

do not hinder them and tie their hands so they are not able to serve those constituents, and that they are not subjected to some of the harshest fraudulent provisions that are in this particular legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, that we consider whether or not, as we watch this legislation progress, that it is not too severe to inhibit those who might serve those most needy constituents.

ANTITERRORISM LEGISLATION AND THE STATUS OF AMERICAN MILITIAS

Mr. Speaker, let me point out two other matters that we have had the opportunity to discuss this week. One, there has been a conference committee, bipartisan, in which the President has instructed the leaders of Congress to respond to the concerns of the American public and to pass antiterrorism legislation, which would include wiretapping, increased services or increased resources to our law enforcement, and, as well, would provide for taggant, what we would call the kind of tracking devices, to determine who might have been behind any kind of explosive incident or tragedy.

It seems as if, however, we have not been able to come to a meeting of the minds, and that Members of this House, Republicans, have refused to listen to the President and to the American public asking for greater national security. I hope we can find an opportunity to come together on this issue, and not allow partisan politics to divide us on this question of terrorism.

I hope also this House will have hearings on terrorism, domestic and international. I would also like my colleagues to join me in the support of House Concurrent Resolution 206, which I will offer, that will suggest to this Congress that we join together to determine the state of militia in this Nation, to determine whether there are those who are organized in a violent manner to overthrow this Nation. If they are in the form of militia, then we should find them, identify them, and prosecute them to the fullest of the law, and certainly the Department of Justice should be involved in this prosecution. We must not tolerate terrorism, domestically or internationally.

I would encourage my colleagues in the House to get on with the business of an antiterrorism bill, and to join me in this militia legislation that will bring individuals to justice who would overthrow this Government.

TRIBUTE TO TROOPERS WHO SAVED LIVES IN ATLANTA'S CENTENNIAL PARK BOMBING

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be remiss in my duty if I did not brag on and recognize four of our

First District of Georgia heroes that led the safety efforts in last Saturday's early morning Centennial Park explosion in the Olympics in Atlanta. The gentlemen that I want to recognize are Mr. Ted Riner, Mr. Tommy Sisson, and Mr. David Averitt. These are all State troopers who lived in Statesboro, GA, who were on detail at the Centennial Park in Atlanta.

I also wanted to recognize Mr. Tom Davis, who married a Statesboro girl, who is the daughter of my friends, Bobby and Floyd Naxton, in Statesboro. Tom was the GVI agent in charge of Centennial Park. If you can visualize the scene a little bit, in fact last Monday, Libby, my wife and I were at an Olympic medal ceremony in Savannah, and it was very similar to the scene that had happened on Saturday, just a few days before. The Spinners were playing, a great popular group, everybody was dancing, everybody was having a good time, folks were celebrating the Olympics from all over America, from all over the world, and so forth.

I was thinking, this is what the scene was like Saturday morning early, at 1:20 a.m., when the bomb exploded. As we know, Mr. Davis was among the very first to know of the bomb, and immediately he began evacuating the area. Mr. Riner, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Averitt all were key players.

There were only 9 people evacuating about 150 partiers. Some of these partiers had been drinking, some of them were tired, some of them did not want to be interrupted in their partying, and yet these brave men very calmly but very firmly led these 150 people, this group, out of the way of danger, and when the bomb went off, only two people were fatally wounded, which, of course, were two too many. However, you can only think of how many people would have died if it had not been for the efforts of these four men and the five others who were with them.

The interesting part, being true Americans, true officers who will do their duty and act without question when the time of emergency comes, they laughed later when they were told that they were heroes. They said, why are we heroes? We were just doing our jobs.

Then they talked about being wounded, as all three of them were. Mr. Davis was not wounded, but the three of them were, the three others were. They said that even as they were being told to lie still and being taken to the hospital, their first concern was, how many people were injured, and what about each other? They all, Riner, Sisson, and Averitt, had known each other. They know Pam, David's wife, and they were all very fond, and that was their first concern each one of them had, for the other person and for the public in general.

