

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I requested this time to highlight the contribution of the United States Navy to our victory in Afghanistan.

After the September 11 attacks, the investigation quickly turned to Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan. At first glance, a war in Afghanistan offered few options for the United States. Afghanistan has no coast line and is situated hundreds of miles from any shoreline. None of the nations bordering Afghanistan would permit U.S. strikes against Afghanistan from their own soil.

With few options, President Bush turned to the one asset in our military that can strike anywhere at any time, without needing permission from anyone, the United States Navy, which moved into action. In fact, September 11 fits the classic model of any crisis in our recent past. One of the first questions any President asks in time of national peril is this: Where are the carriers?

In this case, the USS *Enterprise* was in the Indian Ocean, heading home after a long deployment in the Gulf. Her crew saw the aircraft hit the World Trade Center and Pentagon on CNN; and without direction from Washington, the skipper ordered his battle group to come about and head for harm's way. Within minutes of this crisis beginning, the United States Navy, our Navy, was moving into position to strike back at our enemies in the heart of Central Asia.

The war against terrorism is unlike any war we have fought before. Of the approximately 60,000 U.S. military members currently deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, more than half are sailors or Marines. The Navy and Marine Corps has served as the backbone of Operation Enduring Freedom.

From the very beginning, the Navy has been involved in power projection and combat operations against Osama bin Laden, the al Qaeda network, and the Taliban. Two weeks prior to the first shots of the war, the USS *Enterprise* was on station in the Arabian Sea, ready to launch strike aircraft against Taliban air defenses at a moment's notice. At the same time, Navy submarines were positioned near Afghanistan, gathering intelligence on the movements of Taliban and al Qaeda leadership and preparing to insert Navy Special Operation forces, namely, the legendary SEALs. These missions performed by the "silent service" are frequently cloaked in secrecy, but are vital to our efforts in Afghanistan.

More than 50 U.S. Navy ships have participated in Operation Enduring Freedom, including five aircraft carriers and two Amphibious Ready Groups, carrying the 15th and 16th Marine Expeditionary Units. U.S. Navy and coalition surface combatants continue to play an important role in ongoing interdiction missions in the Arabian Sea.

Navy ships operating in the Arabian Sea have demonstrated the adapt-

ability and flexibility of the modern Navy that is unprecedented. The USS *Kitty Hawk* is operated as a Mobile Offshore Logistics Base, serving as a launch platform and supply base for Special Operations forces operating inside Afghanistan. This large carrier did not launch strike aircraft, but adapted to the unconventional needs of the war ahead.

The Navy and Marine Corps tactical air assets have also remained flexible, agile, and adaptable. The ability to rapidly retask aircraft and Tomahawk missiles provides the combatant commander with the flexibility he needs to engage the enemy. For example, Navy F-14 fighters have been engaged in air-to-ground strike missions, missions the aircraft was not originally intended to perform. The ability to position aircraft carriers just offshore has allowed the coalition to strike targets for special operations in Afghanistan. The nearest base from which the Air Force has been able to launch strike aircraft in the region is Kuwait, leaving the bulk of close air support to the Navy. On any given day, naval aircraft have been flying 60 to 80 strike sorties as part of the campaign against al Qaeda. Naval strike aircraft have flown more than 4,000 strike sorties and dropped nearly 5,000 weapons against Afghanistan. While the Air Force has performed most of the long-range strategic bombing, the Navy and Marine Corps have provided all of the close air support and precision strike capabilities required by forces on the ground.

For many of us unfamiliar with the geography of Central Asia, the scale and scope of the task before the Navy is hard to understand. If you were to superimpose a map of Afghanistan on the eastern United States, our carriers would be based off the coast of Pensacola, Florida, and the aircraft would be striking targets near Milwaukee. That capability, providing global reach to our Commander in Chief, gives the United States options and influence far in excess of any other nation.

The capability to strike hard and deep requires a complicated ballet of personnel and equipment that is daunting, at best, from the many ships supplying and protecting the battle groups to teams maintaining the aircraft to the air crews of airborne control, tankers, electronic warfare support, fighter caps, and close air support. We have won another war from the air.

