

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, September 26, 2011, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it shall meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, September 29, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

□ 1320

PAKISTAN—DISLOYAL ALLY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ever since we found Osama bin Laden living the high life in Abbottabad, we've had our suspicions about Pakistan. Turns out they are disloyal, deceptive, and a danger to the United States. This so-called ally takes billions in U.S. aid, while at the same time supporting the militants who attack us.

According to Admiral Mike Mullen, the Pakistani Government supported the groups who were behind the truck bombing attack that wounded more than 70 U.S. and NATO troops and the recent attack on the U.S. embassy.

This should be the last rodeo for Pakistan.

Last night I introduced legislation to freeze all U.S. aid to Pakistan with the exception of funds that are designated to help secure their nuclear weapons. By sending aid to Pakistan, we are funding the enemy, endangering Americans, and undermining our efforts in the region.

We pay them to hate us. Now we pay them to bomb us. Let's not pay them at all.

And that's just the way it is.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Palestinian Authority's bid for statehood at the United Nations. Supporting a Palestinian state is the right thing to do, and now is the right time to do it. It is wholly consistent with American values. We have supported people's aspirations for freedom and democracy around the world, and we should not treat the Palestinian people differently.

There is global support for a Palestinian state. More people around the world support a Palestinian state than oppose it, including Americans. Seventy percent of Israelis would accept a Palestinian state if the U.N. approved it. Last year, President Obama said he hoped to see a Palestinian state admitted to the United Nations.

Previously, Palestinians sought statehood through violence and ter-

rorism, which the world rightly rejected. Now that they are nonviolently following the internationally recognized process to gain statehood, why we are discouraging them?

A Palestinian state is in the national interests of everyone. It would help stabilize the Middle East. It would help end Israel's diplomatic isolation. It would deal a devastating blow to al Qaeda and Hamas, which refuse to recognize Israel. Recognizing Palestine would reaffirm Israel's own status.

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST HONOR FLIGHT

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, since the first Honor Flight to bring World War II era veterans from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to Washington, D.C. on May 11, almost 200 veterans have had the opportunity to see the memorial built in their honor. I was privileged to walk and speak with the Greatest Generation this week as they remembered the sacrifices that preserved our freedom and liberated the world from tyranny and oppression. This generation of men and women fought and secured America's future with unwavering courage. Their selfless sacrifices to their country and stories of heroism inspired future generations to join the armed services.

In my life, it was a grandfather, a marine Guadalcanal veteran, whose story encouraged me to join and serve in the Marine Corps. As we honor those who fought to protect America's exceptionalism, I also want to recognize those Honor Flight volunteers who worked so tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the Greatest Generation.

THE AL QAEDA-QODS FORCE NEXUS

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York this week and with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of the Islamic Republic of Iran giving his usual anti-American rant yesterday, I would like to make a few points about my concerns over Iran's strategic aims in the Middle East and here in the Western Hemisphere.

My friends at Kronos Advisory, including Medal of Honor winner Major General James Livingston of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, released their Al Qaeda-Qods Force Nexus report in April, the text of which I ask to be inserted into the RECORD. Their report goes to the heart of the matter detailing that "Iran has quietly forged a strong working relationship with core al Qaeda leaders."

I am greatly concerned about Iran's growing influence in Latin America.

The Treasury Department has stated that Hezbollah's operating center is in the tri-border region of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. Hezbollah's state sponsor, Iran, has opened six embassies in South America over the last 5 years.

When the lives of Americans could face threats from Iran's growing reach through Hezbollah, why would this administration even consider giving President Ahmadinejad a visa to attend the United Nations General Assembly meeting?

[From Kronos]

THE AL-QA'IDA-QODS FORCE NEXUS SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF A "KNOWN UNKNOWN"

Kronos is a strategic advisory firm founded by Congressional Medal of Honor recipient MajGen James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret), Mallory Factor, and Michael S. Smith II to provide global stakeholders the situational awareness solutions they need to address strategic and tactical threats to their interests. We help our clients achieve their organizational goals by providing them the resources they need to better understand and define their operational environments—rather than allowing their organizational capabilities and goals to be defined by them.

