

Whereas, under the Constitution, treaties have the status of "supreme law of the land," equally with other laws, and

Whereas, the President does not have the authority to repeal laws, and

Whereas, the President is not authorized to withdraw unilaterally from treaties in general, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in particular, without the consent of Congress, and

Whereas, the President unilaterally withdrew the United States of America from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 without seeking or obtaining the consent of either house of Congress;

Therefore be it resolved,

That the President should respect the Constitutional role of Congress and seek the approval of Congress for the withdrawal of the United States of America from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution that is offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within two legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Ohio will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair does not at this point determine whether or not the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO DECLARE RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2002, FOR PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES THROUGHOUT AMERICA'S HISTORY

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, recently, back in my district in central Pennsylv-

vania, I had occasion in connection with the armed services holidays and celebrations to appear with a group of women right in the center of the action of Harrisburg, at the capital area, who were celebrating long service on the part of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.

What was brought to bear at that function was the memory of Oveta Culp Hobby, who was from Texas and who was the first Women's Army Corps general; she did not make general, but she was commander of the Women's Army Corps. That is one of the first visions we have had of actual women serving in the service in the modern era.

But women have served in the Armed Forces ever since the Revolution. Many of them served, of course, as nurses throughout all the conflicts, and they were Army and Navy and Air Force nurses, actually, so they were part of the Armed Forces. But we have had many, many different examples in the Revolutionary War, in the Mexican War, in the Civil War, and all the modern wars, so to speak, of women posing as men for the sole privilege on their part of wielding a weapon and engaging in fierce combat. Hundreds and maybe thousands of such cases can be found in the history of armed conflict in the United States.

The remainder of the function in which we participated was to give recognition to modern day women participants in the current ranks of the Armed Forces, so it was a splendid day.

One thing that was evident throughout all of this was that the women exhibited extreme pride in their current status as members of the Armed Forces and in the reverence with which they spoke about their predecessors, and the same women about whom I have made reference in the history of armed conflict in the history of our country.

So we ought to know that when we celebrate the national holidays, like the one now coming up, Independence Day on July 4, that we include in our celebration the thought and memory of the gallant women, as well as our men; the women who, from the Declaration of Independence until the current season of the war on terrorism, when women are flying combat missions, women are participating in practically every form of armed conflict or preparation therefor; and that we should not anymore, throughout the remainder of the history of the Nation, conduct the holiday and celebrate our history without due concern and mention and recollection of the deeds of the women of our society who plunged themselves into armed conflict along with the men that we have honored for so many years.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF SCARCITY OF NATIONAL BURIAL SPACE FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak for a few minutes to a problem that I know faces congressmen all over this Nation. That is the lack of national burial space for our veterans of our Armed Forces.

I live in San Diego County, where we have almost 300,000 veterans. The national cemetery at Fort Rosecrans is out of space. There is no place for an honorable burial of a veteran in his or her hometown. We have to drive 100 miles or so to Riverside County, and that is just not what most families want to do with their loved ones.

We have figured out an innovative solution in San Diego County that I want to share with my colleagues and hope that they help us pass a resolution from this Congress which would instruct the Department of Veterans Affairs to help us with this innovative solution.

I have introduced H.R. 4806, the Honorable Burial for Veterans Act, along with my colleagues and the San Diego County delegation, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. Davis), and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Each and every veteran in our county is concerned that upon his or her demise, interment may become a source of frustration for family and close friends. Many families are left with an impossible dilemma: cremation, where only a few spaces actually exist in the columbarium, or a ground burial at a cemetery a 2-hour drive away.

We should not force this decision on the families of our Nation's veterans. When we called on them to serve, they did not hesitate. Now, in their last hour, a grateful Nation should not hesitate to assist their families.

My colleagues and I want to build a second National Cemetery in San Diego, and we are on the list to do that. In fact, it may take a decade or more before we get around to doing that cemetery on the VA list. In the meantime, we should not abandon our veterans' families in their time of grief.

My bill would provide San Diego with an interim solution. A local effort among the private sector and local authorities and veterans' organizations has produced what I would consider to be an excellent pilot program. Two parcels of land, about 20 acres each, have been identified in the northern and southern parts of our county in what are now private cemeteries. They have offered this land to the Veterans Administration free of charge to become what we will call satellite cemeteries to the National Cemetery in our county.

We have a generous offer of land from the Service Corporation International which would be donated to a 501(c)(3) organization, the Veterans Memorial Center and Museum in San Diego, who will then turn that over to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I thank all the folks who have tried to come up with this solution back in

San Diego: the general manager of the Glen Abbey Memorial Park; the regional president, western regional president of Service Corporation International, Richard Sells; and to Colonel Jesse Ugade, Brigadier General Robert Cardenas, Captain Tom Splitgerber, and David Brown, co-publisher and editor of the Veterans Journal of San Diego County, because they have devoted enormous hours in an attempt to find a solution for San Diego's veterans.

My bill would authorize the establishment of this satellite cemetery pilot project. It is not the ideal solution, but we have to wait for two decades to get that ideal solution for families who have served our Nation. With our limited Federal budget, families can in fact be helped by an innovative and creative effort to meet our national needs.

