

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GANSKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman 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.)

HONORING OZARKS SOLDIERS

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, beginning on Saturday, two individuals from my congressional district gave their lives in Afghanistan: one, a 34-year-old warrant officer in Special Forces; another, a 31-year-old sergeant, both of whom had clearly dedicated their lives and, in so many ways, dedicated their own families to protecting our freedoms and protecting our country.

As I was thinking about what I wanted to say today about them on the House floor, I read an editorial from a Springfield, Missouri, newspaper yesterday; and I think I would like to just enter that editorial in the RECORD and share it today as we think about the fact that we honor these men and women and the others who are putting their lives in harm's way for us.

Let me share that material with the Speaker and the Members here and then enter it fully in the RECORD. The editorial starts out: "From the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, President Bush has warned Americans to be prepared for casualties. Now we have them, and the pain of this war has been felt in the Ozarks. It has taken two of our neighbors: Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman. Sergeant Philip J. Svitak.

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"Harriman, a Strafford High School graduate, was the first American to die in the ground offensive on al Qaeda and Taliban strongholds in eastern Afghanistan. Svitak, of Joplin, was among the seven soldiers killed in incidents involving two American helicopters.

"They are not faceless casualties. They were flesh-and-blood men who touched others in their hometowns. Harriman was described as soft-hearted,

sensitive to the suffering of others, yet a fierce competitor on the football or baseball field. Svitak was an only child who wanted to be like his parents, who both served in the Navy in the 1960s. Each leaves a wife and two young children.

"Harriman and Svitak were devoted to the Army and their country. 'Stanley died for you and you and you,' his wife, Sheila Harriman, told reporters at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 'and for your freedom. All Stanley ever wanted to do was be an American soldier.'

"Both soldiers knew the dangers of their jobs. Both knew that by making the military their career, they could be asked to put their lives on the line for their country at any time.

"Roseann Svitak said her son 'told me before he went, Mom, the terrorists have to be stopped.' He said, 'If they send me over there and anything happens to me, I am proud to die for my country.'

"Both men were sent. Both died, leaving friends, family, children to grieve and remember. They join John Willett and Craig Amundson, Ozarks natives who died in the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington. They are, for us in southwest Missouri, the faces of this war.

"Six months after those attacks, the Nation has largely returned to life as normal. Networks seek to reduce news programming to make room for more entertainment. Crash reality shows move back up in the ratings. Politicians again plot for their advantage.

"Yet the war continues, not a mop-up action but a full-scale assault. Our neighbors are on the front line. Our neighbors are dying. That ultimate sacrifice ought to mean something. The politicians will tell us it is in defense of liberty, and they are right. But it is up to us to decide what we will do with this liberty. Will we use it to keep the government honest, to be aware of what is happening in the rest of the world, to assure all Americans equal opportunity? Or will we use it to pay more attention to contestants on Survivor than soldiers in Afghanistan?

"Ozarkers are dying for freedom. How will we honor their sacrifice?"

[From the Springfield News Leader, Mar. 6, 2002]

HOW WILL WE HONOR OZARKS SOLDIERS?

Harriman and Svitak died fighting for our freedom.

From the beginning of the war in Afghanistan, President Bush has warned Americans to be prepared for casualties. Now we have them, and the pain of this war has been felt in the Ozarks. It has taken two more of our neighbors:

Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman.
Sgt. Philip J. Svitak.

Harriman, a Strafford High School graduate, was the first American to die in the ground offensive on al-Qaida and Taliban strongholds in eastern Afghanistan. Svitak, of Joplin, was among the seven soldiers killed in incidents involving two American helicopters.

They are not faceless casualties. They were flesh-and-blood men who touched others in their hometowns. Harriman was described as

soft-hearted, sensitive to the suffering of others, yet a fierce competitor on the football or baseball field. Svitak was an only child who wanted to be like his parents, who both served in the Navy in the 1960s.

Each leaves a wife and two young children.

Harriman and Svitak were devoted to the Army and their country. "Stanley died for you and you and you," his wife, Sheila Harriman, told reporters at Fort Bragg, NC, "and for your freedom. All Stanley ever wanted to do was be an American soldier."

Both soldiers knew the dangers of their jobs. Both knew that by making the military their career, they could be asked to put their lives on the line for their country at any time.

Roseann Svitak said her son "told me before he went, 'Mom, the terrorists have to be stopped.' He said, 'if they send me over there and anything happens to me . . . I'm proud to die for my country.'"

Both men were sent. Both died, leaving friends, family, children to grieve and remember.

They join John Willett and Craig Amundson, Ozarks natives who died in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. They are, for us in southwest Missouri, the faces of this war.

Six months after those attacks, the nation has largely returned to life as normal. Networks seek to reduce news programming to make room for more entertainment. Crash reality shows move back up in the ratings. Politicians again plot for their advantage.

Yet the war continues, not a mop-up action but a full-scale assault. Our neighbors are on the front line. Our neighbors are dying.

That ultimate sacrifice ought to mean something. The politicians will tell us it is in defense of liberty, and they are right. But it is up to us to decide what we will do with this liberty. Will we use it to keep government honest, to be aware of what is happening in the rest of the world, to assure all Americans equal opportunity? Or will we use it to pay more attention to contestants on "Survivor" than soldiers in Afghanistan.

Ozarkers are dying for freedom. How will we honor their sacrifice?

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

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

ASSISTING VETERANS WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUG COPAYMENTS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in this House to sign on to a bill which I have introduced, H.R. 2820. H.R. 2820 is a bill that would help our veterans.

