

Mr. Speaker, since September 11 and our war against terrorism and the injuries to our troops coming from Afghanistan, my wife and I, and actually my wife more than I, have been regular visitors to the Army Hospital at Walter Reed and to the Naval Hospital in Bethesda to provide gifts, provide some comfort, and to do what they need and their families need in a time of real crisis in their life.

It brings tears to my eyes when I see these young kids with a leg or arm missing. One soldier was blinded. There are a lot of them out there now, sailors, soldiers, Marines, and even some Air Force folks. It is a sad time. But the sadness goes away when I talk to these kids. They are unbelievable. They are laying there with their whole life changed for the balance of their life. They love this country. They believe in the defense of this country, and they want to get back to the action, although many of them will not be able to because of their injuries.

But throughout the many, many conversations that we have through the day or on the weekends, one thing comes to the fore: How does my country feel about me? Am I going to come back and be ridiculed like some of my colleagues were from Vietnam?

Mr. Speaker, they worry about how does America feel about them. We do our best to convince them that America loves them, America appreciates them. I think a strong vote on passage of this bill is a strong message to those injured in our hospitals today and those still on the battlefield today risking their lives, a strong message to them, young Americans, young soldiers, your country loves you and respects you and appreciates you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the previous question on the conference report is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the conference report.

The conference report was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 29, 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 12, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through April 29, 2003.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Without objection, the appointment is accepted.

There was objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 38) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Friday, April 11, 2003, or Saturday, April 12, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 28, 2003, or until such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Saturday, April 12, 2003, through Friday, April 18, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE PASSES WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL UNANIMOUSLY

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

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, we just passed a wartime supplemental, and I wanted to make a note that it was unanimously done. I think it is a marvelous tribute to this country and this body that when this country is faced with the challenges that we have in front of us and our young people are deployed to protect us and our interests, that we bind together as a team, that we bind together as a country and that our leadership is able to take us to where we need to go.

The work that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) have done in working with the Senate is a mar-

velous tribute to their skills as legislators, and to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) and the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) as Speaker and minority leader here in the House, they have my commendations. I am pleased to be here and be part of this momentous occasion.

AMERICA LOVES HER TROOPS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to confirm my support for the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act that we just passed unanimously in this House.

I rise to answer the question of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and say resoundingly that America loves her troops, loves the young men and women who are serving, respects them, and offers our sympathy to those who lost their lives, their love to those who are now mending. And, as well, we will never forget our MIAs and POWs.

I, too, have visited our troops in our hospitals in this region, visited the Veterans Hospital, reinforced the fact that we believe in those who have been willing to offer the ultimate sacrifice.

I think it is important today, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge as well that the beauty of America is that we acknowledge and appreciate dissent. Just a few blocks away today there are protesters against the continuation of this war. There will be those who will be promoting and supporting the troops. I agree with both because America is a place that fondles and cherishes its democracy. I have dissented against the war, but I have not dissented against America or its troops, and I believe in order to be prosperous we must work together, as we have done in this emergency wartime supplemental which I have supported, so we can have a lasting peace.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member and all the staff for their steadfastness. I want to thank them for providing to airline employees the 26 extra weeks that we fought for since September 11. Many have been laid off and not working.

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I want to thank them, as well, for the homeland security moneys that will help some of our cities and rural areas, and I want to fight with them for more money for the many cities who have paid out moneys, Mr. Speaker, and have yet not been able to be reimbursed.

I would like to thank them in particular for the judgment that they have used with the defense funds so that there is not such a discretion, but it has been put in certain position to be oversight, or given oversight by this

Congress. I would like to thank them for recognizing the importance, Mr. Speaker, of the need to provide for the Coast Guard and to provide for the first responders.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, we are not yet finished with this work, and I would hope that we will go forward supporting our troops and, as well, supporting America in its effort for long-lasting peace that will only make us the great Nation that our promise indicates we can be.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Appropriations chairman, ranking member and all who worked on the Wartime Supplemental conference report. They did a tremendous job.

As a returned Peace Corps volunteer who strongly supported the President's effort to get Saddam Hussein's Iraq to cooperate with the UN inspectors and dismantle its weapons of mass destruction, I am proud, so proud, of our men and women who serve our great Nation. Our job in Congress, when we send our men and women into battle, is to make sure it is never a fair fight. We need to make sure those who risk their lives in service to this country have every advantage. We have done our job and we are doing our job.

As another returned Peace Corps volunteer, JIM WALSH, said, we are supporting our troops who brought freedom to a troubled land and we are helping to rebuild that land and nation and the good people who live there.

This is a good sign of a great Nation. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

COMMENDING THE TROOPS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to the voices of the others in commending our troops for the bravery, the courage, in following their command. I too am not a war supporter, but I support Americans. I support America.

I am so pleased that in the supplemental budget we were able to recognize that those on the home front have to respond and that there is money in this budget for the hometown response, because that is what it is going to boil down to.

Mr. Speaker, as we exit the battlefield, as we leave Iraq, we must address our attention to the constant threat of terrorism that I am sure we are going to have to endure; and I would hope that we would address our attention to finding Osama bin Laden, because he indeed has been very effective in the threat to this Nation.

So I am very pleased to have voted "aye" for the supplemental. Let us bring our troops home. Let us see that they have the services and that they are well. I commend them. We all love them.

God bless America.

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express a deep and abiding gratitude to the families living in the Second District of Arizona who have lost their children in the Iraqi conflict. Those families include Carol Howland of Kingman, who lost her son James Kiehl in battle; Sandy Watson of Peoria, who lost her son Michael Williams in battle; the Piestewa family, and the entire Hopi Nation, who today mourn the loss of their daughter Lori Ann. I have spoken to each and have been inspired by their unwavering faith and their enduring strength.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the tragic stories of this war are not unique to Arizona. So many of this Congress have fallen heroes from their communities and they represent those noble families who personify the sacrifice of war, but America's sons and daughters have fought so bravely in this battle, and some have died defending their homeland and to bring freedom to a people they have never met. And today, Mr. Speaker, the American flag flies at half-mast in the hearts of all of us as this Nation tearfully lays these valiant sons and daughters of freedom in the loving arms of God.

Mr. Speaker, words fail me to truly express the unspeakable debt of gratitude that we all owe to these families of America who have sacrificed their own loved ones to the cause of freedom. So may I respectfully appropriate the words of Abraham Lincoln, who found himself in a similar dilemma as he sought to offer comfort in a letter to a precious mother who had lost five of her sons on the battlefield. It is my prayer, Mr. Speaker, that these words can be received into the hearts of all of those who mourn the loss of their beloved soldier this day.

Mr. Lincoln wrote: "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming, but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic that they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and a solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid such a costly sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, may all of us this day take poignant personal inventory of

American freedom and may we never ever forget those who gave their all to pay for it.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 30, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 703. An act to designate the regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 763. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 46 East Ohio Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 38, 108th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 38, 108th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 38, 108th Congress, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 29, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1813. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recognition of Animal Disease Status of Regions in the European Union [Docket No. 98-090-5] (RIN: 0579-AB03) received April 10, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1814. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review and Foreign Investment Disclosure Group, Department of Agriculture,