Mr. Speaker, as long as America has men like this, people like this from all over the country, heroes that come

from everyday walks of life, our country will continue to be a great Nation. I am proud to say that I know some of these guys vicariously. I certainly know of them very well and know their families, and I am very, very proud of them.

Just think what it would have been like, how much more tragic the explosion in Centennial Park would have been, if it had not been for their fast and immediate action. So I salute them, and I know all 435 Members of Congress join me in this salutation: Job well done, gentlemen.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE LATE HONORABLE HAMILTON FISH, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. KELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, since he was first elected to the 91st Congress in 1968 until his retirement in 1994, Hamilton Fish, Jr., has relied heavily on the support of his staff. During his 26-year tenure there were more than 70 staffers who served him loyally. The following is a list of those who served at least 3 years or more, as recalled to my memory.

The first of these is John Barry, from the Catskills in New York. He met Ham Fish in 1965 and became a trusted friend, adviser, campaign manager, and confidante, launched and ran a successful campaign, getting Ham elected to Congress the first time in 1968, and from that point on continued as his campaign manager and adviser and served as his administrative assistant until he retired, from 1968 until 1982.

John currently resides in West Palm Beach, FL. It was my joy and pleasure to serve Ham and work with John Barry. John was a remarkable man whom Ham was very lucky to have on staff.

John Nacarrato is another one. John Nacarrato was elected eventually to the Ulster County legislature, but he served as district director for Hamilton Fish until he retired in 1992. John is my friend from the early Ham Fish days, and he owns and runs PJ's Restaurant in Kingston, NY. I go up there to see him often.

Helen Fuimarello, this is another woman who met Ham Fish and volunteered on his campaign, then joined him. She came from Hamilton Fish's staff onto my staff and helped me set up my office in Dutchess County. She retired from Federal service in 1996, and currently works part-time for our State senator, Stephen Saland. Helen and I remain good friends and I rely on her excellent advice always.

I want to mention Aya Ely. Aya Ely was Ham's personal secretary from 1968 until 1987. She was an absolutely remarkable woman.

Then there was Marion Clow. Marion kept us all in line. She was on Ham's staff from 1969 until she retired about 1983.

Then there was Alan Coffey, Jr. Alan started in 1969. Alan is still on Capitol Hill. He served on the House Committee on the Judiciary as minority counsel, but he is now majority general counsel and staff director of the Committee on the Judiciary. Alan is as sharp as ever, but he started with Hamilton Fish.

Gerry Schindler started as a volunteer on Ham's campaign. Eventually Gerry moved to Salisbury, MD, and now works in the office of Congressman WAYNE GILCHREST. She is a lovely, kind woman, and another friend of mine.

Then there is Shirley Cavanaugh, Dorothy Pedersen, Clementine Anthony, Janice Traber, Shelve Hoffman, Tom Schatz, and Phyllis Coleman, another remarkable woman. She started in 1979 in Ham's Poughkeepsie office as a caseworker and staff assistant. Later she moved to the Washington office to work as a legislative correspondent and chief caseworkers. She served Ham for 15½ years, and then she moved with me into my office. She is the finest human being I have found here on Capitol Hill. She is a wonderful human being, and has helped countless people in my district. My hat is off to Phyllis Coleman for her many, many years of service. I am proud to have her in my office.

Hope Wittenberg worked for Ham. Nick Hayes came in, replacing John Barry, from 1982 to 1994. He was Ham's administrative assistant. Nick, too, remains a good friend.

Nora Lucey Mail is still here on Capitol Hill. Mariel Friedman, David Gilroy, and then there is Pari Forood Novik. Pari Novik and her husband Dick are good friends. She served 6 years on Ham's staff, and they live in Dutchess County, where they help the Dutchess community in hundreds of ways. Pari basically now has opened and runs a radio station.

Molly Clark, Morey Markowitz, Grace Washbourne. Grace always made sure Ham got where he needed to go. She was a scheduler and a wonderful help to Ham.

Debbie Reilly, Renee Longacre, Mike Hanretta, Heather Whyte, Nancy Eaton, another caseworker who moved from Ham's office to help me.

