

\$97 a day in facilities now holding over 400 occupants when they were designed to hold only about 150.

Unlike other areas inside the U.S. mainland, Guam does not have large charitable organizations capable of handling these people. Another factor has been the environmental cost of the waves of illegal immigrants. The ship which ran into the reef on Friday has leaked fuel into Guam's waters, damaging the reef and killing other marine life.

According to the INS officer in charge on Guam, Mr. David Johnston, the waves of illegal immigrants will not stop unless some action is taken immediately. What I have suggested through H.R. 945 is to change the INA in order not to allow or narrow the gap for claiming political asylum in Guam.

What these Chinese syndicates do is use the political asylum claim on Guam in order to further their efforts and to profit from human misery and then bring them into the U.S.

Another thing that we must do is that there is currently a proposal in the White House which has not seen complete fruition, and that is to form an interagency task force to deal with issues of insular areas. This is a critical need. It is important that the White House immediately, sometime this week, convene an interagency task force meeting involving the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation with the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense and the Department of State in order to address this crisis in Guam.

U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, last evening I indicated that I would be back to finish today what I started yesterday as to why I introduced legislation that calls on the Congress to be full partners when we determine which civil war we will enter or which we will not. That certainly is the responsibility of the Congress.

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My legislation basically says that no DOD money can be used to send ground troops into Kosovo unless approved by the Congress of the United States.

Now, it is right to condemn Milosevic for driving ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo, particularly after the bombing began. And, of course, unfortunately, at the same time, as I mentioned yesterday, we play up to China.

Now, Yugoslavia has 114,000 military and they are the size of Kentucky. China is the size of the United States and they have 2.8 million military. They have another reserve of 1.2 million. They are the worst human rights violators in the world. Their own statistics indicate that they execute more in 1 year than all of the rest of the

countries in the world, and yet we play up to them. We know that they send nuclear and chemical arms to rogue nations that we have to deal with.

Again, I hear a lot of people in the well now supporting this issue who were not here when 1.8 million Sudanese found death through either starvation or because of execution. What was the difference? Where were we then? Who was here in the well claiming that somehow or other we should enter that civil war? What about 2.6 million refugees in Afghanistan at the present time, and the other 1.5 million who the Afghan government has dislocated? Who is crying about our involvement there or whether we should be involved?

As I indicated yesterday, when the administration came before us and said we are going into Bosnia for a year, I asked what are we going to do in a year? It began in the 4th Century, the problems in the Balkans. It began in the 4th Century with the fall of the Roman Empire. It was exacerbated in the 10th Century with the rise of the Ottoman Empire. What will we do in a year to undo all the hatred that has been built through all of those centuries? And of course the answer, as we now know it, is nothing. Four years later and \$7 billion later we are still there.

And when the White House came before us and said we are going into Haiti for a year, I said this will be the 11th time; the last time we were there 15 years. What will we do differently this time? The answer is nothing, because again we are still there and still spending the money of our taxpayers.

I got to the point where I talked about apples and oranges because people like to somehow or other say this has something to do with Hitler and Nazi Germany. That is nonsense. It has nothing to do with that at all. There is no correlation at all.

What happened at that particular time is the free world did the same stupid thing we do always. After a war, we melt down our defenses. We sat there and we watched Germany build the largest war machine anyone could ever imagine. And so when poor old Chamberlain has to go and try to do a little negotiating to buy time, we blame him as an appeaser. What else could he have done?

We saw a big military buildup in Germany not with the idea of staying within Germany, of course, but with the idea of moving all over the continent, and perhaps all over the world. So there are no similarities in that particular situation.

It is important that we as a Congress be part of this decision-making process when we decide that we are going to enter someone's civil war. Why? Number one, the draft. We positively have to come with the draft. We have spread our forces so thin that the Secretary of the Army last week was out recruiting on his own, trying to get people to join, because we have depleted our forces

dramatically. So we better be involved because the draft will be an issue.

We better be involved because body bags will be coming back. We better be involved because, as someone said in an article this weekend, an all-volunteer army is dangerous. It is dangerous because it is used very quickly without much thought. Yes, I am concerned about three GIs. I am also very concerned that GIs would have been where they were. What kind of planning was that? I am also concerned about our raining bombs and missiles on trains carrying passengers who have nothing against us and have not participated in the efforts going on in Kosovo at the present time.

