

HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 14, 2007, the varsity football team from Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, won the Class AAA State football championship in Hershey, clinching the Jaguars' second title in 4 years. With a final score of 28-3, the Jaguars finished a perfect season. Zach Decicco, Thomas Jefferson's quarterback, threw for 137 yards and two scores, ran for 11 yards and a score, and picked off a pass on defense.

Coach Bill Cherpak became just the third head coach in western Pennsylvania history to achieve a perfect win record in more than one appearance at the State championship game in Hershey.

Thomas Jefferson High School and the West Jefferson Hills School District also excel in academics, ranking in the top 20 of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts.

Congratulations to coach Bill Cherpak and the Thomas Jefferson High School Jaguars for being champions on the field and champions in the classroom.

BUSH BUDGET HAS MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our national budget should invest in our future. Unfortunately, the President's final budget is more of the same, missed opportunities and misplaced opportunities.

The President's budget is fiscally reckless, adding \$1.6 trillion in deficit over the next 5 years instead of becoming balanced over that same period. But you won't hear that from the President. He claims that the budget is balanced by 2012, but that is only because he leaves out enormous costs, including the 5-year cost of fixing the alternative minimum tax and the full cost of the Iraq war.

When realistic costs are included, the budget runs into significant deficits over each of the next 5 years. This, unfortunately, is more of the same. The President took a 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion that he inherited and turned it into a \$3.6 trillion deficit. This budget continues down the same path by borrowing from our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats can simply not afford this fiscal recklessness. In the coming months, we will present a fiscally responsible budget that meets our pay-as-you-go requirements.

MEXICO THROWS ROCKS AND CRIES TEARS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the border war with Mexico continues. On the Mexican side of the border, Mexican nationals hide on rocky hills and throw rocks at American border agents. These assaults have continued to increase and escalate to the point that the Border Patrol recently acted in self-defense and fired tear gas at the unruly mobs.

You see, these are the same Mexican nationals that later will illegally sneak into America when the Border Patrol isn't watching. After the most recent tear gas episode, the Mexican Government sent a self-righteous statement to the United States that said, even though "these incidents are a response to hostile acts against Border Patrol agents by Mexican citizens, the actions by U.S. authorities are unacceptable."

The Mexican Government seems to arrogantly support its rock-throwing nationals but doesn't want Americans to defend themselves.

Mexico needs to get its lawless house in order and control the disorderly mobs that lurk on the border. The United States should use every tool available to protect our borders from invaders, rock throwers, and drug smugglers. And if Mexico cries tears about it, too bad.

And that's just the way it is.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN BUSH BUDGET

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, this week the President unveiled his final budget proposal, and like previous budgets, it fails to properly address the needs and concerns that are central to the everyday lives of our constituents.

Perhaps most troubling is the fact that the Bush budget continues the President's legacy of fiscal irresponsibility and leaves behind a \$407 billion deficit. The five largest deficits in American history have all occurred on the President's watch. When President Bush took office, the debt stood at \$5.7 trillion, and it is projected to stand at \$9.7 trillion by the time President Bush leaves office. This fiscal record ties the hands of the next generation, which faces growing obligations with increasingly limited resources.

The Bush budget also hurts Americans struggling to make ends meet by cutting Medicare and Medicaid, and the low income home energy assistance program. This budget also hurts our long-term efforts to prepare Americans for better jobs in the global marketplace by slashing important education and literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people do not want more of the same. This Democratic Congress will propose a budget alternative that takes America in a new direction.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH PATTON

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I want to honor an individual who has a rich background in managing health care services and agencies within the State of South Carolina.

His experience and education in health care has placed him throughout locations in the South, affiliating him with dozens of communities and civic organizations.

As February recognizes Black History Month, I honor Dr. Joseph Patton, who has continuously reached out to provide knowledge, support, and service to benefit those in the community.

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Dr. Patton is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church and holds an honorary doctorate degree for his services to the church and community.

Along with his service to his region, Dr. Patton has served overseas, is a veteran of the United States Army, and is currently a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During Black History Month, I give recognition to Dr. Patton for serving as an educated leader of health, for being well known as a caring husband, father, grandfather, and mentor to those in the community.

DEMOCRATS WORK TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats took control of Congress last year, we vowed to work on behalf of all Americans. Last year, we recognized that middle-class families were struggling to make ends meet, and so we worked hard to ease that economic crunch. We passed billions of dollars in tax relief to middle-income families. We increased the minimum wage for the first time in a decade, and we enacted an energy bill that will save the average family anywhere between \$700 and \$1,000 a year in energy costs, and help families better afford college.

This is a good start, but as economic indicators continue to head in the wrong direction, we worked with the White House and House Republicans on an economic stimulus package that will provide a real and significant short-term boost to this economy.

The House bipartisan economic stimulus plan is the most progressive package this decade. It will help jump-start

our economy, and will provide real assistance to lower and middle-income families. I hope our friends in the Senate will act on this legislation this week.