I want to note the contribution of the sister services, especially the Air Force's heavy bombers, that dropped most of the strategic ordnance in this campaign. They made a vital contribution to this effort. But the key support was provided by tactical aircraft, close air support for our troops, provided overwhelmingly by the Navy.

The tactical aircraft from the U.S. Air Force were very limited because, from Kuwait, 13 hours' flight from Afghanistan, gave permission for U.S. strikes from their soil. They had little

flexibility arriving over their targets. This diplomatic limitation meant that naval aviation had to carry the vast load of the work in Afghanistan.

I want to make special note of the Navy's electronic warfare aircraft and what they did.

With that, let me just close by saying that we want to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the following battle groups: the *Enterprise*, the *Roosevelt*, the *Vinson*, the *Kitty Hawk*, the *Bataan*, the *Bonhomme*, *Richard*, and the many men and women of the 15th and 26th MEUs. To the men and women of Enduring Freedom, we wish you a happy holiday and the thanks of a grateful Nation; and in the words of the Navy, we would say "Bravo Zulu."

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TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS.
ULYSSES B. KINSEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I come to pay tribute to a couple that exemplifies strong family values and ideals, Ulysses and Christine Kinsey, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on December 28, 2001, in Florida.

Ulysses Bradshaw Kinsey, or U.B., as he was lovingly called, and Christine Teresa Stiles, met while attending college at the Florida A&M University, and married in Tampa, Florida. The wedding ceremony was performed on December 28, 1941, at the home of Christine's parents.

U.B.'s values of compassion, fairness, and integrity were instilled while working in his father's grocery store. He closely observed his father's treatment of people regardless of race, color, creed, or status. U.B. also admired his mother for her kindness and thoughtfulness towards others.

By watching her mother, who was an enterprising and industrious role model during the Depression, Christine learned the art of making ends meet and training others to do so. Christine epitomized both her parents in her development of compassion and values about hard work. These lessons helped for her to become an excellent homemaker, a caring mother, a resourceful wife, and are reflected in the way she and her husband raised their six children: Eula, Bradshaw, Bernard, Cassandra, Cheryl, and Linda.

The cultivation of U.B. and Christine's relationship over the years has given stability, guidance, structure, and a positive role model, and the results were shown in their children.

This husband and wife team, residing now in West Palm Beach, Florida, has far-reaching influence across the country and out to California, in California's 32nd District. My constituent, Bernard William Kinsey, is the former

senior vice president of Xerox Corporation and President of KBK Enterprises, a consulting firm located in Los Angeles, California. Bernard was a member of Our L.A. and instrumental in rebuilding Los Angeles after the 1992 uprising.

The other Kinsey children, teachers, executives, and operating an elderly care home, have all contributed to the progress in this great Nation.

U.B. Kinsey retired July 31, 1989, after 39 years of service as the principal of Palm View Elementary. While there, he watched more than 30,000 students enroll and graduate. The school was renamed U.B. Kinsey Palm View Elementary School, an unprecedented action in recognizing a living African American former principal.

Christine Kinsey has provided care, love, and support to her husband, her family, and her community for over 60 years. Among other organizations, Christine has been involved with the YWCA, the Tabernacle Baptist Church, and the Palm Beach County School District.

Mr. Speaker, U.B. and Christine Kinsey serve as a shining example of America's family values and ideals. This congressional tribute to the 60th wedding anniversary of the Kinseys exemplifies what is good in our country, and makes us, because of their contributions, the greatest country in the world. Congratulations and commendations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE DAVID S. BONIOR,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

In 1965, a Mississippi civil rights leader said, Do not tell me what you believe; show me what you do, and I will tell you what you believe.

When I hear these words I think of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), I think of his 10 years as Democratic whip, and I think of his leadership on issues of Central America, on issues of trade, on issues of social justice.

He did not just pay lip service, as many in this institution do, to those issues. The kind of hard work, the kind of day-to-day effort, the kind of persistence, the kind of stick-to-itiveness that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) brought to this job, always in the name of social justice, always in the name of doing the right thing, standing on the floor doing special orders, doing meetings in his office, making calls to groups to encourage them to lobby this Congress, all that he did in the name of social justice, all that he did in the name of fair trade, meant so much to all of us.

