

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

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

TRIBUTE TO FOUR BRAVE MEN OF
U.S. ARMY'S 160TH SPECIAL OP-
ERATIONS AVIATION REGIMENT

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to four remarkable men, four brave men from the U.S. Army's 106th Special Operations Aviation Regiment who gave their lives recently while in service to our country.

On Thursday, January 30, 2003, the four-member crew was participating in training operations near Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan when their MH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crashed. The elite Night Stalker 160 SOAR unit, which is stationed at Fort Campbell near my home district in Tennessee, honored these four aviators at a memorial service last week. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark O'Steen, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Gibbons, Staff Sergeant Daniel Leon Kisling, Jr., and Sergeant Gregory Michael Frampton were remembered as deeply patriotic and devoted family men.

Their tragic loss will not be forgotten among family members, friends or fellow soldiers that they left behind, nor will it fade from the memories of those who live and work in Fort Campbell. Each of these men made the greatest sacrifice a soldier can make, to give his life for the cause of preserving our freedom.

I thank them for serving our country proudly and honorably.

□ 1745

LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING
DELTA BLACK BELT REGIONAL
AUTHORITY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight on behalf of the 635,000 citizens in my congressional district, which is one of the three poorest congressional districts in the United States of America. As we focus on this budget and all the pressing economic needs in our country, we ought to remember that there is a class of Americans whose needs often go unaddressed in this body and elsewhere. It is the millions of Americans who live in the Black Belt of the South, or the Delta Region of the South.

Just yesterday, I introduced legislation that I hope will crystallize attention on this problem that has gone for

too long without a voice. We have a Delta Regional Authority in this country that is very ably led by Pete Johnson of the State of Mississippi. I seek to expand that authority to create a Delta Black Belt Regional Authority, and I seek that this body make a commitment that would be unprecedented in terms of its investment of resources in the southern and central parts of this country.

This legislation, if enacted, would ask that \$100 million be appropriated in the first fiscal year to 552 counties and 14 States in this country of ours. I recognize that I come before this Congress asking that this commitment be made at a time when the priorities of the President are very different. Across the South we see economic development programs being cut. We see the enterprise communities and the empowerment zones that have been so critical in my State and so critical in the States of so many of my colleagues zeroed out, eliminated from funding. We see funding for rural hospitals cut back. Our priorities, I would submit, are firmly and fundamentally wrong on all these issues.

Too many people are losing their jobs. Too many companies are closing in the South. And I would submit that at this point we have two Souths. We have one that is prosperous, we have one that is growing, one that is in touch with the modern economy that we have. We have another one that is languishing; we have another one that has lagged behind. It is the second South that I represent in the seventh district of Alabama.

We need to make a commitment that when 40 percent of the people in various counties live in poverty, we need to make a commitment that when too many children in the South live in school districts that are underfunded, that we put their concerns at the top of our agenda. We can talk all we want about economic development, but until we find ways to grow the physical infrastructure of the South and, more importantly, capitalize and build the human infrastructure of the South, we will see two Souths. We will see the South that I represent lag behind.

When the President talks about compassionate conservatism, he does it with great eloquence. But his budget-makers need to meet his speech-makers. We need to make a commitment that we will put resources and that we will give these resources a chance to work in a part of our country that has gone ignored.

This legislation, and I have circulated "Dear Colleague" letters to many of the Members of the House, has a chance of passage if we remember two priorities: First of all, that this entire country is anchored and weighted down if the rural South continues to lag; and second of all, that no country can be strong when too many of the people who live in its borders are weak. No country can be strong when too many of the people who live in its bor-

ders are weak. There is too much weakness in the South tonight. There is too much poverty in the South tonight. And it is time that we make an unprecedented national commitment in this area.

This legislation would do one final thing. It would give local communities, through a constituent representation board that I would put in this legislation, it would give them an opportunity to control 20 percent of the funding that would be allocated to this new authority. It is important that the people who live on the ground, who do the work in our community and faith-based organizations have a chance to control and direct resources. It is important that they have an opportunity to control the way Federal funds are spent. Too many people are locked out of this process. Too many people are in situations where their voices go unheard as we think about how we spend economic development dollars.

So I speak tonight on behalf of the rural South. I speak on behalf of the millions of children who live in poverty in that region, and I call for a national commitment beyond any that we have made.

IN SUPPORT OF MIGUEL
ESTRADA'S CONFIRMATION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the history of our Nation was forged in the balmy summer of 1787 in what was at the time the statehouse of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. There the geniuses who created the Constitution of the United States created three separate branches of government and a system of checks and balances within that government that would provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and ensure the blessings of liberty for not only themselves but we, their posterity.

Central to that balance of power, Mr. Speaker, was the notion of an independent judiciary, which, at the level of the Federal Court, would be governed by the appointment of the President of the United States. But again it was not without checks and balances, Mr. Speaker, because the Senate itself, under the Constitution, was given the authority to review the qualifications of individuals that the chief executive would appoint for the judiciary.

And so our Nation proceeded from the basement home of the Supreme Court, which is still in this building today, back when it met just off the House Chamber for one day a year, to the august building and the awesome legacy of the U.S. Supreme Court today. And yet, Mr. Speaker, somewhere along the way, about the time of my youth, our Supreme Court seems, as it has done at different times in its history, the Dred Scott case comes to mind, the Supreme Court seems to

have gotten out of step with the American people, banning innocuous voluntary prayer in the schools in the 1960s; and, as a pro-life American, striking down the laws against abortions in all 50 States in 1973.