Kronos harnesses the resources of a diverse international network of talented professionals with highly valuable skill sets who have extensive experience helping officials address complex national security threats, both domestic and foreign.

Kronos investigative project case teams consist of counter-intelligence professionals, accomplished field investigators, seasoned security analysts, and preeminent subject experts. We seek to help our clients detect, deter, and neutralize eminent challenges posed by gray area phenomena and collusive adversarial regimes.

Through independent missions, our teams collect and analyze unique and often otherwise inaccessible information that reveals key threat features like emerging partnerships, operational capabilities and the objectives of transnational terrorist networks. Our teams also gather information that exposes implications of important emerging theater-specific and regional trends. We then use this data to produce tailor made strategic threat assessments that provide holistic explanations of imminent threats, and can be used by officials to identify new opportunities to reduce them.

Kronos is strongly positioned to assist private companies who support official missions, defense and intelligence organizations operating in mission critical zones, as well as policy makers in Washington. Our principals can also help officials identify strategic opportunities to strengthen relationships with key foreign partners.

THE AL-QA'IDA-QODS FORCE NEXUS ISSUE SUMMARY, KRONOS ADVISORY.COM

Despite a nearly decade-long effort to dismantle al-Qa'ida and its affiliates, these terrorists still pose the most immediate threats to America's security. Al-Qa'ida and affiliated movements also threaten many other major and emerging powers alike. Yet one ascendant power, Iran, has quietly forged a strong working relationship with Core al-Qa'ida's leaders. This relationship has been established to counter American influence in the Middle East and South Asia. Through it, Iran will likely also help al-Qa'ida mobilize terrorists to carry out attacks against the U.S. and our allies, providing the support required to extend al-Qa'ida's operational reach.

Attention to the longstanding ties between top Iranian officials and al-Qa'ida leaders, including Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has been eschewed by a pervasive fundamental attribution error: "Shiite Iran will not work with Sunni militants comprising the ranks of al-Qa'ida." This assessment fully ignores readily available evidence to the contrary. Indeed, such relationships span back to the early 1990s, when top officials from the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps' clandestine Qods Force, working in concert with Iran's chief global terrorist proxy, Lebanese Hizballah, began training and equipping bin Laden's warriors. Then, following the 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans, more evidence surfaced of operational linkages between al-Qa'ida and the Qods Force, an official Iranian paramilitary organization which possesses a mandate from Iran's Supreme Leader to fund, train, and equip Islamist terrorists. These very operational linkages are referenced within the 9/11 Commission Report, whose authors acknowledged the relationship between al-Qa'ida and Iran demonstrates that Sunni-Shiite divisions "did not necessarily pose an insurmountable barrier to cooperation in terrorist operations."

Since 9/11, these partnerships have become all the more pronounced. Hundreds of al-Qa'ida members, along with family members of Core al-Qa'ida leaders like Osama bin Laden, have found refuge inside Iran. Officials now know Iran's minister of defense, formerly a commander of the Qods Force, furnished safe houses for many of these terrorists. Officials also know that while under "house arrest" inside Iran al-Qa'ida's top military commanders like Saif al-Adl were able to coordinate attacks against Western targets. Examples of these attacks include the May 2003 bombings in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia that killed eight Americans.

Since 2005, Iran has rapidly evolved from a theocracy into a garrison state. With help from the Islamic Republic's unelected officials, notably Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (a former member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps), the IRGC has seized control of most critical sectors inside Iran. Having secured their future grips on power by elevating the domestic roles of the IRGC, Iran's leaders are now pursuing their lust for regional hegemonic status. Their strategy entails both a persistent quest for nuclear weapons—the acquisition of which Iran's leaders view as the means to ensure their recent regional gains will be irreversible—and support of terrorist organizations which are able to help Iran destabilize unfriendly states, and perhaps even Iran's entire neighborhood.

Today, the Middle East is more volatile than at any time since the Islamic Revolution's leaders seized control of Iran, and hardliners in Tehran are better positioned than ever before to influence the future of this critical region. Concurrently, with support from a state sponsor like Iran, al-Qa'ida will be better positioned than ever before to strike the West and our allies, and to foment chaos in both the Arab world and South Asia that would ultimately benefit Iran. As the implications of working partnerships between Iran and al-Qa'ida carry weighty implications for not just the security of the Middle East and South Asia, but also America's national security interests, it is incumbent upon policy makers in Washington to address this issue. For if left unchecked, Iran's relationship with al-Qa'ida could cost America and our allies dearly.

