



Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Michigan's 13th District

Hill News

News From The Office of Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

This Week In Congress:

MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT H.R. 3313

This week the U.S. House voted on the "Marriage Protection Act." This measure strips the U.S. Supreme Court of its ability to serve as the ultimate and final arbiter on legal matters. I opposed this bill because it is my belief that when I took my congressional oath to uphold and protect the United States Constitution and the people of America, I pledged to represent and protect all three branches of government. This legislation is wrongly inspired because it reflects the arrogance of its crafters who are engaged in exercising excessive legislative authority. In my consideration of the bill, I have continued to be mindful that I subscribe to a personal belief that marriage is a sacred relationship which is directly related to my strong belief in, and support of children. I also believe that children must be protected and supported so that they can thrive and replenish the earth. Despite my beliefs and me urging my colleagues to vote against this legislation, the measure passed the house with a vote of 233-194.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE 2005 APPROPRIATIONS BILL H.R. 4613

I strongly support our troops and I am please that there are some important provisions in this legislation that better provide for the pay, benefits and force protection for our troops. This legislation includes an average 3.5 percent pay increase for military personnel, increases imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 per month, raises the family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 per month, provides added funds for increased protection for U.S. troops in Iraq and a \$25 billion war fund to pay for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for several months. The bill passed with a vote of 410-12.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN HOUSE RESOLUTION 467

I support House Resolution 467 which declares that genocidal acts are occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. The situation in Sudan's dire. The numbers of casualties, deaths, rapes, injuries and displaced refugees beg the question, how can the world, the U.N. the United States and other civilized nations witness the murder of 30,000 innocent civilians, the forced removal of 130,000 people from their homes to Chad and the displacement of more than one million people and do nothing. Civilized governments and the U.N. need to unite and do everything possible to isolate the current government in Khartoum as a pariah in the international community. We need to impose a travel ban on Sudanese officials, establish an embargo on all arms, freeze all government assets and the assets of affiliated organizations for the Sudanese government until those in charge in Sudan begin to feed and protect the civilian population. Included in the Appropriations Defense legislation is r \$95 million in emergency spending to assist refugees in Sudan's Darfur region. The Resolution passed unanimously.

911/COMMISSION REPORT

The bi-partisan 9/11 Commission released their report this week. Even after the report's release, there are questions that remain, such as; are we safe as we should be today and how much progress have we made in correcting homeland security deficiencies? The current Presidential Administration has work to do. Osama bin Laden is still at large and we did not finish the job in Afghanistan. The Taliban has re-emerged, the illegal drug trade is booming and the warlord disarmament is well behind schedule. First responders are not getting the funding they need to meet new security threats. The answer is to fight to strengthen our intelligence capabilities and take the report's recommendations seriously.

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