

ENCROACHMENT ON THE MILITARY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to address briefly the issue of urban encroachment on our military training.

Mr. Speaker, for too long we have paid lip service to the fact that our American military will always be the best trained military in the world. Unfortunately, as a Nation, we are on the verge of breaking that promise and breaking faith with those who have volunteered to serve our Nation.

The Armed Forces' readiness is being eroded by urban expansion, environmental regulation, and commercial competition for our airspace, for ranges and for communication frequencies, encroachment issues that are threatening the ability of our servicemen and women to effectively prepare for the challenges which may face our Nation.

The iron law of our military is that training saves lives. When training goes down for whatever reason, accidents and casualties go up. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Encroachment is like a cancer, eating away at our training capabilities. We must always be vigilant to this encroachment and act quickly to revitalize our training so as to keep our faith with those sworn to protect us.

A MONUMENT FOR THE WARRIORS OF WORLD WAR II

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there are great monuments on the mall. All were earned, all admired. America has a rich history indeed. But if any one group of American patriots deserve a parcel of that hallowed ground on the mall, it is the fighting men and women of World War II.

Washington and Jefferson founded America. Lincoln preserved America. But I say to my colleagues, the fighting men and women, those who survived and those who were killed in action, they saved America. An America that fails to recognize the liberation from tyranny by these great warriors is an America that takes for granted our great freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the lives and the legacy of the fighting men and women of World War II that not only saved America, they saved the entire world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FEDERATION OF ECUADORIAN ENTITIES ABROAD

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a group in my congressional district that has done much for the Ecuadorian community in south Florida and around the world: La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior, or the Federation of Ecuadorian Entities Abroad.

This international group is celebrating its 16th anniversary with festivities this month in Miami where the group was founded. The celebration commemorates the Battle of Pichincha, an important date for Ecuadorian freedom. This battle, won on May 24 in 1822, liberated the capital city of Quito and secured the independence of Ecuador. La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior celebrates freedom and history through civic and educational programs, recognizing the contributions of people with Ecuadorian ancestry.

La Federacion has more than 200 groups in the U.S. and around the world representing more than 1 million U.S. citizens. This fraternal group fosters bonds among people with Ecuadorian roots through social and cultural programs that honor their history and their proud heritage.

On this important anniversary of Ecuadorian independence and this group's founding, I wish the members of La Federacion de Entidades Ecuatorianas en el Exterior many more successful and happy years.

NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, every day our headlines read about how Vice President CHENEY thinks nuclear power is the answer to our Nation's energy woes. I hope my colleagues and this administration heed my warning, that unless we stop the Yucca Mountain plan, at least 77,000 tons of toxic, dangerous nuclear waste are going to be shipped through 43 States en route to Yucca Mountain.

It is a mathematic certainty that the continuing transfer of lethal waste will result in perhaps hundreds of accidents and the potential for catastrophe is very real. Governors and State legislators across this country have emphatically said they do not want nuclear waste traveling through their States. It is time that we listen to their concerns and heed their warnings.

An accident in one's district could cost billions of dollars in cleanup and the effects on our constituents would be disastrous. Let us eliminate the dangers of this "mobile Chernobyl" by developing methods to safely store the waste where it is currently located.

Please join with me in preventing a national disaster.

PRESIDENT'S PLAN MEANS SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY CRUNCH

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, America does not have enough energy to supply all of the demands today. Californians are facing rolling blackouts and Americans everywhere are paying nearly \$2 a gallon for gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, this energy crunch should not be a surprise to anyone. We have known for years that this was coming, and we have not built a major oil refinery in the United States in 25 years. It has been just as long since we have built a nuclear power plant.

Our dependence on foreign oil has gone up since the 1970s and 1980s, not down, and the rules for when and where one can sell different kinds of gasoline are so complicated, it is amazing we can keep track of it at all.

This energy crunch has been looming for years, and the previous administration did nothing to prevent it from happening. Last week, our new President presented a balanced comprehensive and sensible plan for getting us out of this mess. But the liberals in town are calling for price caps. If there is anything we learned in the 20th century, it is that Soviet-style command economies do not work. Just look at what happened in California.

Mr. Speaker, we need real solutions. Congress needs to get behind the President's plan, and we need to do it now.

NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, because May is National Stroke Awareness Month, I rise today to express my concern about the devastating effect stroke has on Americans.

Every 53 seconds, someone in America has a stroke. About 600,000 Americans will have a stroke this year, and 160,000 of them will die. In fact, stroke is the third leading cause of death in America, and one of the leading causes of disability.

Stroke impacts all of our communities. Millions of husbands, wives and children make sacrifices every day to care for loved ones who suffer a stroke.

The good news is that we are conducting exciting research to find new ways to provide rehabilitation to stroke survivors to help them regain lost abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow members to continue to support research efforts to help stroke survivors achieve the greatest quality of life.

