

the first thousand body bags come home from Iraq. Consider, Mr. Speaker, the fact that not one soldier killed or wounded has a wife, mother and family rejoicing about the overall low casualty rate. Human life is sacred and one tragedy of Viet Nam is that our government stopped counting one soul at a time. 58,000 heroes died in the jungles of Viet Nam and every American citizen has a duty to fight to guarantee that no body count statistics close to these are tolerated ever again. While we praise the heroism of the troops in Iraq we must confess that it is now crystal clear that this army is in the wrong place fighting the wrong enemy at great financial as well as human costs.

Before the years begin to go by and the body count mounts into the thousands, an exit strategy must be implemented now. Viet Nam has taught us that inevitably there will be an end negotiated to even a very complex war. In the interest of our nation and of humanity let us begin to work backward to initiate the negotiations for peace. The shape of the table might be the same as the table shape finally agreed upon in Viet Nam. What matters most is that this administration must invite all of the nations on the U.N. Security Council and all of the members of NATO to come to the table. The sharing of the powers of decision-making must be placed on the table. French, German, Russian and Chinese troops must be contributed to the effort to guarantee law and order in Iraq. The guerilla insurgents may hold out for many years but once we are able to make the argument to the Iraqi masses that we are not in their country to re-institute colonial subjugation or to pilfer their oil revenues the popular appeal of the violent uprising will fade away. An international presence with a clearly stated set of rules and a transparent timetable will encourage the development and actions of a new leadership class among the Iraqi population. The yearning for liberty is so great in the bosom of every human being that true freedom has its own overwhelming recruiting power.

Viet Nam is still described by former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara as an unfortunate series of mistakes; however, in dishonest riddles McNamara refuses to admit that Viet Nam was one of the greatest blunders in modern history. 58,000 died needlessly. We lost Viet Nam but the dominoes did not fall against us. The free world went on to win the cold war. Victory over Al Qaeda and world terrorism cannot be won in Iraq. Let this truth guide Washington decision-makers now before another 58,000 die.

NO NEW VIETNAM

In Iraq 58,000
Have not yet died.

58,000
Mothers, daughters, wives
Have not yet cried.

58,000
Did not fall yet,
The quota to make a wall
Has not yet been met.

From VietNam
58,000
Body bags came home;
Jungle warfare was tough,
Mid-East deserts deemed easy to roam,
Combat assumed to never get rough.

58,000
Must die first;
For oil and gas American appetite
Shows an unquenchable thirst;

58,000
To stop other nations from daring
To make demands for equal sharing.

58,000
Is a goal there is time to reach;
For present low count casualties
VietNam
Has no lessons to teach.

Families waiting
Will get no happy greetings
Til Rumsfeld holds
One hundred more meetings;
Colin must make more trips,
DeLay must crack his whips,
Speeches must be recited
On the fourth of July
Photo opportunities with wives
Of husbands shipped off to die.

58,000 never again—
Where in hiding
Have power brokers been?
Command Macnamara
To tell the true story,
Washington warmongers deserve
No star spangled glory,
On the front lines
The scene is always gory.

White House power at risk
Needed an Iraq fix;
Exposed now
Is what we always knew,
Addiction for oil
Infected the Neo-Com crew.
Rumsfeld decrees
That far across the seas
There is no new VietNam;
Every high tech trick
Has not yet been tried
We have not yet met
The WMD enemy threat;
Premature victory the White House tasted
Because 58,000 lives
Have not yet been wasted.

Thank America
For names carved in stone
Pray for all children left alone
When body bags bore their fathers home;
Home of the brave
Pledge to the credo
Each life we must save,
No more monuments
But lasting peace we crave.

58,000
Have names on the wall,
These heroes stand tall,
From heaven their voices call,
Blood soaked wisdom
From truth trenches will crawl:
58,000 never again!
Rise to resist the squander
Of the lives of brave men!

58,000
Did not fall yet,
The quota to make a wall
Has not yet been met.
58,000!

REMEMBERING MRS. MARCELLE
WILDER, DEVOTED WIFE AND
GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUP-
PORTER

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. TANNER and I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. John Wilder of Tennessee.

