of defeatism or pessimism. As we learned of over 100 Iraqi Battalions deployed with American forces, schools, basic services, agriculture, one is left with the sense that our folks had a plan and are working the plan 24/7. As one soldier told me, “de- feat the enemy, rebuild the country and give it back to the Iraqis.”

From conversations with American leaders, we boarded our motorcade for meetings with the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Ministers of Defense and Interior, three of the most important leaders to the present and future of Iraq.

Prime Minister Jaafari greeted us in a formal salute. The first scenes expressing the heartfelt condolences of the people of Iraq for the loss of life in Hurricane Katrina. He seemed most determined to con- vey the profound significance of the fact that defense does not represent the feelings of the people of Iraq. I asked him, “Who is the enemy?” and he replied with a litany referring to Beirut in 1983, 9-11, Sharr El Sheik, as all the work of “the terrorists.” He actually seemed slightly indignant about the question . . . as though anyone, with any common sense, would doubt that the enemy in Iraq is simply “terrorists.”

In our meetings with two government leaders, two moments stood out. The Minister of Interior, a studious, bearded man, said the fall of Baghdad was a monumental event, a “miracle.” The other moment came when another Congressman asked the Minister of Defense, “what neighboring nation represents the greatest challenge to peace within Iraq?” to which he replied, “all of them,” later adding, “Kuwait is ok.” It was an illuminating moment. I will never forget that this new Iraq is, with one exception, floating in a sea of authoritarian regimes with long histories of association with terror among their people and their governments.

Our helicopters set us down at ground zero for American forces in Baghdad: Camp Liberty—home of the legendary 3rd Infantry Di- vision under the Command of General Mark O’Neill. A complex of buildings had been erected around the site of the burned-out FOB. Nearby terrorist violence in Iraq is taking place in 4 of the 18 provinces . . . all 4 are in the area under the control of the 3rd ID. But Gen. O’Neill, a favorite of the President and the heart and soul of a mind of a CEO, said, “Hey, it’s what we do sir and we’re glad to do it . . . we gotta stop these guys right here.”

After getting an update on action and progress, we headed to dinner with the troops including Evansville native Sgt. Dave Newland. Dave is part of force protection for the 3rd Division and approaching 20 years and retirement but, from what he told me, there is no place he’d rather be. When I asked about the mission, he replied with a smile, “We just go out and bust bad.” We spoke of his plans to move to Washington, Indiana and work for Crane. We spoke of the White Steamer, a diner in Washington, which turned 100 years old in June and was opened in the early 20th century and of a mine of one. For that time we were not what we are doing (soldier/congressman), we were just a couple of Hoosier wannabes” stories from O’Neill that I filed away for later. As he talked about everybody being prayed for was praying and was proud and he said quiet- ly, “I know that, sir.”

As our Blackhawk helicopters lifted off from Baghdad airport, I thought of the men of the 3rd ID. I thought of the mission. And I thought of Sgt. Dave Newland. By God’s grace does this na- tion or any other nation emerge in a day.

Day two began at 3:30 a.m. as we headed for the far end of the base. As we learned upon our arrival, at approximately 6 a.m. the base came under mortar attack by insurgents. While some equipment was damaged, as we watched the replay we learned from the videocassette, the enemy fared much worse.

Using our battlefield technology and real time intelligence, our forces identified where the mortar was fired and tracked 10 insurg- ents evacuating the area. With incredible precision, a hellfire missile scored a direct hit on the enemy as the eerie infrared video replay showed. The professionalism of these forces, young men and women who had to make split-second mili- tary decisions that would impact American lives, left most of us speechless.

We spent lunch with American soldiers in Balad at a huge mess hall while our col- leagues met privately with our hosts. Our host held his own townhall meeting with the 29th Na- tional Guard out of Hawaii. Our last stop of the day was Ramadi, the new home of the Anderson, Indiana based 138th Signal Battalion under the command of Captain Keith Paris of Marion, Indiana. Captain Paris and his half of Muncie met us at the landing zone and escorted to the long, sand colored two-story building that these Hoosiers will call home for the next year.

Capt. Paris is a determined profes- sional whose patriotism, love of family and God exude from every pore of his body. In a short briefing in his modest 12x12 head- quarters office, he explained how 4 Companies were actually supplying all the real time communications for the ongoing battle in Ramadi, a city of some 500,000, that is the provincial capital of the western and a Sunni elite dominated area. Their sandbag rein- forced and camouflaged operations are smack dab in the middle of a bustling base filled with office workers, tanks and airmen, and soldiers . . . and they all depend with confidence on the 138th.