The Veterans Administration had a negative reaction when this first was broached to them. Any bureaucracy, it seems, does not look at innovative ideas with a very encouraging light.

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So I hope to get a bill passed by Congress which would direct the VA to do this. Certainly providing a final resting place for our brave veterans must be one of our top priorities. I hope my colleagues will support this bill to see how it works in San Diego because it might be useful in their own communities also.

BEWARE DOLLAR WEAKNESS

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have for several years come to the House floor to express my concern for the value of the dollar. It has been, and is, my concern that we in the Congress have not met our responsibility in this regard. The constitutional mandate for Congress should only permit silver and gold to be used as legal tender and has been ignored for decades and has caused much economic pain for many innocent Americans. Instead of maintaining a sound dollar, Congress has by both default and deliberate action promoted a policy that systematically depreciates the dollar. The financial markets are keenly aware of the minute-by-minute fluctuations of all the fiat currencies and look to these swings in value for an investment advantage. This type of anticipation and speculation does not exist in a sound monetary system. But Congress should be interested in the dollar fluctuation not as an investment but because of our responsibility for maintaining a sound and stable currency, a requirement for sustained economic growth.

The consensus now is that the dollar is weakening and the hope is that the drop in its value will be neither too much nor occur too quickly; but no

matter what the spin is, a depreciating currency, one that is losing its value against goods, services, other currencies and gold, cannot be beneficial and may well be dangerous. A sharply dropping dollar, especially since it is the reserve currency of the world, can play havoc with the entire world economy.

Gold is history's oldest and most stable currency. Central bankers and politicians hate gold because it restrains spending and denies them the power to create money and credit out of thin air. Those who promote big government, whether to wage war and promote foreign expansionism or to finance the welfare state here at home, cherish this power.

History and economic law are on the side of the gold. Paper money always fails. Unfortunately, though, this occurs only after many innocent people have suffered the consequences of the fraud that paper money represents. Monetary inflation is a hidden tax levied more on the poor and those on fixed incomes than the wealthy, the bankers, or the corporations.

In the past 2 years, gold has been the strongest currency throughout the world in spite of persistent central banks selling designed to suppress the gold price in hopes of hiding the evil caused by the inflationary policies that all central bankers follow. This type of depreciation only works for short periods; economic law always rules over the astounding power and influence of central bankers.

That is what is starting to happen, and trust in the dollar is being lost. The value of the dollar this year is down 18 percent compared to gold. This drop in value should not be ignored by Congress. We should never have permitted this policy that was deliberately designed to undermine the value of the currency.

There are a lot of reasons the market is pushing down the value of the dollar at this time. But only one is foremost. Current world economic and political conditions lead to less trust in the dollar's value. Economic strength here at home is questionable and causes concerns. Our huge foreign debt is more than \$2 trillion, and our current account deficit is now 4 percent of GDP and growing. Financing this debt requires borrowing \$1.3 billion per day from overseas. But these problems are ancillary to the real reason that the dollar must go down in value. For nearly 7 years the U.S. has had the privilege of creating unlimited amounts of dollars with foreigners only too eager to accept them to satisfy our ravenous appetite for consumer items. The markets have yet to discount most of this monetary inflation. But they are doing so now; and for us to ignore what is happening, we do so at the Nation's peril. Price inflation and much higher interest rates are around the corner.

Misplaced confidence in a currency can lead money managers and investors astray, but eventually the piper

must be paid. Last year's record interest rate drop by the Federal Reserve was like pouring gasoline on a fire. Now the policy of the past decade is being recognized as being weak for the dollar; and trust and confidence in it is justifiably being questioned.

Trust in paper is difficult to measure and anticipate, but long-term value in gold is dependable and more reliably assessed. Printing money and creating artificial credit may temporarily lower interest rates, but it also causes the distortions of malinvestment, overcapacity, excessive debt and speculation. These conditions cause instability, and market forces eventually overrule the intentions of the central bankers. That is when the apparent benefits of the easy money disappear, such as we dramatically have seen with the crash of the dot-coms and the Enrons and many other stocks.

It is back to reality. This is serious business, and the correction that must come to adjust for the Federal Reserve's mischief of the past 30 years has only begun. Congress must soon consider significant changes in our monetary system.

Congress must soon consider significant changes in our monetary system if we hope to preserve a system of sound growth and wealth preservation. Paper money managed by the Federal Reserve System cannot accomplish this. In fact, it does the opposite.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA SHOULD NOT INSTIGATE WAR AGAINST IRAQ

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, ever since the Gulf War ended in 1991, the U.S. has been spending about \$4 million a day enforcing a no-flight zone in Iraq, \$4 million a day. This has been a tremendous waste of money and manpower.

I believe almost all Americans would have preferred that this 12 or \$13 billion that has been spent over these years would have been spent in almost any other good way. Most Americans have not even noticed that we have been dropping bombs and still shooting at missile sites all these years in Iraq. I remember reading a front page lengthy story about a group of Iraqi boys we accidentally killed there.

Now there are some people here in Washington who seem to be clamoring for us to go to war against Iraq. I represent a very patriotic pro-military district in Tennessee. My people will strongly support our troops if we go to