

have served on active duty to be interred at the cemetery. This bill will end the practice of granting waivers and legally clarify once and for all who may be buried at Arlington Cemetery.

Being laid to rest at Arlington is the last honor we can bestow upon our veterans. The Arlington National Cemetery Integrity Act will provide this honor for veterans for years and years to come.

THE CLINTON BUDGET: A RETURN TO BIG GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, remember when President Clinton told us that the era of big government is over? Well, apparently he has had a change of heart, because his latest budget proposal is a true monument to big government excess. Billions and billions and billions in new taxes, and billions and billions and billions in new Federal spending. So much for presidential promises, welcome back, big government.

This Congress cannot and will not accept a return to the tax and spend days of old. Because the taxpayers in 1994 installed a new majority in Congress, family income is up, interest rates are down, unemployment is down, and tax relief is finally on the way. And the budget will soon show a surplus for the first time in a generation. It is no time to turn back the clock.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget completely ignores last year's balanced budget agreement by creating a variety of new spending programs and a host of new taxes. That is not what the taxpayers had in mind. Let us balance the budget. Let us cut taxes, let us do it now.

DEATH PENALTY

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, tonight Karla Faye Tucker may well be executed. But whether Ms. Tucker lives or dies, her case is making the country think more reflectively about the death penalty.

The moral bankruptcy of adopting death and violence to conquer death and violence has not been lost on our moral leaders, such as the Catholic Church, and the American people are beginning to appreciate the futility of execution. Given a choice, most people would choose life without parole, plus restitution to the victim's family, over the death penalty.

In the Senate, there is a bill that few Americans would condone to impose the death penalty on the District despite a referendum and a council vote to the contrary.

Karla Faye Tucker's Christian conversion has drawn her much support.

May her faith convert us all from selective Christianity when it comes to the death penalty.

AN ORDINARY HERO

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan said, we all have the right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say we are in a time when there are no heroes just do not now where to look. We can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful of them, produce enough food to feed all of us and then the world beyond. We meet heroes across the counter and they are on both sides of that counter. They are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and faith in a new idea who create jobs, new wealth, new opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, art and education. Their patriotism is quiet, but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan believed in us, in our capacity to perform great deeds. He was the American President in the American century. It is altogether fitting that we rename our National Airport after him.

THE AMERICAN DREAM FOR ALL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE 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, I am not sure if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle heard the same message that I heard and the American people heard at the State of the Union, and as well, at the budget presentation that was made by the President just yesterday; that is, that we have the first balanced budget in the history of this Nation in the last 30 years.

In addition, let me offer to say to my colleagues that the point is how the American people perceive the next decade and the 21st century. Are my colleagues to tell me that the American people do not want real, viable and trustworthy child care; that we are not suffering from the crumbling schools around the Nation; that we do not want to emphasize education and opportunities for higher education for those moving from welfare to work? I think not.

Mr. Speaker, a 79 percent approval rating after the State of the Union indicates that the American people want action. Yes, they want a balanced budget, but they also want to go into the future, standing tall. They want an increase in the minimum wage. Yes, they want the same things that those who make \$200,000 and up have in this country. They want the American dream.

So I say to my colleagues, follow the American people, and if you cannot, get out of the way, because we have a balanced budget and we have a vision for the 21st century.

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RENAMING NATIONAL AIRPORT FOR PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

(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, former President Ronald Reagan never lobbied personally for his place in history. This kind of self-confident leadership style is often missed in Washington, today more than ever.

It is a travesty that partisan politics has entered into what should be a bipartisan tribute to this great man. Whether my colleagues agree or disagree with Ronald Reagan's philosophy, I doubt that anyone can question Reagan's great love for this Nation and his dedication to his role as the leader of the free world.

People from around the world visit our Nation's capital each year. We need to show them the enormous sense of pride that all America takes in honoring his legacy. In an era where partisan politics have so often replaced open and honest debate, the time has come to say enough is enough. For once, just once, let us put aside our egos and with this simple but grand gesture pay tribute to this great man who is so deserving.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2625 when it comes before the House Floor tomorrow.

MEDICARE VENIPUNCTURE SENIORS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Medicare Venipuncture Seniors Protection Act. This bill will delay the implementation of a section in the Balanced Budget Act which changes the Medicare coverage for venipuncture, or the drawing of blood.

By delaying the implementation of this provision for 18 months, we will be able to study the impact of this change on the elderly and the frail more closely. I fear that, without closer examination, we may make a rash decision which could be devastating to the health care needs of many of our country's seniors.

