

CONDEMNING THOSE WHO SLAN-
DER OUR YOUNG MEN AND
WOMEN RISKING THEIR LIVES
FOR THE NATION

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn anyone who feels it is proper to slander the great young men and women who are risking their lives for our great nation. It is tragic enough that doubts about the integrity and motivations of many of our military actions in the eyes of the people of this country, but to advocate the killing of our military personnel is outrageous.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this is a very grim and unfortunate situation which has raised the ire of myself and countless others from all walks of life. I am speaking about an assistant professor at Columbia University, Nicholas De Genova, who stated that he hoped "there would be a million Mogadishus," which means he hopes millions of young American soldiers are shot, mutilated, and paraded through the streets; all of which are war crimes. He then went on to say, "The only true heroes are those who find ways to help defeat the U.S. military."

It is this type of outlandish anti-American sentiment I stand to condemn. It is my belief that anyone who states such absurdities is speaking in support of terrorism and is going against everything for which the United States stands.

As the War in Iraq continues, it is more important to support our troops. In an all voluntary military, it is imperative we demonstrate a commitment to supporting our military personnel at every turn by reinforcing the values they hold, not by attacking them and questioning their character and certainly not by advocating killing them. We must fight anyone who attacks those who stand side by side as one to fight and die if necessary to secure our most sacred virtue, our freedom!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I hosted an important Hometown Values tour in my district on March 31 and April 1 meeting with local educators, parents and students to discuss the numerous education needs and challenges in Pine, Chisago, and Isanti counties. I also hosted an important Hometown Values Forum to examine the opportunities to promote physical activity and public health by making our communities more accessible to walking and bicycling.

As a result of these important meetings, I was unable to cast my vote on legislation that the House considered on those two days. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Rollcall Vote 92, and I am pleased that the House defeated this unacceptable smallpox legislation; I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 93; I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 94; I would have voted "aye" on

Rollcall Vote 95, and I am pleased that the House voted overwhelmingly to reject the proposed reductions in Medicare, Medicaid, veterans benefits and railroad retiree pensions. I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 96; and I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Vote 97.

COCONINO AND TONTO NATIONAL
FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 622, the Coconino and Tonto National Forests Land Exchange Act authorizes, directs and expedites two land exchanges in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona: the Montezuma Castle/Payson Airport Land Exchange and the Diamond Point Land Exchange.

Through this land exchange, the Town of Payson will receive land adjacent to its airport that will be used for expansion and economic development activities. This is particularly valuable to Payson because the Town is totally surrounded by national forest lands, virtually land-locking the community. Local officials feel that the lack of land for industry and low-cost housing is the major obstacle to economic development in the region.

These two exchanges have been pending for 6 or 7 years, with no conclusion anywhere in sight. The administrative process unfortunately broke down, leaving the Town of Payson and the homeowners of the Diamond Point Summer Homes Association with no other alternative than a legislated exchange. What's more, the exchanges are supported by the Forest Service and are already a part of the Tonto National Forest Plan.

This is common-sense legislation that accomplishes goals that even the Forest Service has stated are a priority. These land exchanges are endorsed by the Gila County Board of Supervisors, the Rim County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Payson, the Payson Regional Economic Development Corporation, and the National Park Service, among others.

I commend the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. RENZI, for making this legislation a priority, and for bringing it to the floor so quickly.

SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND
WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, as every Member of this body knows, we face a very unsettling time today. With war declared against Iraq, I fully recognize, respect, and share the concerns many people have about the crisis at hand throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. I view any conflict as a decision of the greatest consequence and an act that should be pursued only when all other possibilities have been fully exhausted.

During my more than ten years as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have had the opportunity to visit our brave military men and women in hostile environments from Haiti, to Bosnia, to Kuwait, to Afghanistan, and beyond. I have seen the devastation that armed conflict can impart and witnessed the pain of our wounded troops who gave so bravely and unselfishly of themselves in the service to our nation. I assure you these experiences profoundly affect how I view any decision to commit ourselves to battle, thus placing our troops in harm's way.

With respect to military action against Iraq, I would hope we all agree that Saddam Hussein is evil personified and poses a serious threat to peace, both in the Middle East and throughout the world. As the United Nations inspectors verified prior to their forced expulsion in 1998, Iraq under Saddam Hussein has pursued a frightening program of chemical and biological weapons development coupled with an undeniable record of repeated aggression against its neighbors and the documented use of outlawed chemical weapons even on its own people. Saddam Hussein is one of the greatest threats to peace that the world has ever known.

For the past 12 years, and through a total of 17 United Nations resolutions, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly defied international law and relentlessly pursued a program of developing and stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. Had we allowed Saddam Hussein to continue unchecked, there is every reason to believe his next act of aggression would have been of a nature and scope of unparalleled destruction.

When the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1441 on November 8 of last year, Saddam Hussein was given "one last chance" to comply with international law and fully disarm and destroy his weapons of mass destruction. Yet, Iraq failed to meet the requirements in substance of cooperative disarmament. In short, Saddam Hussein responded to the demands of the world community with defiance and deceit.

With Saddam Hussein's shameful record as background, and the continued failure of Iraq to fully comply with the repeatedly affirmed requirements of disarming, on March 18th—consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002—President Bush informed Congress that further diplomatic and other peaceful means alone would not adequately protect our national security against the continuing threat posed by Iraq nor likely lead to the enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The President informed the nation on the evening of March 19th that American and coalition forces had begun the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, free its people, and to defend the world from grave danger. Now that military action has commenced, I pray for our military personnel, for the liberation of the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein's tyranny, and for a world free from the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass murder. It is my sincere hope and desire that each and every American will stand behind our military personnel and their families during this difficult time. I think we can all agree that they deserve the respect and gratitude of the American people.