The 138th Signal Battalion is under the 30th Infantry Division and the 24th Infantry Division. The Division has a total of 20,000 soldiers and is the largest unit of the Army Reserve. Sergeant Major of the Army retired, John W. Troxel, a thick-necked warrior with the intensity of a CEO, said, “How ya doin? How’s the rest of the country?” and we needed to see our hosts. The professionalism of these forces, young men and women who had to make split-second military decisions that would impact American lives, left most of us speechless.

As our Blackhawk helicopters lifted off from Ramadi, I watched the sun set over this desert encampment on the front lines of the war on terror and I felt humbled by the men and women I saw, especially the Hoosiers of the 138th. I scribbled the names of the men and women I met and purposed to pray for them and their families and they return home, victorious, safe and sound.

And I felt more confident than ever that this war is just, the battle against terror is vital and the enemy can and will be defeated. I know, I believe, because of the armor, the firepower or the technology that swept beneath me as we passed over one base after another. I believe that because I have looked into the eyes of the men and women fighting this war at every level, and their faith and courage has never and will never be defeated.

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, in a con- tinuing effort to combat the adverse ef- fects that illegal immigration is hav- ing on the United States, I have intro- duced a concurrent resolution that ex- presses the sense of Congress that the President should immediately and unequivocally call for the enforcement of existing immigration laws in order
to reduce the threat of a terrorist attack and to reduce the massive influx of illegal aliens into the United States.

I will summarize the text of that resolution without the whereas clauses.

A primary duty of the Federal Government is to secure the homeland and ensure the safety of the United States citizens and its lawful residents.

As a result of the attacks on this country on September 11, 2001, perpetrated by al Qaeda terrorists in the United States, the United States is engaged in a global war on terrorism.

Four years after those attacks, there is still a failure to secure the borders of the United States against illegal entry.

The failure to enforce immigration laws in the interior means that illegal aliens face little or no risk of apprehension or removal once they are in this country.

The Government of Mexico actively encourages illegal immigration into the United States by, among other things, publishing how-to books and urging State and local entities to accept the metricula consular as valid identification.

Granting amnesty to illegal aliens, or even proposing legislation or efforts for amnesty for illegal aliens, serves only to generate more illegal immigration.

If illegal aliens can enter and remain in the United States with impunity, so, too, can terrorists enter and remain while they plan, rehearse, and carry out their attacks.

The failure to control and to prevent illegal immigration into the United States increases the likelihood that terrorists will succeed in launching catastrophic or harmful attacks on United States soil.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should resolve four things:

First, the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security should immediately use every tool available to them to secure the borders against illegal entry.

Second, the President should announce publicly that he will oppose any proposal to grant legal status or amnesty to illegal aliens and that he and the Secretary of Homeland Security will use every tool available to stop illegal immigration into the United States and to announce efforts for the removal of illegal aliens from the United States.

Third, the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security should seek the assistance of State and local law enforcement personnel in enforcing immigration laws, whether through formal agreements to cooperate or through the elimination of sanctuary policies.

Fourth, the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security should warn Mexico that any further action it takes to encourage illegal immigration to the United States will be viewed as interference with our domestic laws, in violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by reemphasizing how important it is for the position of this body and this government to say “no” to illegal immigration to say “no” to amnesty. When amnesty occurs or is expected to occur, the floodgates are wider and more open for illegal aliens and those who might harm this country. Our future will be much safer and more secure if we will secure our borders and stop illegal immigration and give a resounding “no” to any amnesty policy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITTO) at 9 o’clock and 16 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 437, ESTABLISHING THE SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-221) on the resolution (H. Res. 439) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 437) to establish the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-222) on the resolution (H. Res. 440) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 889) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the following titles:

June 29, 2005:
H.R. 483: An Act to designate a United States courthouse in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Reynaldo G. Garza Federal Courthouse"; and
H.R. 1812: An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration grant program for navigational services to reduce barriers and improve health care outcomes, and for other purposes.

July 1, 2005:
H.R. 3021: An Act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

July 12, 2005:
H.R. 120: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the "Dalip Singh Sarail Post Office Building";
H.R. 289: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Sofia Class John Marshall Post Office Building";
H.R. 324: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Ray Charles Post Office Building";
H.R. 627: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building";
H.R. 501: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12500 S. Eastern Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Arthur Stace Post Office Building";
H.R. 1236: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 750 4th Street in Sparks, Nevada, as the "Mayor Tony Armstrong Memorial Post Office";
H.R. 1460: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "ED Everitt Post Office Building";
H.R. 1524: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 204 Main Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts, as the "Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Post Office Building";
H.R. 2326: An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the "Floyd Lupton Post Office";

July 20, 2005:
H.R. 3332: An Act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier

H.S. 7944

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

September 14, 2005