In the early part of February, 2002, a decision was made to increase the prescription co-payment for veterans from \$2 a prescription to \$7 a prescription. To me this is an unacceptable action and it hurts our veterans, many of whom live on fixed incomes and simply cannot absorb this increased cost.

To put it in perspective, the Veterans Hospital in southern Ohio, where I serve, tells me that the average veteran who gets a prescription medication there on average gets 10 or more prescriptions. So if we take \$7 a prescription and we multiply it by 10, that is \$70 per month. Many of these veterans receive a 3-month supply of medications at a time. Three times \$70 is \$210. If I multiply the cost of a 1-month supply of medication at \$7 per prescription for 10 prescriptions, that is \$840 per year.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is an unnecessary burden to place upon our veterans. We hear a lot of lofty rhetoric in this Chamber about how we appreciate the fact that so many American citizens are willing to serve in our military, and many of them give their lives and limb in order to protect our freedoms.

It seems so inappropriate at this time in our Nation's history to place this additional burden upon our veterans. So I have introduced H.R. 2820. I have over 75 cosponsors at this time, bipartisan cosponsors, and I am happy to say the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) has introduced this legislation with me. This legislation is very simple. It would simply return the cost of the co-payment for a prescription drug from the \$7 that has been imposed down to the \$2 level where it has been. It would freeze the co-payment at the \$2 per prescription level for the next 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, surely when we can find the resources to give a \$15 billion bailout to our airline industry, surely when we can find the resources to give tax breaks, surely when we can find the resources to do a whole host of other things in this Chamber, we can find the resources that will enable us to keep from imposing this additional burden upon our Nation's veterans.

So, once again, I ask all of my colleagues of both parties in this House to simply cosponsor H.R. 2820 so that we can remove this burden which has been placed upon our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to mention another burden for our veterans. For category 7 veterans, there is a proposal that we would place upon them an annual \$1,500 deductible when they go to our veterans' health centers and clinics and hospitals to receive medical attention. This also seems like something that we should take action to prevent in this Chamber. I urge my colleagues, this is something that we can do. We ought to do it. I believe if Members talk to veterans around the country, this is something that they are keenly aware of and keenly object to.

We can solve this problem regarding the prescription co-pay by passing this very simple but important piece of legislation, H.R. 2820.

PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON STEEL IMPORTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on President Bush's decision to levy up to a 30 percent tariff on steel imports coming into the United States. I am glad the President took a step forward, something that we hoped he would do, but he did much less than we asked. Steel companies, steelworkers, elected officials representing steel States, asked the President to levy 40 percent tariffs for 4 years, something to level the playing field for imported steel in the United States.

The International Trade Commission had found that steel companies in foreign lands, especially in Russia, Brazil, Korea, and China had violated international trade laws by subsidizing and selling into our market illegally priced steel, so-called dumping. The President had the option of levying tariffs up to 40 percent for 4 years. That is clearly what we needed for LTV in Cleveland, for RTI in Lorain, for CSC in Warren, Ohio, and steel companies all over this great country from Alabama to Ohio to Michigan, to Indiana, wherever steel is made in the United States.

Unfortunately, the President's decision to do up to 30 percent, understanding that it was not 30 percent in every case but up to 30 percent for only 3 years, fell short on that mark. It also fell short because the 30 percent is phased out during those 3 years.

The second thing that the President neglected to do was deal with the issue of legacy costs. That is those costs of health care and pensions that companies have promised to steelworkers that in many cases the commitment will not be met.

So on the one hand steelworkers with their health care are left out in the cold, those people who are retired. Second, those companies that absorbed legacy costs are in a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world because most countries have universal health coverage provided by a government program, while in the United States in our employment-employer based health care system, the steel companies and other companies pay for the cost of the health care. So that puts us at a competitive disadvantage there.

It also is an argument for universal coverage because all American companies are at a competitive disadvantage when the government provides the health care in a Medicare-type system that most countries around the world have. Yet, in America, employers must pick up those health care costs.

The third problem with the President's decision on steel and where he fell short and the reason for my disappointment is that the President opened up several loopholes in his tariff proposals, in his tariff enactments.

For instance, there is a Mexico exception which allows companies in China, Korea, Japan and other places to sell their steel into Mexico at very low or nonexistent tariff rates. Then Mexico will sell that steel into the United States at a zero tariff because of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

So that Mexico exception allows those companies which have illegally priced their steel according to the International Trade Commission to back-door their steel through Mexico into the United States at no tariff. All Mexico has to do, if even that, is a Mexican company needs to do a little value added to the steel, stamp Made in Mexico, and send it into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, that could be a difficult thing to do, except that we do not police our borders well enough. We do not have tariff and customs inspectors in as nearly a comprehensive way as we ought to have.

Those are the problems with the Bush tariff plan. One, it is not 40 percent over 4 years. It falls woefully short. Second, it does not deal with the legacy costs which is unfair to those retirees. LTV workers lose their health care March 31. Other retirees have already lost theirs. It does not deal with the legacy costs for those companies that are continuing to produce steel. And, third, it creates the Mexico exception. That will hurt our steel industry. It is a question of national security. That will hurt our steelworkers. It is a question of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOHN A. CHAPMAN

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman of the Twenty-fourth Special Tactics Squadron of the United States Air Force who gave his life in the service of our country. I join with his family and friends in paying tribute to him for his ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. My prayers are for his family.

John Chapman was a decorated soldier who readily and courageously participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. Among his many awards and decorations were: two Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, and two Joint Service Achievement Medals.

This tragedy should act as a reminder to all Americans that the liberties we hold dear are neither free nor secure. Our freedoms are earned and protected by our servicemen and women. They risk their lives so that freedom may survive.

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Technical Sergeant Chapman's courage in the face of danger reflects a