

Any such thought should be put aside immediately. The safety of the armed forces is one of the primary concerns whenever they are sent into the field. The fact that the troops are volunteers instead of draftees should make no difference.

It apparently makes a difference to some people. The idea that Vietnam was bad because draftees were used, while Bosnia is of little concern because the armed forces are all-volunteer, has appeared in forums including broadcast talk shows and the Public Pulse. Jack Germond, a liberal syndicated columnist, mentioned the volunteer status of the troops on "The McLaughlin Group."

Indeed, President Clinton, in his televised speech asking for support for the Bosnia mission, said that "my most difficult duty is to put the men and women who volunteered to serve our nation in harm's way when our interest and values demand it."

Why was it necessary to remind his audience that these were volunteers? Does Clinton, who avoided the draft, see volunteers as something different? Certainly it doesn't come as news to the public that the armed forces consist of career and professional soldiers as opposed to draftees. That has been true for more than 20 years.

When Americans lay wreaths on Memorial Day, they don't ask whether each fallen soldier was a volunteer or a draftee. Their deaths are equally profound. Mothers, fathers, wives and siblings of volunteers grieve no less. Their children suffer an equal loss.

Clinton is sending American troops into a harsh and dangerous land. Booby traps and land mines litter the countryside. The potential for terrorism is high. Roads and airports are in ruins. Water supplies are undependable. The terrain is rugged, with deep mountain valleys and dense forests. Winter brings bone-chilling cold and almost impenetrable fog.

Many Serbs who live in Bosnia have vowed to fight until the lawful government of their country is brought down. The Muslims who control that government have brought in shadowy fighters from Iran, Afghanistan and Libya, among other places. The government has agreed to ask those fighters to leave. But will they leave?

The question is whether Americans should be sent into this impossible situation. Even those who volunteered to serve.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN FLAG

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the design of the Puerto Rican flag, a symbol which represents the enormous contribution the citizens of the island have made to our Nation. The flag's anniversary will be honored by the Centennial Anniversary Committee of the Puerto Rican Flag at City Hall Park in Perth Amboy on December 17, 1995.

The flag was completed in New York City at Chimney Corner Hall in Manhattan on December 22, 1895. The flag of Puerto Rico has a rich history. Dr. Julio J. Henna led a group of 59 Puerto Ricans who organized the Puerto Rican section of the Cuban Revolutionary Party. As part of their activities, a flag was created to rally support for independence from Spain.

The Puerto Rican flag was designed by inverting the colors of the single starred flag of its neighbor in the Caribbean, Cuba. The first known incarnation of the symbol was made by Manuela "Mima" Besosa, the Puerto Rican Betsy Ross. The motion to adopt the flag was approved unanimously by the Puerto Rican revolutionaries.

For 100 years, the Puerto Rican flag has symbolized a proud people. It has served as a symbol of Puerto Rico's cultural tradition and heritage. Puerto Ricans are proud of their many contributions to the United States and they are proud of the unique identity their flag represents. Puerto Rico has been referred to as the "Shining Star of the Caribbean." Her citizens residing in Perth Amboy are shining stars in their community.

It is an honor to recognize the banner of a group of constituents I am proud to represent. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the creation of Puerto Rican flag.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 834, 835, 836, 837, 845, 847, and 848, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following the above rollcall votes.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. STEPHEN H. CONGER, SR.

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Stephen H. Conger, Sr., one of the Nation's leaders in the hardwood lumber industry. As such, he has been a leader in helping provide wood products jobs in North Carolina and up and down the southeast coast.

He is to be commended for his tireless work in helping build Coastal Lumber Co. into the second largest producer of hardwood lumber in the United States and one of the largest independent wood products companies.

Mr. Conger's career with Coastal Lumber Company began in Lake City, SC, in 1949 after he earned a B.S. degree in forestry from the University of Georgia in Athens.

He is currently vice chairman of Coastal Lumber Co. a diverse wood products manufacturer headquartered in Weldon, NC, and he is an active member of the board of directors and advisory board of Coastal Lumber Co.

His career includes active leadership roles in hardwood lumber and relative associations. He is president of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association; past director of the National Hardwood Lumber Association and of the Forest Resources Group of the American Forest and Paper Association. He was a past president of the Southern Cypress Manufacturer's

Association, and past executive committee member of the AFPA International Trade Council, and he is a member of: the National Dimension Manufacturers Association; the American Plywood Association; the Southern Forest Products Association; the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; the North Carolina and Virginia Forestry Associations; the Society of American Foresters; and the Holland Society.