An editorial recently published in my upstate New York congressional district directs readers to organizations involved in relief efforts. While the thrust of the editorial is an analysis of the efficacy of anti-war demonstrations, let me be clear that it is not my wish to suppress anyone's right to express him or herself. Instead, I want to share this editorial with my colleagues because I embrace the overall conclusion—that demonstrating support for our troops and contributing to relief efforts is something that each and every one of us can and should do, regardless of our feelings about the military operation.

[From the Eagle Newspapers, March 26, 2003]
TIME FOR PROTEST HAS LONG PASSED

Even as our forces fight in Iraq, protesters in Upstate New York and elsewhere continue the futile banner waving that started months ago, when Saddam Hussein made it clear he would ignore United Nations mandates and President Bush quickened the march toward war.

We make no suggestion that protestors shouldn't have a right to speak their minds, but protestors should realize that no sign, no chant, no assembled multitude will cease military action in Iraq. If the goal is to ensure the well-being of the Iraqi people, it's time to turn futile displays into real action. Several reputable organizations have been set up to aid in Iraqi relief efforts following the military strikes. The U.N. runs a Humanitarian Information Center for Iraq, which will help coordinate humanitarian efforts in that nation. Church World Service and World Vision are two Christian-based humanitarian organizations dedicating time and money to relief efforts.

Support for our fighting forces is most important now. Our troops are following orders. Whether we approve or decry the actions of the Bush Administration, whether we believe one motivation over another, whether we think other countries' approval is important, we must honor the commitment of our troops. It's time to lay down the signs, the banners and the unproductive rhetoric and take action that can make a difference. For more information on relief organizations, visit www.agoodplacetostart.org, www.churchworldservice.org or www.worldvision.org.

The Department of Defense website is another resource offering suggestions about how we can support our troops. It says:

Thousands of Americans are asking what they can do to show their support for servicemembers, especially those serving overseas in this time of war. Below are Web sites for several organizations that are sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While it would be inappropriate for the Department to endorse any specifically, servicemembers do value and appreciate such expressions of support:

"Gifts from the Homefront" Certificates now allow you to send a gift certificate to a loved one, family member or dear friend associated with the military. These certificates are redeemable by Authorized Patrons of the PX/BX and are redeemable at all locations around the world including deployed areas. If you're looking for the perfect gift to give that special individual anytime and anywhere, then "Gifts from the Homefront" Certificates are the perfect choice, go to <http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>.

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>.

The Gift of Groceries program at <http://www.commissaries.com/certifcheek/>

index.htm) helps meet the family needs of our Guard and Reserve troops fighting the war on terrorism.

Donate a calling card to help keep servicemembers in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at (<http://www.operationuplink.org>).

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at (<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>) or (www.OperationDearAbby.net).

Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America Web site at (<http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmarn.html>).

The "Stars and Stripes" newspaper includes a daily "Messages of Support" section giving family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass along greetings, announcements, and words of encouragement. Such messages (LIMITED TO 50 WORDS OR LESS) will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. Messages may be sent to: (messages@stripes.com).

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies:

Army Emergency Relief at (<http://www.aerhq.org>) Navy/Marine Relief Society at (<http://www.nmc.org>) Air Force Aid Society at (<http://www.afas.org>) Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at (<http://www.cgmahq.org>).

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at (<http://www.redcross.org/services/afes>).

Purchase a Patriot Bond at (<http://www.ustreas.gov>).

Volunteer at a VA Hospital to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas.

Please do not flood the military mail system with letters, cards, and gifts. Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, the Department cannot accept items to be mailed to "Any Servicemember." Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual servicemember's address, which however well intentioned, clogs the mail and causes unnecessary delays.

The support and generosity of the American people has touched the lives of many servicemembers, over 300,000 of whom are deployed overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I trust my colleagues and my fellow Americans will find this information helpful. Showing our support for the men and women in uniform is the least we can do. After all, they are, at this very moment, putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during roll calls 92, 93, and 94. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of those rollcalls.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Kansas, my undergraduate alma mater, for reaching the Final Four competition for the second year in a row. KU has shown impressive skill in this year's NCAA conference, and I am confident that they will reach the championship game.

The Jayhawks have benefited from excellent senior leadership and the outstanding coaching of Roy Williams. The team has a 29-7 record, most recently with great victories over Duke and Arizona.

Congratulations to the KU Men's 2002-2003 Basketball team on their efforts and their return to the Final Four. This team has shown an ability to thrive in the face of adversity. I know their play in Saturday's match-up against Marquette will make me proud to be a Jayhawk. Rock Chalk Jayhawk, KU!

CONGRATULATIONS BOARD MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS AS YOU RETIRE FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest wishes to several Board Members upon their retirement from service to the Village of Western Springs, Illinois. The following members will be recognized on Saturday, April 5, 2003 for their commitment to public service.

Village Board Members: Howard Blackman, Harry Kannry, and Jane McMurray

Park Board Members: Ken Sitkowski and Greg Jonas

Library Board Members: Leslie Karas and Mark Schilling.

All of you have proven to be a true asset to your family, friends and community. Your dedication to the community in which you live has truly been instrumental to the success of the Village of Western Springs.

As you retire, I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to Village of Western Springs Board Members and your families as you celebrate your accomplishments in public service. May your futures be filled with much success.

AGAINST FY 2004 VETERANS BUDGET CUTS IN HEALTH CARE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition against the