

does not include either war spending or the cost of nuclear weapons—would be up by more than 30 percent since Mr. Bush took office and would be the highest level of military spending since World War II.

Mr. Bush's war of choice in Iraq, on top of the war of necessity in Afghanistan, has seriously strained the American military—its people and its equipment. Even a new president committed to a swift withdrawal of American troops from Iraq will have to keep asking for large Pentagon budgets, both to repair that damage and to prepare the country to face what will continue to be a very dangerous world.

What is so infuriating about this budget is there is not even a hint of the need for real trade-offs. As far as anyone can tell, not a single weapons system would be canceled. That means it will be up to Congress—also far too captive to military-industry lobbyists—to start scaling back or canceling expensive programs that don't meet today's threats, or tomorrow's.

There is one place we're delighted to see Mr. Bush invest more money: a proposal to hire 1,100 new diplomats. The next president will need all of the diplomatic help he or she can get to contain the many international disasters Mr. Bush will leave behind.

Predictably, the big losers in Mr. Bush's budget are domestic-spending programs—including medical research, environmental protection and education—which will either be held flat or cut.

Even more predictably, most of Mr. Bush's touted savings would come from programs intended to protect the country's most vulnerable citizens: the elderly, the poor and the disabled. The budget would sharply restrain the growth of spending on the huge Medicare health insurance program, in an effort to save some \$178 billion over the next five years. The administration would achieve that primarily by cutting the annual increases in payments to hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers that are designed to keep up with the rising costs of caring for Medicare beneficiaries.

There is clearly room to restrain the rate of growth in some of these payments. But the size and duration of the cuts are irresponsible. Meanwhile, Mr. Bush—who insists that every answer to the country's health care woes can be found in the private sector—has left largely untouched the big subsidies that prop up the private Medicare Advantage insurance plans. Eliminating these unjustified subsidies could save Medicare more than \$50 billion over five years and \$150 billion over 10 years.

Just as the nation seems on the edge of a recession, the budget would also shave federal contributions to state Medicaid programs by some \$17 billion over five years. That is exactly the wrong direction to go in tough economic times, when low-income workers who lose their jobs need Medicaid coverage and states have fewer funds to supply it.

All of this means that Mr. Bush will leave his successor a daunting list of problems: the ever-rising cost of health care, the tens of millions of uninsured, a military that is desperately in need of rebuilding. Thanks to Mr. Bush's profligate ways, it also means that the next president will have even less money for solving them.

HONORING GENERAL
MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS, USA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to thank and congratulate General Montgomery C. Meigs, USA, for his dedicated service to the armed forces of the United States of America.

General Meigs is receiving the General Alexander M. Haig, Jr. "Guardian of Liberty" award from the West Point Society of Philadelphia. This is awarded to individuals who exemplify the Motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" while contributing to and guarding the freedom which we all enjoy. Past recipients have been General Haig, General Jowlan, Secretary of the Army Tom White, General Clark, General Shinseki, General Reimer, and General Downing.

General Meigs' academic credentials are remarkable. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and he graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Master's Degree and a Doctorate in History. He also is a graduate of the Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and National War College.

General Meigs has had a variety of key leadership and management positions throughout his career including: Squadron Maintenance Officer, Vietnam; Chief, Strategic Application Branch, Office of the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, The Joint Staff Washington, DC; Commander, 2d Brigade, 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia; Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany and Commander, Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His awards speak to an extraordinarily successful career and include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Ranger Tab, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

General Meigs' family, friends, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our entire nation extend their gratitude to him for a career of selfless dedication to our safety and security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, February 25, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 978, rollcall vote No. 69; I

would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 930, rollcall vote No. 70; and I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 944, rollcall vote No. 71.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND
FORT LEAVENWORTH PILOT
PARTNERSHIP FOR WOUNDED
WARRIORS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, the University of Kansas and Fort Leavenworth agreed to conduct a pilot program that would allow Wounded Warriors, both active duty and retired, the opportunity to complete a graduate degree program and then return to the Army to work in assignments at Fort Leavenworth related to their recently earned degrees. In a ceremony at the Lewis and Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth on February 6, 2008, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway welcomed eight Army Wounded Warriors into the pilot program.

The concept for the program was developed in September 2007 and presented to the Secretary of Defense, who encouraged the Army to proceed. Soldiers accepted for the program will be assigned to the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth with duty at the University of Kansas. There they will work to complete master degree programs in areas that can support programs or academia at the Combined Arms Center. The cost of the degree awarding program will be covered by the Army. The University of Kansas was asked to be the partner in this program due to its strong relationship with the Combined Arms Center and its superior academic reputation and accessibility for disabled students.

I am so pleased that these two great institutions have come together to provide a way for wounded Soldiers who may not be able to return to battle the ability to continue to serve their country. I congratulate both the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth for their initiative and I invite my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS
PUBLIC RADIO RECOGNITION
MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2008 as "Public Radio Recognition Month." This legislation celebrates the contributions of public radio to America's communities and enduring civic spirit.

