We are a Nation at war and a Nation in debt. Each person in this country owes more than $30,000 in debt because of the reckless spending habits of the past.

We need to make sure we pay for the bills we pass, but I have some serious concerns about passing two bills—two Democratic priorities—that are paid for with the same money.

I urge our leadership, that as we go to conference on both of these pieces of legislation we ensure that we have a fiscally responsible approach that is also equitable for all those involved.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a great step forward, and it has the support of doctors, nurses, and families across the country.

I am proud to cast my vote in favor of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 951, a resolution to condemn Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. As one who is consistently against war and violence, I obviously do not support the firing of rockets indiscriminately into civilian populations. I believe it is appalling that Palestinians are firing rockets that harm innocent Israelis, just as I believe it is appalling that Israel fires missiles into Palestinian areas where children and other non-combatants are killed and injured.

Unfortunately, legislation such as this is more likely to perpetuate violence in the Middle East than contribute to its abatement. It is our continued involvement and intervention—particularly when it appears to be one-sided—that reduces the incentive for opposing sides to reach a lasting peace agreement.

Additionally, this bill will continue the march toward war with Iran and Syria, as it contains provocative language targeting these countries. The legislation oversimplifies the Israel/Palestine conflict and the larger unrest in the Middle East by simply pointing the finger at Iran and Syria. This is another piece in a steady series of legislation passed in the House that intensifies enmity between the United States and Iran and Syria. My colleagues will recall that we saw a similar steady stream of provocative legislation against Iraq in the years before the U.S. attack on that country.

I strongly believe that we must cease making proclamations involving conflicts that have nothing to do with the United States. We incur the wrath of those who feel slighted while doing very little to slow or stop the violence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have remained in Orlando, Florida with my wife and our new daughter who was born on Monday, March 3rd. If I had been present yesterday, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 91: ''yea''; Rollcall 92: ''yea''; Rollcall 93: ''yea''; Rollcall 94: ''nay''; Rollcall 95: ''nay''; Rollcall 96: ''nay''; Rollcall 97: ''yea''; Rollcall 98: ''yea''; Rollcall 99: ''nay''; Rollcall 100: ''yea''; Rollcall 101: ''yea''; Rollcall 102: ''yea''.

HONORING NELLIE RUTH RILEY LEWIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with a great sense of loss as I pay tribute to Nellie Ruth Riley Lewis, an educator, prominent Dallas community leader, and my friend who left us on March 1, 2008, at the age of 70. Throughout her life, Nellie Lewis was a well-known, respected figure in Dallas who leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments that will be remembered for years to come.

A native of North Carolina, Mrs. Lewis received her bachelor's degree from Howard University and her master's degree in education from George Washington University. For the first 17 years of her career, she taught in the public schools of Washington, DC, where she became the supervising director of reading for the District.

Mrs. Lewis moved to Dallas in 1977 with her late husband Dr. Lewis, where they were both employed with the Dallas Independent School District. During her 20 years with DISD, Mrs. Lewis' duties included serving as an instructional specialist, a curriculum coordinator, and an area director. She also served as director of learning services, the administrative assistant to four superintendents, and supervisor to a group of 10 elementary school principals.

She continued her lifelong devotion to education, even after her retirement from DISD, serving on several committees and as the president of the Dallas region of the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

In 1997, Mrs. Lewis received the Charles D. Moody Founder's Award, presented by the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

As our Nation experiences great technological innovation and success in the global market, the value of an education takes on even greater importance. Mrs. Lewis has exhibited the characteristics we seek in our educators, school administrators, and community activists.

Mrs. Lewis was married to Napoleon B. Lewis, who preceded her in death. In addition to her son, Mrs. Lewis is survived by three sisters: Inez Riley McClain of Fayetteville, NC; Carolyn Riley Payne and Deborah Riley, both of Seattle, WA; and three grandchildren.

On this day, Madam Speaker, I join her family, her friends, and all of Dallas and the Nation, in mourning the loss of a dear and special friend. She will be greatly missed.

CONGRESSIONAL CLUB CENTENNIAL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JEFF MILLER, DORIS MATSUI, JO-ANN EMERSON, and JOHN TANNER, to introduce a resolution to commemorate the Congressional Club on its 100th anniversary.

The Congressional Club was established in 1908 ''to promote sociability among its members, create a common meeting place, and further a personal acquaintance among the women of the Congressional circle.'' In the early 20th century, Members of Congress actually had little time for making friends outside of Congress or Government. It largely fell upon the wives to forge acquaintances in the Nation's Capital, since many of them led solitary lives while away from their home States.

In 1914, the club moved into a Beaux Arts-style mansion on the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street, Northwest, in Washington, DC, where it continues to be the meeting place to this day. It has maintained its mission of serving as a place for spouses of Members of both the House and Senate to develop non-partisan friendships. In addition, its membership has been broadened to include both female and male spouses as more women have been elected to Congress over the last century.

The club also counts among its members spouses of Supreme Court Justices and the President's Cabinet, as well as former First Ladies. It has been a center for service since its founding—providing aid to our Nation's soldiers; supporting local police and fire departments; and hosting receptions for senior citizens, the disadvantaged, and spouses of Ambassadors. It is entirely self-supporting from membership dues and the sale of the Congressional club cookbook, which includes recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, and members of the club.

It is interesting to note that 100 years ago this May, it took the charm of a determined wife of a Member of Congress to get the Federal legislation incorporating the club approved by the House of Representatives. The House Minority Leader, John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, had opposed the bill and was using parliamentary procedures to defeat the bill.

History has it that when Mrs. Williams, who favored the club, heard about her husband's opposition, she invited him to lunch the day the measure was on the House floor. After lunch, he withdrew his opposition and his request for a recorded vote, saying that ''it is the opinion of the gentleman from Mississippi that . . . there will not be a roll call because it would cause a great deal of unhappiness in Washington.''

As the proud spouse of the current president of the Congressional Club, Vivian Creighton Bishop, it likely would cause a great deal of happiness in my household and the households of many other Members if this resolution is voted upon in the near future. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this resolution commemorating the club on reaching this important milestone and I urge its quick adoption.