

and dedication and determination who is, indeed, I am sure my colleagues will agree, his words in his prayer offered up to God have blessed us and will bless us in this day of decision and dedication and determination for all of us and for America.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

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TAX RELIEF WILL HELP THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today is just another typical Wednesday for the average hard-working American family because, Mr. Speaker, millions of hard-working people will punch a time card at work in order just to put food on the table and clothes on the back of their children.

Yet, every day, the IRS takes far more than its fair share out of the average American's paycheck.

The continual greed of a bloated and inefficient Washington bureaucracy is being financed on the back of hard-working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, by providing meaningful tax relief, parents will not have to spend their extra time at a second job to make ends meet. Instead, these hard-working parents will have more time to spend with their kids or to lend time to their elderly family members.

Tax relief can bring about a family renewal.

I am proud to be a part of a Republican Congress dedicated to helping American families by keeping Washington in check, balancing the budget, paying off the national debt, protecting Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and reducing taxes on every hard-working American. Thank you and I yield back.

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PALESTINIANS NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS AN OP- PORTUNITY

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as has happened so often before, the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

The President and the Secretary of State may be constrained by diplomatic protocol, but those of us in this House who follow these events are not. This summit collapsed because Yasir Arafat refused to budge. I pay high tribute to the President and his team. I pay high tribute to Prime Minister Barak, who has gone way beyond any-

thing that anybody could rationally expect in terms of compromise and giving.

I deplore that Egypt and Saudi Arabia again encourage the most intransigent position possible on Arafat.

Today, I am introducing legislation that would terminate all aid to the Palestinian Authority if a unilateral declaration of independence should be forthcoming. Such a declaration would mean new violence, and we cannot be party to it. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me.

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BORN ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, ever since *Roe v. Wade*, Americans have debated the question, When does life begin? Some of us believe it starts at conception, others at viability, and others, amazingly, not until birth.

But once a baby has been born, everyone agrees life has begun, and this baby is a new human being with all his or her God-given rights.

Well, what was once obvious seems to have been called into question lately. The Supreme Court shocked America recently by ruling that States may not ban partial birth abortions. Now we are hearing stories of children being born alive in abortion clinics and then left to die.

H.R. 4292, the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, codifies in law that, once a baby is born, it is legally alive. Unbelievably, the National Abortion Rights Action League and their allies call this a renewed assault on *Roe*. What they really mean to say is that, when a doctor botches an abortion and the child is born alive, the doctor should still have the right to kill it. How far we have fallen, Mr. Speaker?

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INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I brought together international leaders at a luncheon in London to discuss the problem of international parental child abduction. This is an issue that touches families everywhere and an issue, to be solved, needs to be addressed everywhere. The luncheon was very productive, and I hope that it will lead to action by my foreign counterparts. National boundaries are no barrier to the transportation and victimization of children.

Today, there is no enforceable global system to attack and address this problem. Despite legal, law enforcement, and diplomatic mechanisms, many cases are not identified. Many children are not recovered. Many children who are located are not returned to their

country of origin due to legal and procedural problems. This situation causes anger, outrage, and pain for searching parents around the world.

Unless urgent and rapid action is taken, more and more children will be denied their most basic right, that of having access to both parents. The challenge is now to find commitment at both national and international levels to implement these actions. Family disputes and divorce will never go away. Parental child abduction, however, must be eradicated.

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OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4892, SCOUTING FOR ALL ACT

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a private organization, has the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership. This allows the Scouts to continue developing young men of strong moral character without imposing the mores on them that they find abhorrent.

Would my colleagues like a view of extremist liberal Democrats who seek to control this House? They have filed a bill to revoke the Boy Scouts Federal charter, a blatant attempt to undermine the Supreme Court's ruling and punish the Boy Scouts for their belief.

This bill promotes intolerance. The Boy Scouts respect other people's right to hold differing opinions than their own and ask others to respect their belief. Extremist Democrats believe just the opposite. They believe that if one does not subscribe to their beliefs and their view of the world, then one is intolerant and must be chastised.

These liberal Democrats are in error. Tolerance does not require a moral equivalency. Rather, it implies a willingness to recognize and respect the beliefs of others.

The Boy Scouts are a model of inclusiveness. Today, boys of every ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those with disabilities and special needs, participate in Scouting programs across America.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this extremist measure promoted by liberal Democrats.

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ACCIDENTAL HOSPITAL DEATHS ARE HIGHER THAN ACCIDENTAL GUN DEATHS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, accidental deaths caused by doctors and hospitals in America reached 120,000 per year. Meanwhile, gun deaths have dropped 35 percent. In fact, accidental gun deaths dropped to 1,500 last year.

Think about it. We have got hospitals slicing and dicing American people like Freddie Kruger, and Congress

is passing more gun laws. Beam me up. There is something wrong in America when one is 80 times more likely to be killed by a doctor than Smith & Wesson. Think about it, 80 to 1. Maybe we need a gun in surgery.

