

HONORING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, recent incidents and undercover investigations have highlighted deficiencies in our nation's aviation security system. It is important, however, to remember how much things have improved since September 11th. How soon we forget about security on the cheap. It was only a few years ago that the screener of the year testified before the Aviation Subcommittee that he was only able to keep his job because he had additional income and wasn't dependent upon his screener salary. McDonalds was considered a step up for most screeners, turnover was 400 percent at some airports, and private security companies even had felons screening passengers and luggage.

After September 11th, everything changed. We now have dedicated, well-paid professionals protecting the traveling public each and every day. I want to take a moment to thank the hard working employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) who have dedicated themselves to improving security at our nation's airports. I recently received an e-mail from Daniel Bernath, a TSA employee at Portland International Airport, that I would like to insert in the RECORD.

It was nice meeting with you for a few moments as you got your plane ticket at United Airlines at PDX. I'm the TSA officer who thanked you for your work in aviation security. . . . As TSA officers we see the holes and potential problems in aviation security and are troubled by them. I have reported several to my superiors at TSA. . . . The TSA officers are proud to be serving our country even though the job is extremely physically tiring and dangerous (we are looking for explosives, knives and guns, and up to one third of us have been injured. . . . one suffered a heart attack last month, another TSA officer suffered a stroke at PDX). I have no trouble falling asleep at night because, I, like all TSA officers, am completely physically exhausted at the end of my watch. . . . The TSA rank and file is a very impressive bunch and I am proud to be one of them and again wear my country's uniform and I hope that your fellow Congressmen are proud of us too; we are all highly educated—many have college degrees (I have a juris doctor), many have management experience and we are all there after 9.11 to protect our fellow Americans. We are there to defend our country and unlike the screeners before the attack, it is not just "a job" to us. At least three times a day a fellow American will watch me search her bag and say "we're really glad the TSA is here—thank you." I remind them that we took an oath to protect the United States and point to our TSA emblem which has 9 stars and 11 stripes in the flag, symbolizing the reason for our creation and our mission that it never happen again; the attack on the United States on 9.11. I think our physical presence and professional demeanor helps our fellow Americans feel comfortable about flying again. . . . Daniel A. Bernath TSA at PDX."

Mr. Bernath's e-mail says it best, "the TSA rank and file is a very impressive bunch, I am proud to be one of them and again wear my

country's uniform and I hope that your fellow Congressmen are proud of us too." I agree with Mr. Bernath, TSA employees are an impressive bunch and, although there is always room for improvement, I am very proud of the work they are doing. I want to thank Mr. Bernath and his fellow TSA employees who come to work each day dedicated to protecting the flying public. I hope my colleagues in Congress will join me in doing all we can to make sure they succeed in this mission.

LETTER FROM JEFFREY DAVID HARVEY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, President Bush today signs for \$87 billion to aid our United States Military and assist both Iraq and Afghanistan. I wanted to include in the record a copy of a letter I received from a young man who served as a Congressional Intern. Jeff states much better than anyone why today's action by Congress and President Bush is necessary.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MICA: I don't know if you remember me, but I worked as an unpaid intern in your Casselberry office about 7 years ago. Right now I am in Northern Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division. I have been with the Division during the entire war and also served in Afghanistan for a few months with the division's 3rd brigade Rakkasans.

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the debate over the cost of rebuilding Iraq. From what I see on the news, people back home, especially the Democratic candidates for President, have not put two and two together. They complain about the attacks and the danger to our troops, but yet they do not want to give the cause any more money. We are in support of stability operations. There is no field manual on the things we are doing here but rebuilding a country is something that takes time. Relationships must be formed. With that, America has to realize that the fighting is still going on. We are fighting for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Our ammunition is therefore money. I am in charge of multiple renovation and reconstruction projects and each one takes money to complete.

The last few weeks, the money source has been cut off, and I am sure the debate over how much to spend is a leading cause to this. I have met many Iraqis that are growing impatient, asking for work, wanting to do anything to feed their family. Sir, please let your fellow Representatives and Senators know that if we are going remain here, fighting for the hearts and minds of the Iraqis, we need to have the ammunition to support it. We have to have money to help rebuild the country, put people to work and get the economy going. I am certain that by doing the right thing for these people now, it will pay off in the long run. WWII was not fought because of the concentration camps and the social injustices in Germany, but looking back now, that is cited as probably the most important good that came out of it. This war was fought for many reasons, but WMD or not, the mass graves and the social injustices by the old regime have ceased. Iraq's new found freedom far outweighs any sacrifices that myself or my men had to make by coming here. All we want to do is to finish the job that we started.