Mrs. Wilder was recognized across the state for her devotion to her husband, Lt. Gov. John Wilder, to her church and to the people of

Tennessee. With the passing of Marcelle Ann Morton-Wilder on June 7th, Tennessee lost a passionate and generous spirit whose lifelong commitment to supporting her state, her community and her family inspired so many others.

Marcelle Wilder and John Wilder's partnership was itself an inspiration for all those who knew them. Married for 62 years, Marcelle Wilder met her husband-to-be as a young student in Fayette County. Following his election to the Tennessee Senate in 1958, and then to Lt. Governor in 1971, Marcelle joined her husband in working on behalf of all Tennesseans. She made frequent trips to Nashville to be at her husband's side as he led the Tennessee legislature. At the same time, she gave generously of her time and energy to many community organizations. She was a co-founder of the Tennessee Waltz Organization, a fundraiser for the Tennessee State Museum. She served on the Southern Legislative Conference Ladies Committee and the National Conference Ladies Committee for many years. In addition, she was a visible and energetic member of the Tennessee Bicentennial Committee in 1996. She also was an active member of her church, the Braden United Methodist Church, and was recognized for her work in researching and writing the history of the church.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I offer my deep condolences to Lt. Gov. Wilder, their two sons, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Their loss is one that all Tennesseans share as we pause to remember the many gifts Mrs. Wilder shared with all of us during her lifetime.

THE MOODY TROJANS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Moody Trojans, winner of the 2004 Texas High School Class 5-A Baseball Championship. These young players came heartbreakingly close to the championship as runners-up in the 2000 tournament, but this year the prize was all Moody's.

Moody baseball is not only a community tradition in South Texas, but also a family tradition. The players are an extended family, reading each other's minds and anticipating each other's moves. This is a group that sincerely loves to compete.

The amazing skill of this team won the recognition of coaches, resulting in the Trojans finishing second in the nation in the Baseball America/National High School Baseball Coaches Association poll released Monday. This season for "Moody Magic" has been one for the record books.

This is an aggressive, confident team, whose amazing baserunning in the title game was a large part of their victory. Of course, with these young people, that attitude is pervasive not only on the baseball diamond, but in all that they do.

Moody's fans are as relentless as their team. They were over 75 percent of the crowd, cheering the players on, chanting, blowing horns, yelling, clapping and stomping feet. Like the Trojans of old, they didn't give

up until the battle was done. Over 1,000 fans met the team when their bus got back to Corpus Christi. The crowd rushed to the field as the players placed their trophy on the pitcher's mound.

The Moody Magic is part inspiration, part hard work, and part spirituality that draws this team close. They pray together, win together and lose together; but they keep their faith.

Four years ago, they prayed even while their opponent was awarded gold medals for the championship; they prayed that the experience would make them better people. It did, and 2004 was their year to win the gold medals.

These young people have learned the very best lessons sports can teach. They learned that winning is great, but winners on the field are made from teamwork and faith; and winners in life are those who master the fundamentals, never lose their faith, and put their whole effort into all they do.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding group of young champions from "Moody Magic" who have learned—and lived—the most important lessons of competition, faith and dignity. Mr. Speaker, these young people have inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 232–242, I was detained by a meeting with Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans and his newly appointed Manufacturers Advisory Council, at which I spoke. The delay was compounded by an airline delay which prevented me from voting on the last three rollcall votes, on all of which I would have voted "no."

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 232, "yes"; rollcall No. 233, "yes"; rollcall No. 234, "yes"; rollcall No. 235, "yes"; rollcall No. 236, "yes"; rollcall No. 237, "yes"; rollcall No. 238, "yes"; rollcall No. 239, "yes"; rollcall No. 240, "no"; rollcall No. 241, "no"; and rollcall No. 242, "no";

MODIFYING CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR MACHINE-READABLE, TAMPER-RESISTANT ENTRY AND EXIT DOCUMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, today the House approved by voice vote H.R. 4417, a bill to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents. I applaud the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Congressman SENSENBRENNER, for advancing this important legislation, which is the first step in ensuring that the United States and Visa Waiver Program countries are able to honor the obligations that were put into law in the Enhanced

Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002.

