



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

## *House of Representatives*

# REPUBLICANS UNDERFUND OUR VETERANS!

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as we near Memorial Day, it is especially important to recognize the dedication of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces over the years. Across the country on Monday, flags will be flown, parades will be held, and many Americans will enjoy a day off work. However, truly honoring our veterans means making sure their needs are met every day of the year, not just on one day in May.

Democrats believe strongly in providing for America's veterans. That is why we introduced the New GI Bill for the 21st Century, comprehensive legislation that will strengthen benefits for veterans and military retirees, as well as the men and women serving our country today.

Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not seem to share this same dedication to fully funding veterans programs. In fact, the Republicans recently passed a 5-year budget that cuts veteran health care by \$6 billion, even as hundreds of thousands of new veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan in need of VA care. They yell "support our troops, support our troops," but these returning men and women will have to wait almost a year for some appointments.

Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who risk their lives in our Armed Forces deserve more than just our respect. They also deserve the quality health care we promised them when they enlisted.