's health. Studies show that if we ensure that children receive preventative health care in their formative years, they will lead healthier lives. But over the last year, the number of uninsured children has increased for the first time in a decade. That is why it is so important to strengthen SCHIP.

This is not an expansion of the program. Today we are reaching 6 million children. Under the CHAMP Act, we will reach an additional 5 million children who are already eligible.

Over the past 10 years, SCHIP has received strong bipartisan support because it serves as a lifeline to those most vulnerable among us, our children. It has always received strong bipartisan support. At a time when the number of uninsured is increasing, I would hope Republicans would join us in passing this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

(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, today it is an honor for me to congratulate the longest married couple in the United States, married for 82½ incredible years. They live in my district, Clarence and Mayme Vail of Hugo, Minnesota. They have six wonderful children, 39 grandchildren, 101 great-grandchildren, and 40 great-great-grandchildren. It is almost beyond belief.

At 101 and 99 years of age, what is the Vails' secret to success? Clarence says "Avoid debt, strive for simple, clean living, no public arguments, feed your faith, and accept your spouse as is." Then Clarence went on to say, "Pick a good woman and let her lead the way." That is good advice from a humble Minnesotan.

Congratulations, Clarence and Mayme Vail of Hugo, Minnesota, on 82½ years of marriage; the longest married couple in the United States. Congratulations, lovebirds.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

LIMITING USE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR BASE IN IRAQ

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2929) to limit the use of funds to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq or to exercise United States economic control of the oil resources of Iraq.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2929

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On May 30, 2007, Tony Snow, the President's press secretary, said that President Bush envisions a United States military presence in Iraq "as we have in South Korea", where American troops have been stationed for more than 50 years.

(2) On June 1, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates elaborated on the President's idea of a "long and enduring presence" in Iraq, of which the "Korea model" is one example.

(3) These statements run counter to previous statements issued by the President and other administration officials.

(4) On April 13, 2004, the President said, "As a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America."

(5) On February 6, 2007, Secretary Robert Gates stated in testimony before Congress, "We certainly have no desire for permanent bases in Iraq."

(6) On February 16, 2006, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated in testimony before Congress, "We have no desire to have our forces permanently in that country. We have no plans or discussions underway to have permanent bases in that country."

(7) On March 24, 2006, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad stated that the United States has "no goal of establishing permanent bases in Iraq."

(8) On October 25, 2006, the President stated, "Any decisions on permanency in Iraq will be made by the Iraqi government.", in response to a question whether the United States wanted to maintain permanent military bases in Iraq.

(9) On February 6, 2007, Secretary Gates said, "We will make that decision, sir" in response to the question: "Is that still our policy, that we're going to be there [Iraq] as long as the [Iraqi] government asks us to be there? . . . Is our presence left up to the Iraqis or do we make the decision?"

(10) The perception that the United States intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity.

(11) A clear statement that the United States does not seek a long-term or permanent presence in Iraq would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States fully supports the efforts of the Iraqi people to exercise full national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety.

(12) The Iraq Study Group Report recommends: "The President should state that the United States does not seek permanent military bases in Iraq. If the Iraqi government were to request a temporary base or bases, then the United States government could consider that request as it would in the case of any other government."; and "The President should restate that the United States does not seek to control Iraq's oil."

(13) The House of Representatives has passed 6 separate bills prohibiting or expressing opposition to the establishment of permanent military bases in Iraq including three of which have been enacted into law by the President: Public Law 109-289, Public Law 109-364, Public Law 110-28.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States not to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq and not to exercise United States control of the oil resources of Iraq.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.

No funds made available by any Act of Congress shall be obligated or expended for a purpose as follows:

(1) to establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq; and

(2) to exercise United States economic control of the oil resources of Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSENLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2929.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many justifications for why we went to war in Iraq. Take your pick: We invaded to capture Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, or we invaded to oppose a