This report focuses on the history of Iran's relationship with al-Qa'ida, and briefly addresses potential implications of these ties.

Additionally, its author provides a list of recommended action items for Members of the United States Congress, as well as a list of questions that may help Members develop a better understanding of this issue through interactions with defense and intelligence officials.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 639

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 639, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROKITA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

STORING NUCLEAR WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this marks the first of what I hope to be many times to address you and my colleagues on an issue that I have been graced with having the responsibility to deal in the public policy arena, and that's the issue of nuclear waste.

When people talk about nuclear waste and this debate about where it is and why it's there, they primarily talk about our nuclear utilities. Especially after Fukushima Daiichi, people understand that when you store high-level nuclear waste onsite and if there's a disaster that occurs and if the pools run dry, then you might have a melting which might spread radioactivity, and that's not good for anybody. That's a good debate to have because we have nuclear waste stored all over this country.

But I'm not here really to talk about the private for-profit sector, the nuclear industry today. I'm here to tell another story, another story that really talks about why we have government and why there's still a need for some government entities.

Back during World War II—and we just heard my colleague talk about the Honor Flights—back during World War II, we decided as a Nation to win these wars. One way to make sure that we wouldn't lose thousands upon thousands of soldiers in an invasion of Japan was to develop the nuclear bomb. Two were dropped; the war ended. Many people historically know that development, that occurred because of the Manhattan Project.

What I think a lot of people don't know is that we still are dealing with much of the history of winning the war in the Manhattan Project and that winning the Cold War relied upon a strong military and a strong nuclear deterrence. So even after World War II, we continued to develop nuclear weapons, which we deal with today.

So I had a chance to visit during our last district work period, I took a day and visited a place called Hanford, Washington. Hanford, Washington was part of the Manhattan Project. Hanford was the site that the U.S. military picked to help produce plutonium. The "Fat Man" bomb was developed there. That area was picked for a lot of reasons. There weren't a lot of people there. As you can see, the Columbia River is right next to it. You had some low-cost power production, and so it was a good site. And, hence, people got moved off the land, the government took over, and the government has been controlling hundreds of acres in Washington State even today.

The result of the Cold War and winning World War II is that millions of gallons of nuclear waste now reside in Hanford, Washington. And I'm not exaggerating. In fact, 53 million gallons of nuclear waste is onsite. And what's interesting about Hanford, of course, when you started storing this nuclear waste, our technology, our information, our knowledge was not as great as it is now. The way we stored this material then would not be an acceptable process today. It is an environmental disaster and a hazard that has to be cleaned up.

You have approximately 174 storage tanks. These storage tanks are from 750,000 gallons to a million gallons, all with nuclear waste in these tanks. These tanks are buried, as it says here, 10 feet underground and 250 feet above the water table, a mile from the Columbia River. Some of these tanks are leaking. It's just not a good thing for us to have. And so the government has been trying to deal with this one site of nuclear waste in this country.

Why do I bring this before you, Mr. Speaker, and why is this important? Because in 1982, part of the process of dealing with Hanford was to pass a law.

□ 1330

The law was called the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and in that law it says, We've got a solution. We're going to collect all the high-level nuclear waste, and we have a storage facility that we're going to place it in. And that place is Yucca Mountain. Now, many of you may have heard about Yucca Mountain before. I've visited it twice. Yucca Mountain is in a desert, and it's a mountain. So I do the side-by-side comparisons here.

Right now at Hanford we have 53 million gallons of nuclear waste on site. Yucca Mountain, which is a site we designed, we picked. We studied for decades. We spent \$12.5 billion. We currently have no nuclear waste there.

The nuclear waste at Hanford is stored 10 feet underground. The nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain would be stored a thousand feet underground. The nuclear waste at Hanford is 250 feet above the groundwater. The nuclear waste at Yucca will be stored a thousand feet above the water table. The nuclear waste at Hanford is a mile