

For the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (sections 210 and 212(b))
 For the Higher Education Opportunity Act (section 208)

6,633 6,516 9
 -9 -114 0

Revised Budget Resolution

2,538,305 2,573,283 2,029,653

⁵ Section 301(b)(1) of S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$70,000 million in budget authority and \$74.809 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252) did not use this provision, and instead designated a comparable amount as emergency funding. Because section 301(b)(2) requires that the current level exclude amounts for emergency needs, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

⁶ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed emergency amounts of \$5,761 million in budget authority and \$1,152 million in outlays for the Corps of Engineers. Because section 301(b)(2) requires that the current level exclude amounts for emergency needs, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

IRAQ HAS BECOME THE "FORGOTTEN WAR"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, after more than 5 years of occupation, America continues to have over 140,000 troops in Iraq. We continue to employ tens of thousands of military contractors. Over 1,200 Iraqi civilians died in the violence this summer alone, and there are still over 4 million refugees. Yet, Iraq is becoming the "Forgotten War." We barely hear about it anymore. I have not forgotten Iraq. I will not forget it.

I rise today to remind the House of two things: First, America continues to occupy a country that never attacked the United States and was never a security threat to us; and second, we continue to spend over \$10 billion a month in Iraq, at a time when the American people are losing their homes, their health care, and their jobs.

Everyone who is forgetting Iraq should read the recent report of the Government Accountability Office. GAO offers a harsh assessment of the administration's handling of the occupation, and warns that the security environment in Iraq remains volatile and dangerous.

The GAO report describes many problems. Only 24 percent of the Iraqi funds budgeted for reconstruction have been spent. Essential services to the Iraqi people continue to lag. The daily supply of electricity meets only half the need. The Iraqi ministries responsible for essential services spent only 11 percent of their capital investment budgets in 2007. Many of the benchmarks for progress have just not been met.

Perhaps worst of all, the administration has failed to develop a plan for improving the delivery of government services in Iraq. And to make matters worse, the GAO has urged the Defense Department and the State Department to work together to come up with such a plan, but both departments have refused to do so.

Many of the points made by the GAO were also made by former Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi when he testified before Chairman DELAHUNT and the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight just last month. Prime Minister Allawi said, "Progress continues to be very slow, if not stagnant, for public services and the economy, which includes the provision of electricity, water supply, health services and creating job opportunities."

Iraq continues to be a humanitarian disaster area, Mr. Speaker. A recent

story in the press reported that Iraq needs 100,000 doctors, but has only 15,500. Many doctors fled after our invasion in 2003. A country that has seen over 5 years of bloodshed, obviously needs a good health care system. Iraq's health care system is in chaos.

Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing that the Iraq occupation is making things better when, in reality, it's making things worse because it delays the day that Iraq can really get back on its feet.

Ending the occupation would allow us to focus more resources on reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. It would allow regional and international partners to come into Iraq to help with reconstruction and reconciliation, because those countries simply won't get involved until we redeploy.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to end the occupation once and for all. It's time to shake off our amnesia and remember the forgotten war.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is September 9, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,014 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution.

It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,014 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is September 9, 2008, 13,014 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONOR FLIGHT HONORS OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a special day. The story begins several years ago. In 2004, just a few days before its dedication, I put on my tennis shoes and walked outside

the U.S. Capitol Building and beyond the Washington Monument to the newly constructed World War II Memorial on the National Mall. As we know, it was inspiring. At long last, nearly 60 years after the war ended, veterans who did so much to protect our country and liberate the world, were to receive recognition for their service, their sacrifice and the victory through a national monument.

I had my cell phone with me, and I stepped away from the memorial and I called my 90-year-old father back in our hometown of Plainville. He is one of the thousands of Americans who left their families and lives behind in World War II to fight for our country. My father fought in Northern Africa and Sicily and Italy.

Fortunately, when I called, I got the answering machine. It's often difficult for sons and daughters to tell their fathers the things we should tell them. The message I left my dad was, "Dad, I love you. Dad, I'm proud of you, and Dad, thank you for your service to our country." I told my dad what I should have said a long time ago, and what we all should say to our veterans.

It was too bad that many of the veterans of this greatest generation, now in their 80s and 90s, are unable, physically or financially, to visit our Nation's Capitol and see this beautiful tribute to their service and sacrifice and to hear those important words.

Earlier this year, Senator Bob Dole, himself a World War II veteran who led the charge to build the memorial, told me about a grassroots, not-for-profit organization called Honor Flight. Honor Flight enables World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's Capital to see the memorial created in their honor. Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, Honor Flight used commercial and chartered flights to send veterans on a one-day, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

□ 1930

Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina created the Honor Flight Network, which now operates in 30 States.