So, again, I call on my colleagues. Join with me and merely say that the Congress of the United States has to be very much involved when we determine which civil war is to our interest and our security and which is not. We will be making decisions, and draft will be one of those decisions, and that will change public opinion dramatically.

RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED U.S. VETERAN JOE P. POE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the Congress a distinguished United States veteran by the name of Joe Poe from Dunn, North Carolina.

As our Nation focuses on the mission of our men and women in uniform in Yugoslavia and other parts of the world, I rise to pay tribute to one who has already served. Joe, his wife Marilyn, and their children suffer from undiagnosed Gulf War related illnesses.

Joe served in the United States Army for 20 years before retiring in 1992. His assignments have included serving in the 82nd Airborne and the 101st Airborne Divisions, as a drill sergeant in Panama in Operation Just Cause. He also served in support of joint special operations, and as a team sergeant for a forward surgical team in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

During his career, one of Joe's greatest contributions was helping write and implement the Army's doctrine on forward surgical teams. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and other high honors, decorations and badges.

The Gulf War should have been Joe's last battle, but it was not to be. Following his service, Joe began to experience disabling side effects as a result of his service in the Persian Gulf. Six years later, and thanks to the determination of Joe, his family and the efforts of Kate Darwin, a dedicated social worker on my staff, Joe became designated as 100 percent disabled and became one of the first acknowledged

FIGHTING FOR OTHERS

cases of Gulf War related illnesses by the United States Department of Defense. I am grateful to Kate and commend her for her tireless efforts battling the Federal bureaucracy on behalf of Joe and other veterans.

Even though his speech has slowed considerably now, the whole world listens to Joe Poe. He spends countless hours on the internet contacting other Gulf War veterans and lawmakers to organize them to support Gulf War veterans and their causes.

Late last year, with limited time remaining in the legislative session, Joe and other North Carolina veterans arrived in Washington to press lawmakers to pass legislation on behalf of Gulf War Veterans. As a result of their efforts, H.R. 4035, the Drugs and Informed Consent Act, and H.R. 4036, the Persian Gulf Veterans Health Act were passed, thanks to Joe and his boundless determination and his continuous effort.

I learned things from this. Never underestimate Joe Poe and never underestimate the unshakable will of the human spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I provide for the RECORD an article dated September 30, 1997, from the Daily Record of Dunn, North Carolina, on Joe Poe.

ONCE FIGHTING FOR COUNTRY, NOW FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

JOE POE WORKS EVERY DAY TO FIND ANSWERS FOR HIM AND OTHERS ABOUT WHAT HAS CAUSED HIS GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(By Andy Rackley)

Talk with Dunn's Joe Poe and it is easy to understand why so many people have rallied around him and feed off his determination.

Visit with Mr. Poe for more than 10 minutes and it is also easy to see why friends, family members and casual acquaintances call him an unsung hero.

Mr. Poe, a 20-year retired Army veteran, was once the lean, mean fighting machine which invokes the spirit of the elite soldiers in the U.S. Army. He tells of numerous military stories with a fire in his eye which keeps even the non-interested drawn into his tales.

However, the final few years of Mr. Poe's service saw him journey to what he thought would be his final battle—less than a year before his retirement—on the desert basin of the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Poe was team sergeant for a forward surgical team during the Gulf War. There were only two such teams. The team was part of a doctrine in which Mr. Poe's brilliant mind helped design.

NOW USES CANE

Now, a little more than six years after Mr. Poe's participation in the Gulf War, Mr. Poe's mind is still beaming with brilliance, however, it has slowed somewhat.

The soldier which used to walk several clicks (kilometer) in an hour with a 60-pound rucksack on his back, now has to walk with the use of a cane and can barely support his own weight. The man who helped rewrite the Army's doctrine on forward surgical teams, now takes about 30 minutes to type a paragraph on a computer. Regardless of the obstacle and the limitations caused by his illness, he gives a smile and carries on in his fight.

According to Mr. Poe and his family, he has Gulf War illness. He has been poked and prodded by numerous hospitals from Fay-

etteville to Winston-Salem to Washington, D.C. The prognosis is always different. And the prognosis is never Gulf War Syndrome. He suffers from numerous symptoms like migraines, memory loss, concentration problems, balance, speech, vision-loss and others.

