

the war profiteering in the rebuilding of Iraq, the billions that are being wasted, but how are the troops doing over there on the ground? Not so well, it turns out. Thirty to 40,000 of our troops cannot get \$500 pieces of body armor. They are working with flak vests from the Vietnam era which will not stop an AK-47 bullet. We have Humvees with canvas side curtains. Some of our troops are being sent over there with jungle camouflage. We cannot afford that desert camouflage.

How is it with the buildup for months by this administration, a \$380 Pentagon budget, \$80 billion appropriated by Congress last April for this war, that the Bush administration, Secretary Rumsfeld in all of his great wisdom, could not have thought to buy our young men and women body armor, to give them armored Humvees, to get them desert fatigues, boots and sidearms that work, and other critical supplies? They said we just cannot afford it, we need more money, then maybe we will give the young men and women what they need.

Mr. Speaker, they can find that money. It is about 2 minutes' spending at the Pentagon.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING A TRUE SOUTH CAROLINA HERO, SERGEANT ANTHONY O. THOMPSON

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to report the death of a true South Carolina hero, Sergeant Anthony O. Thompson. As a 26-year-old artillery fire support specialist in the United States Army, Sergeant Thompson proudly represented not only our State and Nation but all the people of South Carolina.

As a native of Orangeburg County, he showed immense potential even as a teenager. Graduating from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School in 1995, he departed with honors and shortly thereafter entered the Army.

After serving in the Army for nearly 7 years, Sergeant Thompson began his quest in Iraq to defend our Nation from terrorists and engage in the War on Terrorism. Sergeant Anthony Thompson, killed in combat, was the second serviceman from Orangeburg County to die during service in Iraq and the seventh from the State of South Carolina.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in extending condolences to Sergeant Thompson's friends and family, as he was a dedicated hero to our State and Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

MANDATED TRAINING FOR AIRCREWS

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, 10 days after terrorist attacks on September 11, the President told this body, "We will come together to improve air safety and take new measures to prevent hijacking."

Yet, 2 years later, our first line of defense in the air has been not yet upgraded. The flight attendants who were the first victims of the tragic accidents on that day and who are still called upon to defend passengers lives have not been given the new defensive training that they need.

Working together in committee, Members of both parties drafted legislation to address this shortfall and mandate proper defense training for aircrews. Four hundred eighteen Members of the House agreed.

Unfortunately, through the FAA reauthorization bill, House leadership has now removed the strong mandate and replaced it with a statement that TSA "may" provide training. This undermines our bipartisan work, it undermines the expectation clearly stated by the President, and it undermines the Nation's safety.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to change the language back. There should be no uncertainty, no delay. Mandated training for aircrews is the will of this Congress and the will of our constituents.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST DUSTIN K. MCGAUGH

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Specialist Dustin McGaugh, who grew up in Springdale, Arkansas. Specialist McGaugh was killed in a "friendly fire" accident in Balad, Iraq, late last week.

Motivated by a desire to serve and be a part of something important, Specialist McGaugh enlisted in the Army prior to the September 11 attacks and was so intent on becoming a soldier that he completed his last 3 weeks of basic training with a broken shinbone.

Specialist McGaugh put himself in harm's way so that the world could be a better place, and he did so in a manner that was an inspiration to his fellow soldiers. While in Iraq he told his family that his unit often came under fire. However, this did not stop him from doing his mission. In fact, it seemed to have encouraged him to reach out to the Iraqi people. His fellow soldiers said that, regardless of the dangers, Specialist McGaugh could often be found handing out candy to Iraqi children.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Dustin McGaugh made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Specialist McGaugh's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

VOTE NO ON \$87 BILLION FOR IRAQ

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to do a public service announcement. I want all of you to get your rubber stamp ready. We are here for 24 hours this week, and next week, when we arrive on Wednesday, within 24 hours we will have given the President \$87 billion. That is what he wants in a failed policy. We are going to buy cell phones at \$6,000 a copy. The ones we have here cost \$1,500. Why are they \$6,000 in Iraq? Why are we spending \$100 million in a witness protection program or putting in a 911 system or all the foolishness in that bill?

There will be no talk tomorrow about amendments in the Committee on Appropriations. We ought to figure out what the President needs until December and give it to him then, and we will come back when he has a plan.

He announced today they are not going to go for a resolution in the United Nations. We are going it alone, and the American taxpayers are being asked to suck it up again, give him \$87 billion, do not ask him what he did with it, just rubber stamp it. That is wrong. Just vote no.

THE ECONOMY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week we received very exciting and positive news that the Bush economic plan is working. Both business and individuals are seeing an upturn in the economy. In September, payrolls increased by 57,000 jobs, showing increased confidence on behalf of job providers. Personal income and personal spending were both up, indicating increased consumer confidence in the economy. Clearly, the tax cuts are working, and our economy is improving.