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(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, the City of Berkeley, California, recently disgraced itself by referring to brave marines with slander when the city council voted to tell the Marine Corps to close its recruiting station. As a veteran, as the son-in-law of a veteran, and as the father of four sons in the military, I know firsthand of the education and opportunities provided by military service while promoting freedom.

In response to Berkeley, Congressman JOHN CAMPBELL has introduced legislation that would remove \$2 million in secret earmarks for the City of Berkeley and instead send the money to the Marines. While I believe wholeheartedly in free speech, we owe respect to the very people who are sacrificing so much to defend our freedoms. I invite the Berkeley City Council to visit Beaufort, South Carolina, home of Parris Island, the naval hospital, and the Marine Corps Air Station to see how our patriotic community supports the brave men and women who serve as proud marines.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and the United States Marine Corps, and we will never forget September the 11th.

BUSH BUDGET IS MORE OF THE SAME MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, we are here to talk today about the recent unveiling of the President's budget. I think we should give the President credit. At least he's consistent. Like all of his previous budgets, this one does several things. It leaves most Americans behind and puts this Nation further in debt.

At a time of a slowing economy and Americans increasingly struggling to make ends meet, the President focuses on \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the top 1 percent of Americans. While the wealthiest few continue to prosper under the President, the President cuts vital energy, education, and health care investments. At a time of rising energy costs, the President slashes low-income energy assistance programs. At a time of college costs skyrocketing, the budget eliminates nearly \$1 billion in grant programs. At a time of rising health care costs, the

President proposes devastating Medicare and Medicaid cuts that would reduce affordable access to health care for our seniors.

The one good thing that people know is the winds of change have been blowing. This Democratic Congress will restore these and put the priorities of American people first.

BUSH BUDGET AND HEALTH CARE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES AND MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when more and more Americans are struggling to obtain affordable health care, the President's budget drastically slashes health care for seniors and low-income working Americans.

Today, 36 million seniors get health care coverage through Medicare. The President's budget takes a swipe at their pocketbooks by proposing to save nearly \$6 billion by increasing the monthly premiums that seniors pay.

If the President was concerned about seniors, he would instead go after the vast overpayments made by Medicare to private managed care plans. Instead, he has raised premiums on our seniors and focused his cuts on our Nation's hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other health care providers. The President also cuts Medicaid by \$33 billion over the next 5 years.

Today, Medicaid serves 55 million low-income and disabled Americans. Such cuts force cash-strapped States to either reduce benefits or cut provider payments.

Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to face uncertain times, this is the worst time for the President to promote drastic cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

Rest assured, the Democrats would not allow these cuts to become law. These provisions are as good as dead as they come to Capitol Hill.

DEMOCRATS HAVE WORKED IN BIPARTISAN FASHION ON STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our economy is in trouble, and millions of hardworking American families are feeling the impact as we speak. Since 2001, the real income of a typical working family has fallen by \$2,500, and workers' wages have failed to keep up with the inflation for the fourth time in the past 5 years.

In December, the unemployment rate shot up to a 2-year high of 5 percent with over 900,000 more Americans looking for work over the same period last year. Stagnant wages are not only forcing families to squeeze more out of every dollar, but are also taking a toll on our overall economy. Retailers suf-

fered their worst December shopping season in 5 years, and consumer confidence fell this month to its lowest point on record.

Last week, the House approved a bipartisan economic package that will provide urgent relief to 117 million Americans. This is a fair economic package that gets money to the workers, the people who need it the most; and they are most likely to spend it on necessities like groceries and gas.

Economists estimate that each dollar of the rebate will lead to \$1.26 in economic growth. Mr. Speaker, economists also say we have to act fast. That's exactly what this House did, and I hope the Senate joins us.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO CONTINUE MOVING NATION IN A NEW DIRECTION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the House will address one of the most important issues in America's future, that is, the opportunity to give young people a chance for a higher education. H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, does just that. It is interesting, however, that the President's budget unfortunately does not recognize that opportunity, and it is in the business of cutting those opportunities for our young people.

The supplemental education opportunity grants for needy undergraduates is now being cut. So I hope that on the floor today we will make a statement to support our schools.

I represent Texas Southern University, a school that has been under siege by its Republican State government. A school that is historically black received moneys from the past administration and the desegregation settlements. But yet even today, it is not receiving the funding that it should receive from the State of Texas.

I will be introducing legislation that will ensure that historically black colleges, Hispanic-serving colleges cannot be undermined by State government funding when they come under the supervision of the Department of Education. Our bill is a good bill. It's a step forward.

Mr. President, I hope that you will recognize that we cannot cut the opportunities of young people.

THE CASE FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, last week this House came together in a bipartisan fashion to address the economic uncertainty that many of our citizens are facing. President Bush worked with both Democratic and Republican leaders of the House to develop an economic stimulus package