Linda Jo Edwards, Melissa Bottini, Claire Benson, and many more. These are the people who made the office of Hamilton Fish what it was and helped Ham be the man that he was, and helped him continue to keep his image well-honed. I believe it fitting that we also offer them a tribute, as we have Ham.

OPPOSITION TO DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my opposition to the conference report on the defense authorization bill which the House passed earlier this evening.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after I was elected to the Congress in 1992, several constituents first raised with me the POW-MIA issue. It did not take a great deal of research before I concluded, to my shame, that our Government had left hundreds of POW's behind in Vietnam at the end of that war. Since I entered the Congress I have participated in hearings which have only reinforced my original conclusion in that matter. In fact, the Government's denials in these hearings have taken on a feeble and pro forma quality, as if they know and we know that what they must say for the record is not true.

Like many other Members, I continue trying to expose this truth publicly, but I am not so naive as to believe, with all the foreign policy, economic, and personal interests at stake that any administration is likely to admit that several hundred men were left behind following Operation Homecoming in 1973, and that a 20-year bipartisan coverup has since occurred.

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But I did think it possible to make better provision for servicemen in the future. I was very pleased when, in last year's authorization bill, Congress passed the Missing Service Personnel Act. This act established a separate agency to track POW-MIA's, granting extensive powers to that agency and legal rights to the families of missing servicemen. The new legislation made it much less likely that soldiers could be left behind in subsequent wars. It tacitly recognized and therefore partially redeemed the sins of the past. Nothing could give better meaning to the past sacrifices of our POW's than real action to ensure that others are never abandoned as they were.

However, during debate on this year's bill, and at the urging of the Pentagon, the Senate adopted an amendment gutting the legislation passed only 6 months ago, loosening standards for investigation and certification.

As has so often been the case with the POW-MIA issue, it is impossible to fathom the reason for the Senate's and presumably the Pentagon's position. Certainly the families and the veterans organizations will be mystified and heartbroken. As I said before, the new law has only been in place for 6 months. What have we learned in that short period of time that justifies so significant a change? Why do we now believe that it is acceptable for a commander to wait 10 days before reporting that one of his men is missing in action? Why is it less important now than it was 6 months ago to require that forensic standards be satisfied before identifying a body based on one tooth or one bone? And what has the Department of Defense done since the beginning of the year that should convince us to err on the side of giving it more discretion in making these determinations given its dismal record over the last 20 years?

Mr. Speaker, I cannot blame any Member who decided to vote for this

conference report because of the good things in it, notwithstanding what it does to the cause of POW's and MIA's. Everyone has to make this own decisions in matters of that kind. I freely admit that my vote was based more on conscience than on policy. I simply cannot join in once more sacrificing the interests of our POW's in the name of some greater good. Objectively I know that what the Congress did tonight will have little effect on those left behind in Vietnam. I am sure they have long since given up hope of deliverance and in fact most are by now buried in fields or shallow graves or stored in warehouses in case the Vietnamese need their bodies for some purpose. What I find unendurable is the sense that we have today abandoned them again, heaping yet another betrayal on the bones of these honorable men who made the mistake of trusting us.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for one-half of the remaining time as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I do not plan to use all of the time. But I did want to take to the floor tonight to talk about the health insurance reform legislation that was passed today on a bipartisan basis and certainly start off by saying that I am pleased that the bill did pass, that we have agreement between the House and the Senate, and that this legislation will go to the President and that the President has indicated, obviously, that he will sign it, because at least we will be able to say that this year there has been some progress, albeit small progress, but some progress toward expanding health insurance opportunities for Americans.

I have been very concerned over the last 2 years that we would not get this legislation passed because of inaction, which I put the blame on the Republican leadership here in the House. One of the things that Democrats, that we as Democrats did at the beginning of this session of Congress, was to establish a health care task force whose goal primarily was to try to expand health insurance opportunities for the many Americans who either do not have health insurance or who have problems obtaining health insurance even if they can afford to pay for it. I think this is one of the major issues that we must address not only in this Congress, but also in future Congresses.

The bottom line is that more and more people every day in this country do not have health insurance. The estimates now are that it may be as many as 40 million Americans. I think it is unconscionable that that number continues to grow, and I think that government, and the Federal Government