I yield back the fact that the second amendment was not written to cover just duck hunters.

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GORE SENIOR TAX POLICY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Austrian philosopher Karl Krauss once wrote, "When the end comes, I want to be living in retirement."

Many Americans in this country feel that way. They put in countless hours anticipating the day when they will retire. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration sees these benefits as a prime opportunity to grab more money for the Federal Government.

In 1993, the Clinton-Gore administration decided to tax up to 85 percent of the Social Security benefits received by single seniors whose incomes were \$34,000, and married taxpayers, seniors, with incomes exceeding \$44,000.

Worse yet, Mr. Speaker, because these incomes were not indexed for inflation, the tax effects were more dramatic every year for our seniors.

This week the House will vote to end this burdensome tax and give seniors a well-deserved tax break. Seniors have paid their fair share of taxes. It is time we repeal the Clinton-Gore seniors' tax.

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VETERANS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to commend this body for passing two pieces of legislation yesterday that enhance the benefits of our veterans, H.R. 4850 and H.R. 4864. It does not matter how many benefits we provide our veterans if they do not know what they are entitled to.

Throughout our Nation's history, millions of men and women have served in our Armed Forces during times of peace and times of war. They have defended the very freedoms our country was founded upon.

Too often our Nation's heroes are not adequately informed about what their benefits are and what they are entitled to. This is simply unacceptable.

We have introduced H.R. 3256, the Veterans Right to Know Act; and if anyone has a right to know, our veterans have a right to know. The Veterans Right to Know Act requires the Secretary of VA to prepare an annual outreach plan that will include efforts to identify veterans who are not otherwise enrolled or registered with the Department for benefits or services.

It enjoys the bipartisan support of 72 House members. Veterans have served

this country. We are accountable to our veterans, and we are going to deliver.

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MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF DESERVES SUPPORT

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, have you heard Bill Clinton and AL GORE's latest definition of rich? Bill Clinton and AL GORE say that, if one is married and one is a homeowner or if one is married and one gives money to church and charity and one suffers the marriage tax penalty, one is rich.

Bill Clinton and AL GORE say now that they want to veto the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, legislation which wipes out the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married working couples who, on average, pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes. They say that there are people that are homeowners, there are people that give money to church and charity, and there are people that itemize their taxes, and because of that, they are rich, and they do not deserve marriage tax relief, and they should be discriminated against and should continue to receive and suffer from the marriage tax penalty.

I was so proud when this House passed just this past week legislation wiping out the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married working couples, on average, \$1,400. We made sure, if one suffers the marriage tax penalty, whether one is a homeowner or not, one receives relief. It deserves bipartisan support. I hope the President will change his mind.

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GOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, nothing we do in Congress can be accomplished alone. Today I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have worked to make the 106th Congress' record one of accomplishments and not of partisan gridlock.

This Congress has passed some of the most solid education reform ever brought before this body, measures that will give parents and teachers more flexibility to meet students' unique needs. But that is not all. We have also worked tirelessly to pay off our public debt portion of our national debt which is saddling children born this year with a \$13,300 debt burden. Our debt relief measures will save the average household an estimated \$4,000 in interest payments over the next 10 years. Think of what American families can do with \$4,000 in additional income.

The 106th Congress has an agenda for success, and I am proud to be a part of it.

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BIG BROTHER IS READING OUR E-MAIL

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, although it is 16 years after the titled date of 1984 in George Orwell's novel of the same name, Big Brother is really here and now he is reading our e-mail. Our constitutional rights to privacy are currently being trampled by government-sanctioned invasions currently over at the FBI. These privacy invasions use today's latest technology through the FBI's Carnivore system which monitors and captures our e-mail without our consent or our knowledge.

What business is it of the U.S. Government what I say in an e-mail to my family and to my friends? We must never knowingly allow any government agency to use our e-mail to do to us today what they did with other technologies to Malcolm X and Martin Luther King yesterday.

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SPACE STATION TEACHES COSTLY LESSON

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's lead front page story in the Christian Science Monitor newspaper was headlined, "Late, Costly Milestone for Space Base." It was about the Space Station and U.S. costs now approaching \$100 billion. When this project was first started in 1984, cost projections were only 6 to \$8 billion. This is the old Washington con game: Drastically low ball the cost estimates at the beginning, then spread the project around to as many congressional districts as possible and it will never end.

As the well-respected Monitor pointed out yesterday, "The \$96 billion station is 2½ years behind schedule and costs are burgeoning," meaning still going up. U.S. taxpayers have even had to pay out an extra 3 to \$5 billion to help the Russians participate.

This Space Station will go down in history as the biggest boondoggle this Nation has ever produced. Mr. Speaker, it just goes to show once again that the Federal Government cannot do anything in an economical, cost-effective manner.

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RECOGNIZING EL PASO VET CENTER

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding institution in