Please urge those on the Hill to support the troops, not just in voice but in action. I

appreciate you listening to what I have to say.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY DAVID HARVEY,  
ILT, FA.

TRIBUTE TO CAREY COX

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Recently, Trooper Carey Cox announced his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol after nearly three decades of dedicated and courageous service. In recognition of this service to the citizens of Colorado, I am proud to call Carey's contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Carey began his career with the Colorado State Patrol in May of 1976. Following his graduation from the Police Academy, Carey was assigned to the Broomfield State Trooper's Office in 1982. He worked there until his transfer to Grand Junction. In Grand Junction, Carey went to work for the Colorado State Patrol's Hazardous Materials Unit, where he was well known as an excellent Hazardous Materials Technician.

Throughout his career, Carey was instrumental in promoting safety on Colorado's highways. One of his many notable accomplishments was the successful implementation of a program to distribute child passenger safety seats throughout Western Colorado. This caring act for the children of Colorado illustrates the dedication and heroism that defined Carey's career. He was truly a tremendous asset to the State Patrol, and the people of Colorado. Carey does not intend to be idle in his retirement. On November 13th of this year, he will depart for Kosovo as a member of a United Nations mission in that country.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to pay tribute to a man who has spent his life serving his fellow Coloradans. Trooper Carey Cox spent a quarter of a century protecting and serving the citizens of Colorado, and his heroism is certainly worthy of recognition here today. On behalf of the people of Colorado, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Carey for his service.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out for human rights in Burma and to call for continued action against this regime. I commend my good friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. Pitts for his great leadership on this issue and his tremendous efforts on behalf of the Burmese people.

Earlier this year I stood on the floor of this House in support of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. The piece of legislation passed this House overwhelmingly, by a vote of 418-2. In the bill, we called on the State Department, and especially Secretary of

State Colin Powell, to use every opportunity to press for freedom and democracy in Burma.

I want to publicly encourage the Secretary to continue his outspoken call for freedom in Burma, and suggest some changes in the international strategy to bring about democracy and human rights in that country.

It is now clear that United Nations efforts to bring about democracy in Burma have completely failed. Rather than making progress, the efforts have simply bought time for the regime, and allowed it to perpetuate its increasingly brutal stranglehold on power. The United Nations envoy to Burma, rather than serving as a positive voice for change, has repeatedly bailed out the regime just as critical international pressure has begun to make a difference. His defense of the regime's head of military intelligence Khin Nyunt is beyond unacceptable.

It is time to review the personnel and mandate on the United Nations role in Burma, and to give a qualified mediator the tools they need, including access to the United Nations Security Council, to make a difference. The State Department should lead the efforts for these changes at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

The process is broken. We need to revamp this system with new actors as soon as possible.

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TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE &  
BLACK NEWSPAPER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a remarkable newspaper produced by the students of Grand Junction High School and recently named the best large high school newspaper in the state of Colorado for the 2002–2003 school year. The Orange & Black student-run newspaper has a history of excellence in its journalistic efforts, as it has been one of the top newspapers in the state for seven years. I join with my colleagues today in recognizing the fine efforts of the students of Grand Junction High School and their remarkable newspaper.

Erik Lincoln and Sarah Shean, the co-editors-in-chief of the Orange & Black for the previous school year, have now moved onto Mesa State College and Gonzaga University respectively. But they have left an impressive mark for their successors by winning first place in the general excellence and graphic illustration categories. These editors have also instilled greatness in their peers that resulted in first place awards in informational graphics, personal opinion columns, personality feature, and headline writing categories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today and recognize this fine example of stewardship and hard work in journalism by these dedicated high school students from Grand Junction. Their eloquent product demonstrates a mastery of photographic, written and editorial expression not often achieved by high school students.

INADEQUATE TREATMENT OUR  
TROOPS AND VETERANS ARE  
RECEIVING FROM THE ADMINIS-  
TRATION

SPEECH OF

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this past week we sent the largest supplemental appropriations bill ever written to the President. The majority of the money is to be used for the men and women serving in Iraq.