Do not tell me what you believe; show me what you do, and I will tell you what you believe. That describes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

THE RIGHT OF COUNTRIES TO SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM, AND RECOGNIZING BRAVE AMERICANS ON THE FRONT LINES, AT HOME AND ABROAD

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, as we depart for the Christmas and the rest of the holiday season, we all pray for peace and justice in the world. But I think that I have some concerns, as do others, that some people are having difficulty sorting the differences between terrorists and those who are trying to respond to terrorism.

The people who attacked the World Trade Towers and who blew Americans up are not the same as when people like us try to respond. We need to understand that same difference in Israel. For example, when a terrorist who attacks innocent people who are going about their daily routine with the sole purpose of causing terror, that is different than trying to respond with as much precision as possible, although there may be innocents killed, which is unfortunate, but it is still different. We cannot hold Israel to a different standard than we hold ourselves.

We now see the same problem in India. Once again, terrorists have stormed their Parliament and they have attempted to kill and assassinate the leadership of a democratic country. These are difficult times. They are difficult for us when we try to figure out how to respond, too. We all need to be carefully and prayerfully thinking of any response that might lead to more death in the world.

At the same time, it would be wrong for the United States to say that it is okay for us to respond to terrorists, and not for other countries. We all, including us, should be wise and careful in our responses, but respond we must.

I would also like to pay tribute to those brave Americans who are on the front lines protecting us all the time; not only our soldiers in Afghanistan and throughout the world, particularly those who are in immediate harm's way, but also to all the brave firemen and policemen who daily risk their lives to help us. We have all become more aware of their sacrifices.

I also want to thank all those on the front lines trying to protect us from future terrorist attacks: those in the Coast Guard, the INS, the Border Patrol, the DEA, the FBI, the U.S. Marshals, and the U.S. Customs Service. Every day they are trying to protect us from future terrorist attacks and from chemical and biological attacks, whether it be anthrax, heroin, smallpox, or cocaine.

Protecting our borders is not easy. It takes people of judgment, and daily they have to exercise that judgment.

I was recently along a number of the borders in Washington State. Diane Dean is one of our American heroes,

along here with Mark Johnson and Gerald Slaminski. In late 1999 at the Port Angeles Customs Station in Washington State, she thought one of the people were behaving suspiciously. She detained him. As they looked further, they thought he had stuff for a meth lab in the car.

It turned out they were handling nitroglycerine. He had enough weapons to blow up LAX Airport, where they had the information that that was where he was headed to rendezvous with another person.

Because one Customs officer detained and went through a thorough examination, and two other Customs officers basically violated orders and chased the person down the street, because we have this absurd position right now that if the person can get away from the immediate border, they cannot be chased, but they took it in their hands to chase him.

We saved LAX Airport, and we also have a suspect who has been one of the key people, or we have a convict, basically, at this point, who has been one of the key people in identifying the al-Qaeda network in the United States and around the world. That information hopefully will save and has already saved and will save more lives in America and around the world.

We need to thank these public servants who are so key in keeping each of us safe, not only during this holiday season, but all year long.

Before closing, I would also like to add a few words of tribute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR). I came in as a fierce partisan in 1995. I have tremendous respect for people who are also fierce partisans.

I also know he is a good man, a dedicated Midwesterner who stands up for the working man. And whether or not Members disagree with each other at times, it is important to have civility in this body. I believe he has been a fierce partisan, and that helps lead us to the type of debate that we have to have in America if we are going to arrive at public policy.

Too often, it seems to be coming in this day and age that we are trending towards blow-dried cookie cutters, where we all sound the same, we all move the same. It is important that we have people of conviction and people that follow the patterns that many before us have set.

I, too, will miss him in a different way. I will not miss part of his abilities and I will not miss part of his enthusiasm for his cause, but it is always a tragedy when we lose dedicated leaders who spent their lives having such an impact.

I have appreciated his time here as one of the rowdy class of 1994.