SUPPORT THE BUSH TAX PLAN

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what the big government liberals in Washington want to do to the working men and women is reach their hand in their pocket, grab the wallet, pull out all of their hard-earned cash, year after year, so that the working people now are paying about 40 percent of their household income in taxes.

What the Bush tax plan is saying is, hey, look, we do not need all of that money we have been grabbing out of your wallet. Let us put it back in there. Then, when the working people can control their own money, they get to save it. How, how about an education account for one of your children? How about a new dryer? How about a long, hard-earned vacation? Better still, if you want to, you go out and buy something on the economy, treat yourself. When you do that, businesses respond by increasing their inventory. They have to hire more people because of the new demand, and when they do, there are more jobs in the economy, more people are working, less people are laid off, less people are on welfare and unemployment, and we have more tax revenues coming in. It is a win-win.

Why do the Washington liberals not get it, Mr. Speaker? People know how to spend their money far better than Washington does. Let us let them keep more of their own money. Support the Bush plan.

SOLUTIONS TO ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to talk about the President's energy plan. I am very supportive of it.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Policy, what we have found out is that we need to have a diversified energy portfolio, just like anyone would have a good diversified investment portfolio. We need to make sure that we have baseload generating capacities using coal, nuclear, hydroelectric power. We cannot continue to rely solely on natural gas as the market, the supply and demand, will just say, the higher the demand, the more limited the market, and the higher the price is.

□ 1015

Energy is an important concern to many Americans. The best way to address the national energy crisis is to increase supply of the generating fuels, and also do some energy conservation to increase the demand.

EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the

Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1696) to expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL SITE AND DESIGN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the World War II memorial described in plans approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on July 20, 2000 and November 16, 2000, and selected by the National Capital Planning Commission on September 21, 2000 and December 14, 2000, and in accordance with the special use permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior on January 23, 2001, and numbered NCR-NACC-5700-0103, shall be constructed expeditiously at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site in the District of Columbia in a manner consistent with such plans and permits, subject to design modifications, if any, approved in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.

Elements of the memorial design and construction not approved as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered and approved in accordance with the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

SEC. 3. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

The decision to locate the memorial at the Rainbow Pool site in the District of Columbia and the actions by the Commission of Fine Arts on July 20, 2000 and November 16, 2000, the actions by the National Capital Planning Commission on September 21, 2000 and December 14, 2000, and the issuance of the special use permit identified in section 1 shall not be subject to judicial review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, last week the House passed legislation to expedite construction of the World War II memorial by a vote of 400-15.

With the bipartisan help of the Senate leadership and the Committee on Energy, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Government Affairs, we achieved that goal and now bring back H.R. 1696 to the House with a Senate amendment.

The compromise language accomplishes our objectives of declaring the major design elements to be approved

by Congress and finalized, thus bringing the bureaucratic delay to an end, and rendering moot the current litigation brought by the memorial's opponents.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that this is the last legislative action Congress will have to take before the dedication of the World War II memorial in 2004. However, let me say that no one should question our resolve to see this through. I believe Congress will do whatever it takes, because it is time to build the World War II memorial.

Mr. Speaker, the action Congress takes today is an extraordinary step, based in large part on frustration over the slow progress being achieved by the relevant commissions under the Commemorative Works Act.

I hope everyone involved in the remaining administrative process will become true advocates of getting this memorial back on track.

No one should question our desire to see this memorial begun and finished expeditiously, nor should they question our resolve to overcome any further bureaucratic delay and legal wrangling by the memorial's opponents.

A lengthy democratic process, in the best traditions of our Nation, has been conducted and all sides have been given more than ample opportunity to have their voices heard.

Just as WWII veterans fought 60 years ago for the right of the memorial's opponents to be part of the process, those opponents of the memorial should now respect that democratic process and the final decisions that have been made.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to honor the sacrifices of the World War II generation. Eight years after Congress authorized the construction of this memorial, and six years from the first of 22 public hearings on its site and design, the memorial's construction remains delayed by a procedural issue involving the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), one of the agencies required by law to approve the memorial, and a lawsuit filed by a small group of opponents. This legislation would remove those obstacles and require the construction process to promptly go forward.

The legislation accomplishes that goal as follows:

Through sections one and three, the site and design for the World War II Memorial are finalized, expeditious construction is directed, and the prospect of further delay through judicial challenges or other re-considerations of the selected site and design are eliminated. Section one also includes a provision regarding design modifications which is solely intended to address the highly unlikely event that a technical impossibility could occur in the course of construction that might require a limited deviation from the selected design. In light of the careful review the existing plans have already been subject to by the memorial's design, engineering, and construction management professionals, the General Services Administration (GSA), the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), the National Park Service (NPS), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), no exercise of this authority is expected. Moreover, as a result of these provisions, funds donated for the Memorial would not be diverted to preparation of the additional mock-up of the Memorial or further presentations on the selected design that have