Over the past months I have joined Senator Dole to greet Kansas veterans arriving at the World War II Memorial by means of Honor Flight. It is a very moving experience as veterans recount tales of their time in the service to volunteers who are often local high school students. Tourists stop their sightseeing to shake the veterans' hands, and you see the excitement of the veterans' eyes, and many are moved to tears. It's a special day for that generation of heroes.

Of the 16 million veterans who served in World War II, only 2.5 million are alive today. And we are losing them at a rate of 900 each day. Honor Flight is working against time to say "thank you" to these veterans.

Tomorrow, after months of preparation and fundraising by volunteers, an Honor Flight of World War II veterans

from Plainville to Stockton, from Hays, Hill City, Ness City, and a lot of other small towns of northwest Kansas will be arriving in Washington, D.C. On that flight will be my father, my dad, and 101 of his fellow Kansas veterans will finally see firsthand the World War II Memorial and experience our Nation's gratitude for their service.

Tonight I want to thank the Honor Flight Network and the thousands of volunteers and donors across the country who make these moving experiences possible. In particular, I thank Pat Hageman of Natoma for organizing tomorrow's Honor Flight, the students from Rooks County high schools who are serving as volunteers, the medical personnel, and especially the local businesses, individuals, and veterans service organizations in northwest Kansas who have financed this Honor Flight.

I doubt my dad or any of the other men and women who will be in Washington, D.C., tomorrow will be able to sleep when they go to bed tonight in the small towns across Kansas. They will lay wide awake with nervous anticipation and excitement. But though they lay awake tonight, the rest of America has been able to sleep because of the sacrifice of the World War II veterans.

Tomorrow, once again we all can say that these men and women of our country and our country's other World War II veterans, "We love you; we are proud of you, and we thank you for your service to our country."

SOCCER DIPLOMACY BETWEEN ARMENIA AND TURKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to congratulate Armenia and its President on the historic soccer match between Armenia and Turkey this past weekend. On July 9, President Serge Sargsian and the "Wall Street Journal," Europe edition took a surprising and historic step by inviting President Gul of Turkey to sit with him and watch the two nations play the World Cup qualifier match in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

In an effort to warm relations between the two countries, President Sargsian wrote, "Just as the people of China and the United States shared enthusiasm for ping pong before their governments fully normalized relations, the people of Armenia and Turkey are united in their love for football."

President Gul accepted the offer, and on Saturday, September 6, he became the first Turkish leader to visit Armenia.

Armenia initiated soccer diplomacy with Turkey despite nearly a century of Turkish genocide denial and 15 years of an economic blockade. For years, Armenia has been ready to establish

relations with Turkey without preconditions, and President Sargsian's recent efforts reinforced this commitment. President Gul must also be commended for his efforts to see past the opposition of some in his country by attending the match.

With the recent violence between Russia and Georgia, further steps to promote stability in the Caucasus must be taken, and strengthening Armenian and Turkish relations is essential to these efforts.

Turkey can strengthen its relationship with Armenia by ending its policy of genocide denial, a policy that is imposed both globally and domestically. Turkey should lift all restrictions imposed by section 301 of the Turkish Penal Code on individuals who study, discuss, or recognize the Armenian genocide. Silencing academics and writers limits freedom of speech and makes any serious discussion of the Armenian genocide within Turkey taboo.

To improve relations, Turkey must also lift its stifling economic blockade on Armenia. The State Department estimates that the blockade inflates Armenia by 30 to 35 percent. Removing the blockade will enable the development of immediate infrastructure projects and regional communications, energy, and transportation in the Caucasus. The removal of the blockade would also do much to catalyze global investment in Turkey and Armenia.

With the recent conflict between Russia and Georgia, Armenia proved itself to be a constructive partner to Georgia. The Armenian government provided safe transit for U.S. and international officials and thousands of Georgia nationals and nongovernmental organization representatives.

But Armenia experienced significant economic distress due to the conflict between Georgia and Russia. The country lost an estimated \$650 million and shortages in fuel and wheat were rampant. With renewed volatility in the Caucasus, Armenia can no longer afford to suffer from dual blockades.

President Sargsian's initiation of soccer diplomacy and President Gul's reciprocal invitation to watch a game next year in Turkey is a positive breakthrough in a region of historic violence and tense emotions.

As President Sargsian wrote, "A more prosperous, mutually beneficial future for Armenia and Turkey, and the opening up of a historic East-West corridor for Europe, the Caspian region and the rest of the world, are goals that we can and must achieve."

Mr. Speaker, let me just say as a Congressman and speaking for all Members of Congress, we must do all that we can to support these efforts to bring Armenia and Turkey together. It may seem that a soccer match is not that significant, but it is very significant. No Turkish leader has ever visited Armenia before. So I want to commend this occasion and hope that it leads to more of further developments and relations between the two countries.