Today, more than 33 million Americans listen to and appreciate public radio through more than 800 locally controlled stations, spanning every State and congressional district. Public radio is committed to community-

based and fact-based journalism, as well as preserving and enhancing the archetypal musical genres of American music history, such as classical, Celtic, jazz, the blues, and bluegrass. This source for local, national, and international news, as well as informative, cultural, and musical programming, is a unique and valued service to our communities.

I invite my colleagues to recognize these achievements and cosponsor this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE LINGO AS ESCAMBIA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Michelle Lingo, Escambia County's Teacher of the Year.

For the past 11 years, Michelle Lingo has influenced the academic success of elementary school students. Ms. Lingo's exceptional teaching capabilities have enhanced the learning opportunities for the students she teaches, while her countless hours of service and dedication have enabled her students to attain academic excellence. When asked to elaborate upon her profession, Ms. Lingo replies that as a teacher, she "view[s] every day as a new chance to inspire a child." Her passion for teaching is rivaled only by the love she has for her students, and her unwavering devotion strengthens the school system as a whole.

Propelled by her dedication to the education system, Ms. Lingo began her teaching career in 1996 as a first grade teacher. Over time, Ms. Lingo furthered her devotion and expanded beyond the parameters of the typical classroom, first as a reading coach and then as a media specialist, a position in which she continues to serve. Though some would consider her current position overwhelming, Ms. Lingo balances the demands of her career with a jubilant attitude and exceptional enthusiasm.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of the greatness Ms. Lingo has attained. Beyond the title lies Ms. Lingo's dedication and devotion to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and have pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Lingo's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the Escambia County School District is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Michelle Lingo on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Escambia County School District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife as she prepares to give birth to our second child. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall 69: "yea"; rollcall 70: "yea"; and rollcall 71: "yea."

HONORING RANDY JONES

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a great American patriot.

Randy Jones served the American people as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1972 until 1980, and then as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for over 20 years. He did his duty to our Nation through two deployments overseas in the war on terror and through his work at the Melvin Price Lock and Dam. At the time of his death last week, he was the Lockmaster at Lock and Dam 27 on the Mississippi River. He is remembered by his colleagues as a dedicated employee and a mentor to a great many co-workers.

My thoughts and those of the House go out to his wife Sharon, and his three daughters and two sons-in-law, Lori and Jeremy Cole, Meredith and Kenneth Zimmer, and Shara Jones, his son and daughter-in-law, Chad and Ann Jones, his eight grandchildren, as well as his brothers and sisters and all his neighbors and friends in Brighton, Illinois.

All of America is grateful for Randy's service to our Nation, and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JOHNNIE R. CARR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House's attention today to honor the life and legacy of one of our Nation's most important Civil Rights figures, Mrs. Johnnie Carr, who passed away on February 22nd at the age of 97.

As so many of my colleagues know, Mrs. Carr was a tireless advocate for the advancement of Civil Rights and equality for all Americans. During a tumultuous time for our Nation, in 1964 Mrs. Carr and her husband Arlam filed suit against the Montgomery County, Alabama, Board of Education in an attempt to desegregate the Montgomery County school system. Her desire was simply to help provide a more hopeful future for her son Arlam Carr Jr. and thousands of other African American chil-

dren in Alabama. In addition to her legal action against the school board, Mrs. Carr pushed to open segregated Montgomery communities to African American residents.

Not only did her leadership and courage help bring about the end of the segregation of our schools, she helped usher in a new era of equality and freedom for African Americans across our Nation. Throughout her life she continued her activism as a voice for Civil Rights in the Montgomery area and beyond, and was a frequent face at community events throughout her entire life.

Mrs. Carr was an anchor for her family, who will surely remember her as a caring mother and grandmother who held her family together through trying times. Despite her tireless efforts to help advance Civil Rights for all Americans, she always put her family first. Mrs. Carr's passing is mourned by us all, Madam Speaker, and we all send her family our prayers at this difficult time. Thank you for the House's attention today to her life, and to her legacy.

PREDATORY LENDERS CAUGHT THEIR PREY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a February 14th editorial from the New York Times by Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York, "Predatory Lenders' Partner in Crime".

This editorial talks about the role the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) had in preempting state laws designed to protect consumers from mortgage loans with deceptive "teaser" rates and hidden fees. Several states had enacted laws to protect consumers from these practices. Many low- and middle-income borrowers are not able to absorb monthly payment increases when variable terms reset, such as the expiration of teasers rates and/or interest rate increases. Many of these loan products are so complex, that the disclosures currently available are inadequate to protect consumers. The end result is that hardworking Americans are stripped of the equity they have built in their properties, and they lose their homes.

Who would have thought that the OCC would issue formal opinions in 2003 that preempted state laws designed to protect consumers from lending practices and would put consumers in jeopardy of losing their homes? This was so egregious that all 50 state attorney generals and state banking superintendents vigorously fought the new rules. The fight was to no avail—the Bush administration won and the banks were protected.

Greater regulatory oversight is necessary to ensure borrower confidence in the banking system, and the availability of quality loan products in the market place. The end result is where the U.S. finds itself today—with record rates of foreclosures and an economy in a perilous condition.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 14, 2008]

PREDATORY LENDERS' PARTNER IN CRIME
(By Eliot Spitzer)

Several years ago, state attorneys general and others involved in consumer protection began to notice a marked increase in a range