

hospital, where he underwent surgery. His injuries included a head wound and broken bones, in addition to possible broken arms, dislocated shoulders, and multiple internal injuries.

In June 1997, a 17-year-old ride operator at Celebration Station in Tulsa, Oklahoma was killed while operating a swinging boat ride. The teen fell into the frame of the ride in an area underneath the boat while the ride was in motion. He was crushed and died within 15 minutes. Five children were passengers on the ride at the time of the accident. Investigators from the Oklahoma Department of Labor ruled the death accidental, saying that the ride had not experienced any mechanical failure.

In June 1996, a 16-year-old ride operator at Bonkers 19 Amusement Park in Weymouth, Massachusetts started the Mini Himalaya ride without notice. A 5-year-old girl's foot was gashed when it was trapped against the ride's track. Later that same year, in September, during the operation of the same ride by a different 16-year-old, part of the scalp of an 8-year-old girl was torn off when her hair became entangled in the motor powering the Mini Himalaya.

At least nine states have recognized that it is per se hazardous to employ children 17 years of age or younger as ride operators and have included provisions in their laws to restrict such employment. Alaska, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Wisconsin all have 18-year-old age limits. Some include exemption for "kiddie rides," but all have adopted state standards that make it the rule, not the exception, that minors shall not operate the vast majority of park rides in their states.

In addition, the Walt Disney Corporation has already recognized the wisdom of avoiding having youngsters placed in charge of the safe operation of their park rides. As a matter of park policy, Disney will not allow anyone younger than 18 years of age to operate a Disney ride.

The Department of Labor has jurisdiction over the safety of child amusement park employees. This legislation would be unnecessary if the DOL would simply use its existing authority to restrict this kind of employment. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. Chapter 8, § 212, directs the Secretary of Labor to carry out the objectives of the child labor provisions, namely, to prohibit "oppressive child labor." "Oppressive child labor" is defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. Chapter 8, § 203, as a condition of employment which the Secretary finds and declares as "particularly hazardous for the employment of children between such ages [16 and 18] or detrimental to their health or well-being."

Under this provision, the Secretary has issued 17 Hazardous Occupation Orders restricting children from certain hazardous jobs. For example, Order 7 declares "hazardous" the operation of most power-driven hoisting apparatus, including nonautomatic elevators exceeding one ton, 29 CFR § 570.58. Most people would agree that an amusement park ride has all the characteristics of a "power-driven hoist" that lead to its designation as "hazardous"—with the exception of the people at the DOL. With the support of the industry, the DOL has helpfully issued guidance to the public that specifically carves out amusement parks rides from this "hazardous" designation. It is difficult to understand how the DOL could

conclude that operating an elevator is hazardous to a minor, while operating amusement park rides is not.

Due to the seasonal nature of the amusement park business, many teenagers under the age of 18 seek summer employment at the parks, something that I applaud and encourage. Most jobs at the parks have nothing to do with hazardous machinery. Teenagers can safely fill jobs such as selling tickets, waiting on tables, or guiding patrons. But when it comes to filling a job as safety-critical as the loading and operation of ride machinery, it is simply irresponsible to risk the health of the employee or the park patrons by giving such a job to a minor.

As the amusement park season commences, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation and to help improve the safety of our nation's parks.

H. RES. 557—COMMEMORATING START OF IRAQ WAR

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women in our Armed Forces who have served and continue to serve in Iraq. Their bravery and dedication is something all Americans should admire and honor.

It is not just their martial skill and training that proved outstanding during the combat phase of the Iraq campaign, their exceptional abilities to begin the rebuilding of Iraq have been essential. Our military forces have demonstrated again and again their professionalism when faced with incredibly difficult challenges. They truly are the best in the world.

I want to also give special recognition to our citizen soldiers—the men and women in our National Guard and Reserves—and their families. For them to leave their jobs and loved ones, in many cases for more than a year, requires tremendous sacrifice and commitment. In the last year, I have been there when many of our local Wisconsin units have left for deployment and been there when many have finally returned home. When they leave, I have seen their determination to get the job done combined with great sadness about their separation from their families. When they return, I have seen their pride at a job well done and their joy at being reunited with their families. No country could be better served than we have by the members of our Guard and Reserve.