But we do have more work to do. We must pass a comprehensive energy policy to help fuel our economy. We must open more markets abroad to export our manufactured goods. We must rein in out-of-control litigation, which is a hidden tax on our economy. We must make health care more affordable for families and businesses. And, finally, we must make the Bush tax cuts permanent so that there is certainty for families and small businesses as the recovery moves forward.

We know what we have to do to further expand our economy. It is time to get the job done.

HONORING CARL D. ASHLEY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I attended a funeral in my community, a funeral of an outstanding American, one who spent time in Vietnam, who served his country, but then who came back and was a quiet, gentle man. He raised a great family, served as an election judge, was actively involved in helping others. And I simply express condolences to the family of my good friend Carl D. Ashley, who gave his life in the service of others. A great American, great humanitarian.

WELCOMING BACK THE 202ND RED HORSE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize and welcome the return of the last group of the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron, Florida's Air National Guard engineer unit. They are headquartered at Camp Blanding, which is in my congressional district. The remaining members arrived on Friday, October 3, completing a deployment that began with its activation in January and subsequent deployment the following February.

RED HORSE stands for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers; and, as the name suggests, these members are the workhorses for the military's heavy construction and engineering. The 202nd was relied upon as part of the first Expeditionary RED HORSE group to complete the myriad of construction projects needed to ensure Central Command and its forces accomplished its underlying mission. One of the more notable projects was the repair of the Baghdad International Airport.

I had the opportunity to meet a number of these individuals and have in my congressional office the red hard hat that was signed by members of this unit. So I am thankful and proud of their service. Mr. Speaker, I welcome them home.

JOB CREATION AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the press reported that Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans was going to travel the country and focus like a laser on the issue of jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs, said the headline. He is going to travel from city to city and talk about jobs in America, that jobs are the most important issue.

Today we read that his first stop is going to be in Iraq. I guess maybe that is because that is where the Bush administration is creating jobs as they seek to build new hospitals, they seek

to build schools that they will not build in this country, hospitals that they will not build in this country, sewer systems that they will not build in this country. We see these exorbitant contracts being led through Bechtel and Haliburton. I guess that is where the jobs are from the Bush administration, and that is why the Secretary of Commerce is going there instead of going to the Midwest where hundreds of thousands of people have lost manufacturing jobs or anywhere else in this country where over 3 million people have lost their jobs and 9 million people are unemployed.

The Secretary of Commerce would do well to travel the country, as opposed to going to Iraq.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in wishing the Republic of China a happy day for tomorrow. It is National Day.

A strong economic system, a strong educational system, and its people's grasp of the free market system of economics have made Taiwan an economic powerhouse. It is the world's 17th largest economy. This economic performance has contributed to both regional and global prosperity. At a time of economic independence among nations, Taiwan has a lot to offer the world.

On Taiwan's National Day, I would like to see Taiwan continue to play a major economic role in the world and to further strengthen its economic ties with the United States. A hearty congratulations to President Chen. We wish him and his people the best of luck as he seeks readmission to the World Health Organization. He deserves his place on the world's stage.

We appreciate Taiwan's support of America and honor their National Day.

ENGINEERED FABRICS CORPORATION

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a company located in the 11th district of Georgia which I represent.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the dangers our men and women of the Armed Forces are facing during the operations of Enduring Freedom. During combat operations several of our Apache helicopters took enemy fire and were damaged to the point they could no longer operate in the combat theatre. As one can imagine, it was imperative these helicopters were repaired and returned to the theatre of operations as soon as possible.

On April 2, 2003, the men and women of Engineered Fabrics Corporation in

Rockmart, Georgia, got the call to assist our Nation's warfighters. Within 24 hours 28 new Apache fuel tanks were on their way to the combat theatre.

In recognition of this excellent, incredible effort, Engineered Fabrics received the Commander's Medallion for Outstanding Warfight Support from the Defense Contract Management Agency.

Specifically, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Carl Simmons, Contracts Manager, and Sheila Smith, Shipping and Receiving Manager, both with Engineered Fabrics. These two individuals were instrumental in ensuring that contract and shipment requirements were completed on or ahead of schedule.

Mr. Speaker, Engineered Fabrics is an outstanding company in my 11th District of Georgia and a great example of the American spirit and will to succeed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of declaring October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence encompasses all acts of violence against women within the context of a family or intimate relationships. It is an issue of increasing concern because it has a negative effect on all family members, especially the children.

It is also leading cause of injury to women in the United States, where they are more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner than by any other type of assailant.

During 1998, an average of two domestic homicides occurred in my State of West Virginia each month. Across the United States, it is estimated that as many as 4 million instances of domestic abuse against women occur yearly.

We must fight this scourge. These statistics are devastating, but behind every statistic there is a face, a family, a woman, a child who is in a violent relationship and the children are trapped in these violent unstable homes living in fear.

I am asking every Member of Congress to spread the word about domestic violence so we can help these women and children live a life free of fear. This epidemic is something in our communities that we need to be aware of, and October is a month to shine a light on the problem of domestic violence throughout our country.