MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas 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 wanted to take this opportunity to thank America's veterans and to offer my sympathy to those families that will experience for the first time and for many, many times the difficulty of Memorial Day, for they are the families that are now suffering the loss of a loved one who has fallen in battle or in the service of his or her country.

Today, we had the honor of traveling to Arlington Cemetery, as I said earlier, to place the wreath of honor in honor of women who have fallen in battle. The good news about America is that in times of conflict, however we may disagree on the policy, we are united behind the men and women who leave their homes and leave their families and leave all that they love to be able to serve this country.

My sadness, however, is that there are so many that are coming back in caskets covered and draped by the American flag. And so I think it is extremely important that on this Memorial Day, we are united in our honoring and our admiration and our affection for those who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

May God bless them, God bless their families, and God bless the United States of America.

COMMUNICATION FROM INSPECTOR GENERAL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York) laid before the House the following communication from Steven A. McNamara, Inspector General, House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, DC, May 16, 2005.

MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House

Hon. TOM DELAY, Majority Leader of the House

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Minority Leader of the House.


Subject: Notification of Resignation and Retirement

Please accept my offer of resignation, as the Inspector General for the U.S. House of Representatives, effective May 30, 2005. This date will also be my effective date of retirement from Federal Service.

It has been an honor to serve the House as the Inspector General for the last five years. My goal, and that of my staff, has been to help the House achieve the best use of all the dollars it spends, increase efficiencies, and ensure the health, safety, and security of Members, staff, and visitors. Through the combined support of the House Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, and the hard work of my staff, I believe that we have helped the House accomplish its administrative goals.

Next, after slightly more than 35 years of Federal Service, I look forward to a new chapter in my life: the pursuit of a hobby and business venture as a kayak instructor and kayaking guide.

Once again, it has been a great honor to serve the House of the Inspector General for the last five years. It has been a fulfilling and rewarding experience!

INTRODUCTION OF REDUCING CRIME AND TERRORISM AT AMERICA’S SEAPORTS ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Kuhl of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. Gutknecht) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The order of business is as announced by the previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia.

There was no objection.

BORDER CONTROL AND AMNESTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Norwood) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, this month a bill to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants was introduced in the United States Senate. I think we should send a very clear message to the other body not to waste their time or ours on any bill dealing with the status of illegal immigrants until we first secure our borders.

What good does it do to try to address the problems of 11 to 16 million people who are here illegally if we do not address the gaping wound that allowed them in this country to start with?

The majority of illegals simply walk across our woefully undermanned 2,000-mile border with Mexico. We could deport them back to their country of origin, and millions would be pouring back across that same border within hours. We could turn our backs on justice and the rule of law and declare everyone here as now to be legal. Within hours we would have millions more illegal immigrants walking across that same border, encouraged by the fact that they could laugh at our laws with impunity.

Either extreme, or anything in between, is pointless while we let our border continue to bleed. Trying to defend 1,951 miles of border against 4 million illegal immigrants a year with just 10,817 Border Patrol officers is a mathematical impossibility.

This month Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert Bonner told the House Committee on Government Reform that we could secure the border, that we could secure the border, with an additional 50,000 auxiliary officers. That figure is in very close agreement with the draft field research report by the Immigration Reform Caucus, which was released by the Washington Times, CNN’s Lou Dobbs, and Fox News, which estimates 36,000 auxiliaries may accomplish the same purpose.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and Janet Napolitano of Arizona, Bill Richardson of New Mexico, and Governor Rick Perry of Texas can order their National Guard, with support from other States through the National Guard Bureau, to secure their section of their border today. We have already authorized the Secretary of Defense to pay the cost of that deployment in last year’s Defense Authorization Act. In addition, we are bringing home 70,000 Federal troops from around the world, where they have been guarding other nations’ borders for the past 60 years. A simple executive order from the President would allow them to relieve our National Guard and have 20,000 men and women to spare.

All it takes, Mr. Speaker, is will. We have the manpower and we have the money.

Mr. Speaker, on May 5 the American people responded to a Zogby nationwide poll on this issue. They approve using Federal troops to secure our border by a 53 percent margin. They approve using State and local law agencies to help secure our border by an 81 to 14 percent margin. They oppose an amnesty plan like that proposed in the Senate by a 56 to 35 percent margin.

This week, after the border patrol draft reported by caucus investigators was released, CNN online polls were running 92 percent in favor of using our military to control our borders. In response, the Mexican Government this week spoke out against us securing our border with our troops.

The American public demands we do so.

Now is the time for every Member of this body to choose whose side we are on.

SMART SECURITY AND THE NEED FOR AN IRAQ PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Woolsey) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to take a good, hard look at the role the United States is playing in Iraq and whether or not it is in our national interest to maintain a military presence.

We need to acknowledge the fact that Iraq’s insurgency is growing in strength, not diminishing, and that the very presence of 150,000 American troops on Iraqi soil appears as though they see us as occupiers that actually unites the growing collection of insurgent forces.

Since our military presence actually encourages further fighting, this war will continue as long as U.S. troops remain in Iraq. That is why Congress must accept the fact that we cannot possibly bring our involvement in Iraq to any kind of successful conclusion through military means.

Yesterday, during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, I offered an amendment urging the President to develop a plan for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Surprisingly, this was the first time the House has debated the possibility of withdrawal from Iraq. We were allotted only 30 minutes for the debate: 15 minutes on my side, 15 minutes on the side opposing my amendment. But it is no surprise, of course, the amendment was defeated. This war will continue as long as these president allowed them in this country to start with.

Do you really believe our National Guard and have 20,000 men and women to spare. All it takes, Mr. Speaker, is will. We have the manpower and we have the money.

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