

In addition to the individual awards for bravery, KERRY's unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon by President Richard Nixon.

I could go on, but I have to say I am ashamed to hear the statements that are being made by Republicans, by my colleagues on the other side, talking about Senator KERRY, who served so honorably, who was a decorated veteran. And if he decided that he wanted to question the Vietnam War after serving in it, that was his right as an American.

PRAISE KERRY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, JOHN KERRY did serve his country honorably in Vietnam and stood up with many Americans to question a war that had lost purpose and was losing many American lives.

JOHN KERRY's speech played an important role in moving the debate from the streets to the floor of the Senate. The Nixon administration was not responding to the changes in the war in Vietnam and was deceiving the American people about the war.

KERRY's testimony saved lives. KERRY and other veterans who marched in D.C. in 1971 exercised the same patriotism that drove them to serve their country in the battle in Vietnam. They had fought for liberty and freedom of expression for the Vietnamese, and they returned to the United States to stand up and be heard. His actions should be praised, not scorned.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BUSH'S WAR ON ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we see the Iraq war in the newspapers every morning and on the television every evening, but we are not seeing reports on the administration's undeclared war on the environment.

It is a war. It is being fought on our own soil, and the polluters are winning.

This Earth Day this administration has launched a full frontal assault on the environment. The assaults include the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we cherish, the fish in the sea and the people themselves.

I am a doctor. My medical training and experience taught me you have to treat illness by curing the problem, not by treating the symptoms. This administration does neither. We could write a prescription, but it will not be filled while this President is in office.

Air pollution shortens the lives of thousands of Americans, and air pollution worsens the lives of millions more. Breathing polluted air is bad enough when you are in good health. It can be catastrophic when you suffer from any one of a number of respiratory illnesses.

When I was a kid, I had asthma. It is a respiratory illness which can clog or even close the bronchial tubes which carry air to the lungs. In other words, asthma can impair the ability to breathe. In severe cases, asthma can be life-threatening and require immediate medical attention. An asthma attack can be triggered by smoke and by environmental pollution. And we have seen the enemy, and it is the administration.

The environmental pollution this administration has let loose on America saves the polluters millions of dollars, but costs individual Americans dearly. Do not take my word for it. Ask anyone with asthma or any other person with a respiratory condition in this country.

Respiratory problems are just one area of medicine impacted severely and negatively by pollution. There are others, from skin disease, to chronic allergy, to a host of medical problems hurting Americans, young and old. Polluters have poisoned water supplies. They have contaminated rivers and streams. And worst of all, they are getting away with it. They are changing the rules.

This country is more in danger at 5 o'clock on Friday than at any other time environmentally during the week because that is when the administration puts out the new regulations under the radar, no press conference, no anything, just give the polluters an open door. They invite them to secret meetings to craft America's energy policy. This administration does not look the other way. Instead they hold fund raisers.

The President cannot remember making a mistake the other day on television. I cannot remember the President doing anything right about the environment. The record is that abysmal. And unless we change administrations this November, it will only get worse.

In my home State of Washington, it takes committed local organizations like the People for Puget Sound and others to monitor the regulators. In my home State of Washington, we now fear new environmental actions Repub-

licans openly hint about that may harm or kill whales, porpoises and dolphins.

No one and nothing is safe from the undisclosed war of this President on the environment. Now, whales cannot vote, but we can. Porpoises cannot vote, but we can. Dolphins cannot vote, but we can. Children cannot vote, but we can. Lakes and streams cannot vote, but we can. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge cannot vote, but we can. The water, the air, and the Earth cannot vote. We must vote on their behalf.

This is Earth Day. Sadly, the Earth is in grave danger, much greater than it was in 1970s when this first was put on the calendar. We know who is responsible, and we know why. It is all about money, about greed. Energy producers are saying, we cannot clean up the air.

In the President's own State, the major city is one of the most polluted in the country. When he was Governor, he did nothing. When he is President, he does nothing. Houston might as well not have a President or a Governor.

We must save the planet before it is too late, and the sand is quickly flowing out of the hour glass. Today is the day we decide to vote for the planet and vote this President out of office in November.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is an important time to focus on how we can deal with this painful and preventable scourge on America's children.

It is estimated that a staggering 896,000 children were neglected or abused in the United States in 2002, approximately 12 out of every 1,000 children. In 2001, there were 1,300 deaths from neglect or abuse, but some estimate that half the deaths from neglect go unrecorded. And although cases of abuse have dropped slightly since the 1990s, the number has remained alarmingly steady in recent years. Most times the abuse is from a parent, and there is abuse at all income levels.