Mr. Conger has also been active in civic, community and political affairs. Born in Asheville, NC, he is married to Marian Lansdell Meiere and has four children; Susan De Camp, Stephen Halsey, Robert Cody Lansdell, and Marian Lansdell Meiere. He served for 4 years as treasurer of the North Carolina Private School Association; is a member of various clubs; and was a delegate to two Republican National Conventions. Additionally, he has been a Halifax County finance chairman of Helms for Senate and 2d District chairman for Reagan-Bush, 1984.

Mr. Conger is an American success story. His hard work and persistence made him a leader in his field. As such, we all owe him a word of thanks and a debt of gratitude.

STEPHEN AND OTTIE ADAMS: SERVICE TO THE NATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Senior Chief Aviation Machinist Mate Stephen Lee Adams upon his retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserve and to honor his mother, Mrs. Oattie Adams, for her dedication and great service to this country. Both Mrs. Adams and her son Stephen are longtime residents of Fremont, CA, in California's 13th Congressional District.

Mrs. Adams is a widow and the mother of 10 children. Her eldest son, Larry, enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam in 1962. Her son Stephen, enlisted in the Navy, served 3 tours in Vietnam and, more recently, served in the Gulf war. Her son Phillip, enlisted in the Marines and served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Her son Ricky enlisted in the Navy and received a medical discharge. Her son Kim enlisted in the Army and is a first sergeant (E8) with the 1st Armored Division in Germany, who is preparing to go to Bosnia within the next 3 weeks.

Mrs. Adams has devoted her life to this country and its veterans. In early 1966, her nephew Mike Bledsoe was wounded in combat in Vietnam and was sent to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital to recuperate. When she and her husband, Charles, a World War II Marine Corps veteran, visited Mike, they saw how depressing it was in the hospital wards—the patients had a few board games, playing cards and not much else. The Adamses were determined to fix things. They began by calling on the local business community and asking them to donate items. They also began to devote all of their weekends to the wounded veterans. They visited the wards each weekend to pass out the items such as candy and games that local businesses had donated, and stayed to talk with the patients. Mr. Adams also had a

connection to the entertainment industry through a friend at work. Through this, he was able to bring a variety of entertainers to the hospital. He brought in country and western groups, folk singers, rock groups, and variety acts to boost morale on the wards.

The Adams family became close to many of the veterans and opened their home to those who could leave the hospital for short periods of time in order to provide them with a family atmosphere. Although they still had eight children at home, they made room for any veteran who needed time away.

They continued their dedication to the wounded veterans from 1966 to 1970. Unfortunately in 1970, Charles was diagnosed with cancer and had to keep his hospital visits to a minimum. Mrs. Adams continued to care for veterans and to this day receives an occasional Christmas card from one of the patients she cared for.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting Mrs. Ottie Adams for her constant devotion to this country on the occasion of her son's retirement from the U.S. Naval Reserve. She deserves our admiration and our thanks.

WE NEED THE B-2 BOMBER

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, President Reagan said, "If we are forced to fight, we must have the means and the determination to prevail or we will not have what it takes to secure the peace."

Our zest for freedom will supply the determination—and the Congress, through the language in the defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1996, will supply the means.

An integral part of the means to fight and win is the B-2. The chairman and members of the National Security Committee have clearly supported the B-2. Studies indicate the United States will require more than 20 B-2 bombers to support the U.S. national military strategy and that makes the B-2 a critical part of our war fighting arsenal.

Let's set the record straight: The aging fleet of B-52 and B-1 bombers will see their performance decline in the next 5-10 years and can never perform the stealth mission of the B-2.

There are no new bombers on the drawing board for the next 20 years, and the B-2 is an installment on Congress' promise to revitalize our national security posture.

Conferees have always intended to continue industrial base activities necessary for production of additional B-2's.

If the program is expected to continue, prior year funds must be obligated immediately. Only then, will the hundreds of thousands directly involved in this program clearly understand our support for this much-needed program, and last,

The B-2 and its stealth technology is within our economic and production capability—it must be acquired while we can.

I challenge each of my colleagues to think about world events. I challenge each of my colleagues to think about your safety and the safety of your families. The notion that we are

safe—or war is less likely—should be dismissed. While their names may have changed, the tools of mass destruction are still there—ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, and other threats to our very existence. We must have the technology to counter that threat and the B-2 is part of our technological edge.