I fully support eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse from the Medicare program, but throwing the baby out with the bath water is not the answer, and that is exactly what the change in venipuncture coverage may do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in fighting to make sure

that our seniors are protected during this change and that no one who depends on this home health care service is left out in the cold.

RONALD REAGAN'S LEGACY

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, there are those who still turn a blind eye to the legacy of President Ronald Reagan. Although he left office in 1989 as one of the most beloved presidents of this century, there are some academicians and members of the political left who still want to denigrate his place in history.

When we look at the opening of the Soviet archives over the last few years, and the testimony of former Soviet leaders themselves, we see that President Reagan's strong foreign policy and defense buildup were responsible for the fall of the communist empire.

The transformation of the American economy under his stewardship into a low-tax, deregulated economy has now made our country the envy of the world.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better way to honor his achievement than to rename Washington National Airport after President Ronald Reagan, one of the truly great presidents in American history.

ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Speaker GINGRICH, I will be introducing a concurrent resolution remembering the life of George Washington and his significant contributions to our Nation.

As my colleagues will recall, December 14, 1999, will be the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, the founder of our Nation and protector of our liberties. Throughout his life, George Washington projected selfless bravery and astute decision-making, all of which helped to formulate our great Nation into what it is today.

Today, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, which maintains the Mount Vernon estate and directs research education programs relating to George Washington, will be on Capitol Hill to demonstrate their support for this resolution.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join me and the Speaker and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in supporting this concurrent resolution in observation of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, commemorating this notable public servant, an outstanding president, and a courageous general and a splendid human being.

LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELEASE PRISONERS

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, Jerry Canfield, long-time city attorney in Ft. Smith, and his wife Meg have been held in custody by the Laotian government since last Friday. They were arrested along with one other American and 40 Laotians.

What was their crime? They were helping Laotians build water systems. But could it also be that they were peacefully assembling to exercise freedom of religion, freedoms that we in a democratic Nation exercise routinely?

The Americans have been released, but what about the 40 Laotians who are still in custody? It is my hope and prayer that these Laotians will be released as well and that the Laotian government recognize that freedom works, not just in America but throughout the world.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET NOT ALL THAT IS PROMISED

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President sent to Congress his budget. He claims that this is the first balanced budget in 30 years. Is that true? Only in Washington could this be called a balanced budget.

The President proposes to borrow an additional \$185 billion this year in this budget. That is right. The national debt this year would go up another \$185 billion. As a matter of fact, the President's plan over the next 6 years would increase the national debt by \$1 trillion. And they say that is balanced.

The President claims that the surpluses in this budget would go to make Social Security solvent. That is not quite accurate either, Mr. Speaker. The President's budget continues, repeat continues, the practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

To top it all off, the President is proposing to increase taxes. As a matter of fact, under this plan, the President's plan, taxes would be at the third highest level than they have ever been in the history of the United States.

So this budget increases taxes, it adds more debts, and it raids the Social Security Trust Fund. This is business as usual, Mr. Speaker. Shame on the President. And if Congress adopts this budget, shame on Congress.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS BUSINESS AS USUAL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the President proclaimed the era of

big government is over. And then recently he said, it is now the end of an era, meaning we have a surplus and we had a lot of ways to spend it. So I guess the era that big government was over was only about an 11-month period of history in the United States. Now we are back to the government spending as usual.

The President came on like gangbusters, Santa Claus on Christmas morning, with all kinds of high taxes, new spending programs, old Democrat stuff, tried and true methods of buying blocs of voters one at a time.

One thing the President forgot in his speech, he said the deficit had 11 zeros. Actually, the debt has more zeros than the deficit. I believe the President confused the debt with the deficit, and he thinks we have paid off the debt.

Mr. Speaker, the children of the United States of America, and all others, are faced with over a \$5 trillion debt. We have got to pay down the debt. That should be the highest priority with the surplus.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,

Washington, February 2, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1105, attached is the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 1999.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FISCAL YEAR 1999—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-177)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The 1999 Budget, which I am submitting to you with this message, is a balanced Federal budget, marking the first such budget in 30 years and bringing an era of exploding deficits to an end.

By reaching balance, my budget represents a remarkable turnaround in our fiscal policy over the last five years. It brings to an end three decades of fiscal chaos, a period in which Americans had lost confidence in their Government and the ability of their leaders to do the people's business.

This budget is not just balanced, it is balanced the right way. It not only ends the deficit, it reflects the values