I am concerned, however, that H.R. 4417 does not grant the Administration the full two-year period that will be necessary to achieve the issuance of biometric, machine-readable, tamper-resistant passports that meet international standards. The Secretaries of State and Homeland Security have stated that not even the United States will be ready to issue such passports by October 2005. The uncertainty and confusion created by a one-year extension for both potential travelers to the U.S., as well as the industries that serve them during their stays here, must be taken into account. The Senate is considering legislation that would grant the Administration the two-year period that they seek. I believe that this approach will facilitate an efficient completion of the passport development and issuance process, while also taking into account important national security concerns.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAY CHARLES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special homage to a legendary entertainer and an American icon, Mr. Ray Charles, who passed away on June 10, 2004 at the age of 73.

Ray Charles Robinson (who later dropped his last name to prevent confusion with boxer "Sugar" Ray Robinson) was born September 23, 1930 in Albany, Georgia. Charles was born at the beginning of The Great Depression into a rural southern community, which denied opportunity and tried to kill the dreams of African Americans.

Ray Charles was blinded by glaucoma at age 7. After being sent to the St. Augustine school for the Deaf and Blind, he learned to read and write musical compositions in Braille, and mastered playing several instruments including the piano and the saxophone. By the age of 15, Charles was orphaned, and had begun to perform in Black nightclubs. Charles would later draw from the adversity of his early life a special soulfulness, which fueled new music that America had never known: the sultry combination of human problems and transgressions with the hope and inspiration of the spirit. He drew from diverse musical roots and made the music his own.

By 1959, Charles would have his first big hit, "What'd I Say". He would in an illustrious career win 12 Grammy Awards and a plethora of other musical achievements. Later, he would be called one of the forefathers of Rock n' Roll.

The music of Ray Charles was as diverse as his audience. He was able to cross musical genres including jazz, blues, gospel, soul, country, pop and rock and roll. Charles was a musical pioneer and throughout his career gained a large fan base in various racial and ethnic groups. He broke down the rigid walls between black and white music. Charles was an inspiration for the likes of Elvis Presley and The Beatles, who sought to incorporate his soulfulness in their music.

Charles would also use his cross-cultural ability to help achieve racial equality. Charles

was a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, performing benefit concerts and giving up his personal resources. During the height of South African apartheid, Charles refused to play for segregated audiences in firm opposition to the legal segregation that was in place in that country.

Charles had a string of stirring hits including "Georgia on my Mind", "I Can't Stop Loving You", and "America the Beautiful", which he first performed in 1972 and then later at many occasions of national celebration including the inaugural ball for the late former president, Ronald Reagan in 1985. In 1986 he received Kennedy Center Honors for his amazing ability to break down social barriers through his music.

Music lovers worldwide will consequently suffer a great void that no other musician will ever be able to fill. Ray Charles was able to inspire millions through his music. Ray Charles has left us the enduring legacy of his genius, his music, and though gone from us physically the music of Ray Charles will live on forever.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend my colleagues on the passage of H.R. 4278. This bill reauthorizes and makes permanent the Assistive Technology Act, which plays an instrumental role in promoting awareness of and access to services and devices that allow individuals with disabilities to lead independent lives, to work, to participate fully in community and school, and to make informed choices in all aspects of their lives.

This legislation, which passed unanimously under suspension yesterday, is a result of a bipartisan commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Members of Congress from both parties recognized the valuable role that the Tech Act plays in providing support to programs in all 50 states and worked together to ensure the continuation and vitality of the state grant programs. Most importantly, this bill will get technology into the hands of people who need it.

My own background and experience gives me a unique perspective on the value of assistive technology. Indeed, access to technology has made it possible for me to serve as a Member of the United States Congress. Through my own experience and opportunities to interact with others in the disability community, I am keenly aware that access can make the difference between a life on public assistance and a productive, fulfilling career. With the unemployment rate within the disability community at a staggering 70 percent, we must support and promote the programs that are making a difference. State assistive technology programs have proven to be instrumental in getting people back into their communities.

When it was first enacted, in 1988, the Tech Act contained sunset provisions which would