This is our only chance to harness the B-2's revolutionary capabilities. Capabilities that, because of who we are and what we stand for, will benefit not just the people of America, but the entire world. The time is now to move forward with the B-2.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP STATEMENT ON THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, the leadership of America's \$400 billion travel and tourism industry is very concerned about the proposals to dismantle the Department of Commerce. These executives, who have come together to form the Travel Business Roundtable, have adopted a policy statement to express their strong support for retaining the Commerce Department.

These executives have asked me, as chairman of the 304-member Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, to advise the House of the travel industry's position on this issue.

Accordingly, I am inserting the following letter from Mr. Jonathan Tisch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Loews Hotels, together with the policy statement by the Travel Business Roundtable and a list of the Roundtable membership.

All members of the House should give very careful consideration to this very cogent statement on the future of the Commerce Department, especially in view of the business executives who are listed below. These corporate leaders are among America's best and brightest. Their organization, the Travel Business Roundtable, is emerging as the leading organization of travel industry executives in the nation.

Hon. Toby Roth,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ROTH. Enclosed please find a policy statement regarding the United States Department of Commerce, signed by Darryl Hartley-Leonard and myself on behalf of all members of the Travel Business Roundtable.

It is imperative that the Department of Commerce continue operating in order to maintain the United States' current market share in the world travel and tourism industry. Competition internationally is increasing, and without the support of the Commerce Department, the United States is sure to lose millions, if not billions of dollars, in revenue.

Congressman Roth, as the Chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, as well as a respected leader in Congress, please do all that is necessary to ensure the future of this very important Department. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN M. TISCH,
President and CEO Loews Hotels,

POLICY STATEMENT BY THE TRAVEL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The United States travel and tourism industry is in direct and intense competition with foreign countries. This competition is increasing, and the United States is losing market share, threatening jobs and the industry's positive impact on the United States balance of trade.

The United States Department of Commerce has historically played a vital role in representing U.S. business abroad. As corporate executives and leaders of the business community, we believe that many functions performed by the Commerce Department are necessary to this country's ability to compete effectively in global markets, and are irreplaceable resources. Elimination of key Commerce Department functions, such as the United States Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA), would be an unfortunate step backwards when this country can least afford it.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that as all functions of government undergo a thorough examination, the critical functions performed by the Department of Commerce be retained and that Congress should grant USTTA the opportunity to transition into a new public-private tourism entity no later than the end of FY 1996, by funding the agency at the previous Senate-approved level of \$12 million.

As business leaders, we recognize the current pressures to balance the U.S. budget and we feel strongly that our recommendations are consistent with Congress' overall efforts to streamline and strengthen government programs and services.

The Travel Business Roundtable is an organization of senior corporate leaders of America's \$400 billion travel and tourism industry. Our industry accounts for six (6) percent of our nation's Gross Domestic Product. Our billions of dollars in services to international visitors to the United States supplied eleven percent (11%) of all United States exports in 1994 and represented a net trade surplus of \$21.6 billion. Our industry employs 6.4 million workers in the United States.

DARRYL HARTLEY-LEONARD
Chairman, Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

JONATHAN M. TISCH,
President and CEO, Loews Hotels.

THE TRAVEL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE MEMBER LIST

JOHN C. ALEXANDER, Chief Executive Officer, WORLDTRAVEL PARTNERS.

MICHAEL B. ARRINGTON, President, ARRINGTON TRAVEL CENTER.

NICHOLAS A. ATHANASIOU, Vice President, ARTHUR D. LITTLE INTERNATIONAL.

ROGER H. BALLOU, Vice Chairman, ALAMO RENT A CAR, INC.

PAUL BLACKNEY, President & CEO, APOLLO TRAVEL SERVICES.

JAMES CARREKER, President, WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS.

U. GARY CHARLWOOD, Chairman of the Board & CEO, UNIGLOBE TRAVEL INC.

JARVIS W. COBURN, Vice President, Business Development, EDS.

ROBERT W. COGGIN, Executive Vice President, Marketing, DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

GLORIA BOHAN, President, OMEGA WORLD TRAVEL, INC.

MICHAEL M. BOLAND, President & CEO, MARITZ TRAVEL COMPANY.

J. WILLIAM BOYD, CMP, President & CEO, SUNBELT MOTIVATION & TRAVEL.

MICHAEL BUCKMAN, Chief Executive Officer, WORLDSPAN.

BETTA CARNEY, Chairman & CEO, WORLD WIDE TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.