Many, and me included, Mr. Speaker, believe that we have a judiciary that has begun to move left when America stayed as a center-right Nation in its philosophies. But we counted on the checks and balances, Mr. Speaker. We counted on the ability, through elections, to correct that imbalance for these lifetime-appointed jurists. When 1980 came along, a center-right majority elected Ronald Reagan President of the United States, and that President nominated to the Court individuals who reflected that philosophy, that center-right majority philosophy in America.

And that is when we all heard of Judge Bork. Because that was at a time, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, and we are seeing it lived out again at the other end of this building this very night, when the Senate of the United States as an institution departed from its historic role of evaluating the qualifications of appointees to the Court to evaluating their thoughts, evaluating their ideology. Before, throughout American history, the ideology or the views of appointees to the Court were decided in elections. The President's values would no doubt be reflected in his appointees to all parts of the government. But beginning in the 1980s, with Judge Bork's defeat as a Supreme Court nominee, we saw a different impact on the process, an activist Senate joining with an activist Court.

This plays out again today in the nomination of an extraordinary man, Miguel Estrada, President Bush's nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, without a doubt the second most powerful court in the United States of America. This young man, an immigrant born and raised in Honduras, law degree, magna cum laude from Harvard Law, is an American success story, no less than my own immigrant grandfather was, who came to these shores, worked hard, and lived the American Dream. Miguel Estrada is an extraordinary example of the American Dream.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to, however impolite, simply urge his confirmation in the Senate and his expeditious review by our colleagues.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members that their remarks in debate may not include characterizations of the Senate or its actions or urge a course of action on the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR. HENRY DELANEY

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American. The Reverend Dr. Henry Delaney is an African American pastor in Savannah, Georgia. While I have not known the Reverend Delaney for long, what I have seen of him and his ministry has been mightily impressive. But I ask that you not just take my word for it. Many other national leaders in our country have recognized Reverend Delaney, including Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER from the State of Tennessee. Mr. ALEXANDER recognized Mr. Delaney in a chapter of his book entitled "We Know What to Do."

I would like to read a short excerpt from that chapter this evening. I have taken a few editorial liberties for the sake of clarity for this tribute.

Of Reverend Delaney Mr. ALEXANDER wrote: "If you roll back the Federal Government, then who is going to do what needs to be done? Henry Delaney, that's who. He already has. He has reminded us how to confront the drug plague and shut down crack houses. He did it with faith and commerce and mostly private funding. He has achieved dramatic results without millions in Federal aid and without trampling anyone's rights.

"Henry moved to one of the poorest sections of Savannah, Georgia, in 1989. It is fair to say that a lesser person would have been daunted by what Reverend Delaney found in Savannah. He moved into a house on 32nd Street that had been boarded up and occupied by crack addicts. He inherited a ramshackle church whose property was about to be foreclosed on by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His congregation consisted of 216 members, many of whom were afraid to attend church because of the drug dealers who overran the area.

"Reverend Delaney quickly went to work to improve the situation. He sought loans so he could start buying up the houses where the drug dealers lived. He bought five of them on one side of the street and eight in the next block. He kicked out the drug dealers and he started moving in pastors.

"His wife Ethel helped him repair the church and Members of the congregation pitched in to renovate the houses. With every house they overhauled, they expanded their drug-free zone. The church activities expanded and membership leaped to 3,000 members. Delaney now has 16 ministers of the gospel, all of whom live within two blocks of his church.

"His converts includes some of the very drug dealers that he evicted. One was shot 16 times when he was caught in a crossfire from a drug deal gone bad at a car wash. He had a miraculous recovery and now he never misses a Sunday morning service. They say that no

one in the congregation sings "Amazing Grace" with more feeling.

"Reverend Delaney is educating inner-city kids in Savannah who otherwise would not be in school, who would drop out and be rejected or be expelled. Ethel Delaney, meanwhile, opened the Saint Paul's Community Cultural Center, or what she calls a Christian charm school for girls. Since they don't accept Federal money, both schools instill a heavy dose of discipline and religion.

"Henry also runs a homeless shelter for young men who are recovering drug addicts and recent parolees from prison, helping them find jobs and keeping them clean from drugs. What is different is the evangelistic fervor Reverend Delaney brings to this task. Many of these fellas have gone through the 28-day detox programs, but within 4 or 5 days, they are back at it. So every week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, he keeps them busy with evening worship. On Tuesday, they have Bible study. On Sunday they attend church regularly. So far it has worked very well.

"He calls his shelter the Hallelujah House. This is how you have to conduct a war against drugs, using a series of trenches. It starts in the family. If you fail there, you have to take them off the streets, and you have to reassemble them at the workplace.

"Of all the uphill battles he and his wife wage, Henry is most perplexed by the Nation's failure to focus consistently on the drug issue. His is a voice from the inner city of Savannah that we should be listening to. In the 1970s, when national voices suggested that marijuana was cool and drugs were okay, kids used drugs. In the early 1980s, when national leadership and some of the media said it wasn't okay, drug use began to decrease.

□ 1800

Simply put, it is virtually impossible for people like Henry and Ethel Delaney to succeed if the streets of Savannah are awash with cocaine and crack. Keeping drugs out of the country is a matter of Federal law enforcement and foreign policy.

Of course, those local efforts depend on men like Henry Delaney. We need to learn from Henry Delaney and use his example to inspire others to achieve the same success in their communities.

So while there is no shortage of experts on national drug policy, it is probably time we started paying attention to the real experts like Reverend Delaney. He now has 60 preachers affiliated with his church, not all of them ordained, but his goal is to keep buying up the crack houses, moving in his ministers, and pushing out the drug dealers a block at a time until they are on the other side of the county line.

Mr. Speaker, we need more Henry Delaneys in this world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under a previous order of the