

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MEDIA THREATENS DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most Americans now realize that Big Media, network TV news programs and the largest newspapers and news magazines, tried to determine the outcome of the Presidential election.

A study by the Project for Excellence in Journalism confirms what Americans already suspected: George Bush received more than twice as much negative coverage as JOHN KERRY. Think what President Bush's margin of victory would have been without the media bias.

But the danger is the media bias will continue. That is a real threat to democracy.

When the American people do not have the facts, the unvarnished truth, they cannot make the best decisions and we do not have good government.

Big Media needs to reassure the American people that they will strive for objectivity and seek to restore their reputation as the protector of democracy, rather than remaining a threat to it.

AMERICA NEEDS THE BOY SCOUTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago, this body pledged its allegiance to our flag and to our Republic, under God. Just so, at every meeting, the Boy Scouts of America give their oath to our Republic and to God. There it is, that name again: God. It is good enough for our pledge, it is good enough for our currency, it is even good enough to be in the phrase above the Speaker's podium behind me.

But the ACLU has sued the Department of Defense because the Boy Scouts of America use that phrase and DOD sponsors Boy Scout troops. This is not just the usual left-wing, anti-American foolishness.

Boy Scouts of America is a voluntary organization. It teaches American values like self-reliance and civic duty, values that are at the heart of our military, values that have created so many great leaders, even former presidents. Like never before, America needs leaders, America needs role models and positive, values-based programs. America needs our Boy and Girl Scouts.

The Department of Defense should not back down and, surely, the ACLU has better things to do.

REWARDING AMERICANS FOR THEIR TRUST

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the American people voted for much more than candidates or parties this election year. They embraced our bold vision, and they expect us to deliver results.

They elected us with a mandate to keep our Nation on its path of economic growth and job creation, to continue tax relief for working families, and to pare back an inefficient, bloated bureaucracy that kills dreams.

One of our first priorities must be to reform our wasteful and oppressive Tax Code. Year after year, working Americans pay accountants and tax lawyers to help them understand this confusing labyrinth of laws and regulations. Just think about what this energy and capital could accomplish if directed towards truly creative purposes. Just imagine what a fair and simpler Tax Code could do to help us build a 21st century economy.

So let us engage in a vigorous debate. Let us begin rewarding the trust that the American people have placed in us, beginning today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AND HONORING PHIL CRANE AND BILL LIPINSKI

(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, I rise to pay tribute and honor to two of our retiring colleagues, Congressman PHIL CRANE and Congressman BILL LIPINSKI, two of the finest men I have ever known.

I first met PHIL CRANE in 1966 when he spoke to a conservative student group at the University of Tennessee and a few years later invited him to speak to my law school class at George Washington University. PHIL CRANE was one of the early national leaders of the modern-day conservative movement, a highly-respected professor, author and legislator. His life has been a true inspiration to countless numbers of young people all across this Nation.

BILL LIPINSKI served as my Ranking Member for the entire 6 years I chaired the Subcommittee on Aviation. I said then that I do not believe any Chairman and Ranking Member got along or worked together better than BILL LIPINSKI and I did. BILL LIPINSKI never forgot where he came from. I have always considered him to be a master politician in the very best sense of the word and the epitome of what a Congressman who truly serves his constituents should be.

I will miss seeing these two men on such a regular basis, but this Nation is a better place today because of the service of two gentlemen from Illinois, PHIL CRANE and BILL LIPINSKI.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE CORPORAL SHANE KIELION

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude and profound sense of sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of a brave young man who grew up in my hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, Marine Corporal Shane Kielion who died Monday in combat in Iraq, in Fallujah. On the same day, he became a father.

With his entire life in front of him, Shane chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts in a land halfway around the world. This was his second tour of duty.

My heart goes out to his wife April and his brand-new son Shane and his parents, Roger and Patricia. As a father myself, I cannot imagine being unable to see my sons grow up, and it breaks my heart that Shane will not have the same experience. But I know that Shane will be watching over his young son, and I hope the boy will grow up knowing that his father loved him and his mother very much.

Shane was known as a dedicated person to his wife and he would be to his son and to his country, and all Nebraskans will remember him as a true American. We can take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a better place. My thoughts and prayers go out to Shane's family and friends during this difficult time. May God grant them strength, peace, and comfort.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 856 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 856

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2986) to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of