A total of \$64.7 billion in military funding was included in the bill. This includes:

A total of \$64.7 billion for military activities in support of military operations mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

\$39.2 billion for activities related to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including: \$24.0 billion for the Army, \$2.0 billion for the Navy, \$1.2 billion for the Marine Corps, and \$5.4 billion for the Air Force. The total includes an extra \$100 million to find and destroy conventional munitions in Iraq.

The agreement appropriates \$17.8 billion for military personnel, including: \$12.9 billion for the Army, \$816 million for the Navy, \$753 million for the Marine Corps and \$3.4 billion for Air Force personnel costs.

The funds are meant to cover the costs associated with the mobilization to active duty of reserve and National Guard personnel, including pay, travel, per diem, and health care and personnel necessary to maintain critical manning at authorized levels.

Extends TRICARE—the military's health care system—health coverage system to National Guard members and reservists and their families who lack health insurance and do not have access to employer-provided plans.

The measure authorizes continued payment of per diem for travel of family members of military personnel who are ill or injured as a result of active duty service, and continues the increased monthly rate of Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Allowances through Sept. 30, 2004.

The agreement includes \$55 million for travel costs of troops on rest and recuperation leave, including the cost of travel home from disembarkation points in the United States.

The measure provides \$32 million for family counseling, domestic violence prevention, and readjustment counseling and \$10 million for similar programs specifically for the National Guard.

Finally, the measure retroactively and permanently exempts servicemembers with combat-related injuries from the requirement of paying for subsistence meal charges while hospitalized.

The agreement appropriates \$5.5 billion to replenish equipment and munitions expended during military operations in Iraq and in the global war on terrorism. The total includes: \$142 million to repair or replace Bradley fighting vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks and other related equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan; \$239 million for more armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles, or HUMVEEs; \$300 million to purchase additional body armor suits and modern flak jackets and to clear unexploded ordnance; and \$46 million for radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi

dissidents to explode remote controlled bombs and mines.

The measure also directs the Defense Department to increase the availability of modern hydration systems to soldiers in Iraq and to provide quarterly reports to Congress on department efforts to address equipment shortages.

The agreement provides \$525 million for military construction funds—\$112 million more than requested.

Most of the funds will go to construct new Air Force and Army facilities in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and other facilities providing support for operations in the Middle East and the global war on terrorism.

Defense Health Program—Provides \$658 million for military health care costs.

When these young men and women return from the Gulf, they are going to leave the service in droves. Morale is low, and these people cannot get home quick enough.

At the same time, the Republican leadership refused to include \$1.3 billion dollars in emergency veterans health funding, claiming that it will be included in the regular VA–HUD appropriations bill.

This severe funding shortfalls has resulted in health-care rationing among our veterans.

Over 200,000 are currently waiting 6 months or longer for initial and follow-up medical appointments; many are reporting that they are waiting 1 to 2 years.

The Veterans Administration, in order to meet this crisis, has taken steps to stop veterans from seeking care. The VA refuses to enroll any new Category 8 veterans.

Funding shortfalls are putting veteran safety and the quality of their care at ever greater risk. An April 2001 study sponsored by four Health and Human Services agencies confirmed that inadequate direct-care nurse staffing increases risks of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, shock, intestinal bleeding, and lengthy hospital stays.

Doctors and nurses under greater stress risk injury, too, as their increased workloads cause slower mental processing, diminished memory, and improper responses to patients.

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TRIBUTE TO U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT.  
SEAN KELLEY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a U.S. Air Force Captain who has performed a great service to this nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Sean Kelley was instrumental in the delivery of Mohammed Al-Rehaief—the man responsible for providing the information of Pfc. Jessica Lynch's whereabouts that ultimately led to her successful rescue on April 2nd from Saddam Hospital in Nasiriyah. I would like to join my colleagues here today and all Americans in recognizing Capt. Kelley's selfless service.

Capt. Kelley is a graduate of Gunnison High School who has dutifully served the Air Force since his commission in 1993. He has made many trips to the Middle East but his most recent delivery of an Iraqi man and his family to the safety of the United States is especially commendable. This delivery aided our troops