I also want to pay my respects to the ultimate sacrifice paid by the 709 military men and women who have died in Iraq and express my heartfelt condolences to their families. Each one of them is a hero. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid but must always be remembered.

We also owe a great debt to the more than 3,200 who have been wounded in Iraq. Medical advances and improved safety equipment have meant fewer deaths, but many are surviving with serious injuries. We must fulfill our commitment to caring for them, ensuring that our veterans health care system can meet their needs.

Mr. Speaker, there is no Member of this Congress who is not grateful to our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. No matter our positions on what the proper U.S. policies should be, let there be no doubt that we honor and appreciate their sacrifices.

It is with regret that I voted against the resolution presented to this House. I am very disappointed in the Republican leadership of this House for bringing forth a resolution under a closed rule without providing the opportunity for Democrats to participate in the drafting.

Honoring our troops should always be a non-partisan effort and should never be used as a partisan maneuver.

The resolution that came before us could have, and should have, won the backing of every Member of the House. A non-partisan resolution, drafted with input from both sides of the aisle, would have attained unanimous support, allowing the House of Representatives to speak with one resounding voice in honor of our men and women in uniform.

It is not simply the partisan nature of this resolution that caused me to vote against it. If that were my only concern, my desire to recognize our troops would have been stronger than my indignation about the means employed to do so. However, I voted against the resolution because it is being used to distract us from the very real and very important debate that we should be having about our Iraq policy and our counter-terrorism policies.

Mr. Speaker, there is a debate going on among the American people about Iraq and the war. The American people are concerned about our intelligence failures, the use of intelligence, the Administration's apparent obsession with Iraq, the failure of post-war Iraq planning, the cost of the war, the costs of reconstruction, the long-term demands on our military and how Iraq affects the war on terrorism. This Congress and this Administration has a responsibility to answer, or find the answers, to these questions. The American people deserve no less.

The American people are wondering if we are safer as a result of the war to remove Saddam Hussein as ruler of Iraq. This is a difficult question to answer, and to be quite frank, I don't know. But it is a question that is important to ask. And it should not be dismissed with an "of course" or the suggestion that anyone who thinks we may not be safer is unpatriotic or would be happy if Hussein were still in power. We must draw an important distinction between the following questions: Is Iraq better off? Is Iraq less of a security threat to the United States? And, is the United States safer as a result of the President's choice to go to war in Iraq. I believe the answer to the first two questions is yes. However, it is the final question that is by far the most important.

On September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked by Al Qaeda, an international terrorist group that was then based in Afghanistan with the support of the Taliban regime. Military action against Al Qaeda and the Taliban was widely supported by Americans, including me, to hunt down the perpetrators of 9-11 and eliminate their ability to operate in Afghanistan. We were joined by numerous countries who understood that the fight against Al Qaeda was their fight too. The initial phases of that campaign were successful in shutting down their training camps, capturing or killing many of their members and

deposing the Taliban. Like in Iraq, our military men and women performed exceptionally well.

But the victory in Afghanistan is not complete. Just last month, we launched, with Pakistan, another military initiative to find additional Al Qaeda forces hiding out in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan and western Pakistan. Security in Afghanistan is largely absent outside of Kabul and traditional tribal leaders and warlords have real control over most of the country. Scheduled elections may need to be postponed because of the inability of the international community to register voters in the countryside due to lack of security. Opium production is reaching record new levels. Our job in Afghanistan is clearly not done.

Our national security officials cannot focus on an infinite number of problems at once. There are only so many hours a day for the National Security Advisor, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and other top officials to do their work. They can't focus on everything and must make choices. There can be no doubt that Iraq required an incredible amount of time and resources in order to succeed. What is the opportunity cost? I fear that part of the reason for the slow progress in Afghanistan is the result of diversion of resources and attention to the invasion and reconstruction of Iraq.

The commitment of time, money and resources to Iraq has also impacted our homeland security. The war, occupation and reconstruction costs in Iraq are likely to exceed \$250 billion. That is a huge expenditure. By focusing our scarce resources during an economic downturn on Iraq, much less has been available to fund our first responders and protect our country.