Though frustrated sometimes to tears over the government's attitude toward he and other veterans' suffering from an unknown illness, Mr. Poe still arrives at work early in the mornings—except when he just can't seem to make it in—at the family's business, American Artisans on South Clinton Avenue in Dunn. Though he is no longer able to work with the business, he goes there and digs in for a daily battle of researching information on Gulf War illness, developing and linking numerous veterans groups across the state and nation, and being a support link for other veterans.

DEAD ANIMALS FOUND

He is uncertain of how he contracted the disease, but he does tell frightening stories of his time spent in the Gulf War to include dead animals being found near his camp and mysterious colored clouds. Mr. Poe was near the ammunition depot where Iraqi chemical weapons were destroyed.

He said there were more than 1,600 other reports of mysteriously dead animals. "DoD (Department of Defense) said the animals died from a natural occurrence of anthrax," he said. "Maybe one or two or maybe a herd, but not 1,600 different reports of animals dead and the flies on them dead, too. It had to be something more."

He also tells of multiple detections of nerve agents by several units near his camp to include his unit. Mr. Poe was one of the people who gave a report to DoD about the detection of nerve agents. Mr. Poe and his three teammates all suffer from some type of illness.

According to Mr. Poe's wife Marilyn, her husband was already sick by the time he returned from the Gulf. "We—the children and I—knew something was wrong. He had numerous problems and symptoms which you could not define as to one sickness. Everything was steady and in slow progression until 1995 when Joe's speech became dramatically affected, he had trouble walking and just getting around. And he has continued to get worse," she said.

FAMILY SHOWING SYMPTOMS

Mrs. Poe and the children have also begun to feel signs of the sickness. Mrs. Poe has come down with multiple sclerosis and the children are having problems with their joints. These are the biggest concerns Mr. Poe has. Is his sickness affecting those around him? He has limited his time spent with others in church or eating out with the family because of his fears and concern for others.

"We just want answers," Mrs. Poe said. "I think a lot of the doctors we've seen are also frustrated. A lot of them don't know what is going on or how to help. And those who may know something in the Veterans' hospital may not be able to help because of higher authorities. We just want help before it is too late."

Mr. Poe doesn't have an answer to the illness facing he and fellow veterans, but every day he adds another piece of information to his Gulf War illness collection. Other veterans say Mr. Poe's fight each day is a huge step for all Gulf War veterans.

One of those people who call Mr. Poe a hero is his wife. "One thing about Joe is that he has always done things for the benefit of others whether it was his role as a husband, his role as a father or soldier. He always gave it his all and then some. What amazes me is that even with his situation, he is still thinking of others."

Mike Ange, another local veteran affected with Gulf War Illness, said Mr. Poe is definitely a modern-day hero. "He has a tremendous medical problem that nobody really knows how to fight. Despite that, he gets up every day and spends most of the day fighting not just for himself, but for others as well."

Larry Perry, spokesperson for the Desert Storm Veterans of the Carolinas Association, echoes those remarks. "Joe puts unbelievable amounts of time and energy into this fight. It takes guys like Joe to win this thing. His fight, I hope, will one day lead us to victory."

Mrs. Poe said their fight has been solidified by the great community they live in. "I can't say enough about Dunn. The people believe in Joe's fight and they are very supportive. People like those at First Baptist Church who have gone above and beyond what is normally expected. And U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge who stands behind Joe and other veterans," she said.

The Poers have sent their blood off to be tested for mycoplasmal infections at the Institute for Molecular Medicine in Irvine, CA. However, the testing procedure has been put on hold until funds can be raised to continue research. The testing of veterans' blood by the medical institute is not financially-supported by the Department of Defense. The Poe's blood samples are two of 500 waiting to be sampled. Out of the 500 samples, 200 of those are from North Carolina.

Mr. Poe and other veterans plan to hold annual meetings to help disseminate up-to-date information on Gulf War Illness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago we balanced the budget for the first time in 29 years. Now we must meet our next great challenges, making sure that Social Security and Medicare are there for our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I like tax cuts, I like them as much as the next person, that is why I voted for \$95 billion worth of tax cuts in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. But with Social Security and Medicare set to go broke in the years 2034 and 2015 respectively, it should go without saying that fixing Social Security and Medicare should have first priority over any more tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, with due respect, my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle have put together a budget that does not put one penny toward extending the life of either Social Security or Medicare. Instead, in my judgment, my good friends on the Republican side of the aisle are ready to squander \$780 billion worth of our surplus on open-ended irresponsible tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, in my judgment we ought to save Social Security and Medicare first before we spend any more of the surplus on any more tax cuts.