A recent independent review of our homeland security efforts by the Century Foundation found major deficiencies. Their Homeland Security Report Card clearly indicates that a safer America will require significant improvements by the Department of Homeland Security. While there have been successes in passenger screening, the air marshal program and infrastructure analysis, this report highlights serious and disturbing shortcomings that leave Americans vulnerable. Protecting private planes, securing air cargo, providing funding for first responders, and better immigration oversight are critical to our security. It is disappointing to find that, according to the Century Foundation's report, in these areas we may be worse off than before September 11.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to stop focusing on rhetoric about Iraq and begin to focus on the facts. We need to spend less time trying to portray loyal Americans as soft on terrorism because they raise questions and want to debate the most effective ways to prevent terrorism and protect Americans. A full and healthy national debate, in Congress and around the country, will not weaken our resolve, it will strengthen us. Building a consensus policy to combat terrorism will allow us to move forward united. A consensus policy will reduce friction about dedication of resources and will allow us to sustain a consistent policy for the duration of our fight against terrorism. That is the debate we should have had. That is the debate our country needs to have.

NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases, which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of a family in my district, the Driscolls. Kerstin and Dean Driscoll are from Greene, NY and have two sons who were born with an extremely rare PIDD called X-Linked Agammaglobulinemia, or XLA. Zack, 11, and Alex, 9, are confronting XLA head on. XLA is a genetic disorder that prevents production of B-cell antibodies that fight infection. When Zack was 3 years old and Alex only 9 months, they suffered chronic ear and sinus infections. Their recurring illnesses remained a mystery to their parents and doctors, until tests were done to confirm that the boys had primary immune deficiency diseases.

Soon after their diagnosis, Zack and Alex were treated with an immune globulin infusion (IGIV), which is prepared from the plasma of many blood donors, to support their immune systems. Zack and Alex receive their IGIV infusions once every 3 weeks and the infusion takes approximately 4 hours.

Zack and Alex are lucky because their primary immune deficiency disease was diagnosed early. However, despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Driscolls face their sons' PIDD head on, by becoming active with the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Therefore, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

COMMEMORATING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, and pay my respects to the innocent people who died at the brutal hand of the Holocaust.

An anniversary like this is often filled with mixed messages of hope and sorrow, pain and promise. While these words contradict each other on paper, they live together in our hearts and minds on a day like today.

The emotions of sorrow and pain are easy to feel. By the time World War II was finished, 6 million Jews died for no reason. Countless families had been torn apart, Europe was virtually demolished, and the horrors of the Nazi regime were scarred into the minds of the entire civilized world. Looking at this tragedy, it is easy to see only bad things. It is easy to view the worst in people.

But, it was difficult, impossible in fact, to stop the world from denouncing these atrocities, and saying, "Never Again." Human-kind had the hope and promise to try to make this world better—to try to make this world more understanding and open.

The world has come a long way since the darkness of the 30's and 40's. In the almost 60 years since the Holocaust ended, we have become a more open and understanding society. But, our quest for a better world is constantly battling hate, discrimination and anti-Semitism.

We all know the violence that is carried out by those who hate. But, I also know that if our ancestors could get through World War II and the Holocaust, we can survive our own battle against hate and terror, and make the world safer for our children.

Mr. Speaker, Yom Hashoah serves as a memorial to those who both survived and lost their lives from the Holocaust. Let it also be a day to reaffirm our commitment to the values that won . . . love, honor and respect.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PFC. CHANCE PHELPS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Private First Class Chance Phelps, who honorably devoted his life to defending the freedoms of our nation. A member of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Chance was recently killed while defending the freedoms of the Iraqi people in Ramadi, outside of Baghdad. His story is one of honor, selflessness and sacrifice. As we mourn the loss of an American patriot, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress, and our nation, to the sacrifice that Chance made on behalf of a grateful nation.

A tall and athletic nineteen-year-old, Chance attended Moffat County and Palisade high schools where he was known for his fun-loving nature and being an avid outdoorsman. He came from a family with a rich military tradition, his father John being a Vietnam veteran, and his sister Kelley working at the Pentagon. After the terrorist bombings of 9-11, Chance knew that he had to do something for his nation, and resolved to join the Marines. As a dedicated member of our armed forces and as a patriot, he answered the call of duty, embarking on a journey to defend freedom and independence.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Chance Phelps will be sorely missed, and although we