The effects go far beyond the immediate and obvious impact. There are long-term consequences that include developmental delays, learning disorders, aggressive behavior and depression. Now, these consequences do not just affect the individual, but they effect society as a whole. Survivors are at a greater risk later in life to abuse their own children.

State, Federal, and local governments, human service agencies, schools, faith-based groups and health care facilities have a stake in helping to prevent child abuse. These groups can all work together with combined resources to improve protective factors such as parenting skills and attitudes.

At the same time by working together they can reduce risk factors such as parent depression, caregiver stress and children's behavior problems. These risk factors are critically important because they can precipitate the rage that leads to abuse.

It is well worth noting that this is not just a problem of poverty, but all walks of life. This is not the family in the other part of town. This is our neighbors next door, down the street, or around the corner. This is not someone else's problem. This is all of our problem.

Now, there have been positive accomplishments by those who work at the Federal level, notably passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, but we cannot solve the problems of child abuse by laws alone. And there is an alarming lack of coordination among the Federal agencies that are already in place to prevent and treat victims of abuse. When one considers the fact that there are 33 offices, agencies and bureaus in the Federal Government that deal with child abuse, added to the fact that there are a staggering 46 separate streams of funding, it is a wonder that anything gets accomplished.

The old cliché, the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing, may well fit here.

The Federal Government cannot single-handedly stop child abuse, but it can provide valuable tools to assist those working to save our families and our children. Right now, however, the system is splintered, disjointed and sometimes ineffective.

□ 1700

Next month the Committee on Government Reform will hold important hearings on cleaning up the Federal Government's approach to preventing and treating child abuse; but with a steady 900,000 cases per year, despite the millions and millions and millions spent by the Federal, State and local government, it is clear the current approach is failing.

We must streamline these agencies and funding streams. We cannot just preach a proactive approach to stopping child abuse. We must also set the example. The most direct way to end child abuse is to stop it before it starts. Prevention and early intervention is the key.

Community-based programs have shown positive improvements by utilizing a proactive approach that includes improving parenting skills and attitudes, as well as reducing risk factors such as parental depression, caregiver drug use, caregiver stress, and children's behavior problems. President Bush's fiscal year budget proposal shows a commitment to helping our children by doubling funding for two critical funding programs, money that provides funds to States.

It is also imperative that we streamline the Federal system and ensure that money being spent is utilized effectively in programs that work.

We owe our children nothing less than the right to feel safe in their own homes with their own parents. It is a duty that is a responsibility and a moral obligation that we all share. We must do our part here in Washington.

I call upon all Americans to take an active role, to open their hearts to America's hurting children. I call upon all Members of Congress to recognize that of all the things we do, of all the things we do, stopping the pain, stopping the rage against our innocent children could indeed be the most courageous and noblest task of all.

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

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN), the next speaker.

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

There was no objection.

EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 34th annual celebration of Earth Day. I have a long-standing commitment to conservation and environmental protection, as well as to peace and justice; and I am pleased to join in today's celebration.

Earth Day festivities take place all across the country. I would like to pay special tribute to my constituents in Dallas, Texas, who are so active in their support of environmental issues.

I would like to give special recognition to TXU under the leadership of Mr. Earl Ney, who has shown a great deal of sensitivity in correcting many of the environmental damaging fumes from their electrical power plans, and to Mr. Stavely of Irving, Texas, who led the dry cleaning industry into taking a responsible position of establishing a State fund to share in cleaning up industrial waste.

The city of Dallas will recognize Earth Day on Friday with a celebration of live entertainment and educational exhibits. I would like also to pay tribute to Bonnie Bowman, a north Texan, who has championed a host of environmental causes from clean air and water to recycling and tree preservation. Those efforts have garnered her

special recognition this Earth Day in the form of an environmental awareness award from the League of Women Voters, and Trammel Crow who back over the years planted many trees back along the highways.

In 1963 following President Kennedy's death, the Nation was reminded of his words he had spoken the year before: "Never have the nations of the world had so much to lose, or so much to gain. Together we can save our planet, or together perish in its flames. Save it we can, and save it we must." We must ensure that diversity of life on Earth and enrich the quality of life now and for future generations.

Today, however, many of the environmental gains of the past 34 years are under attack or have been rolled back. The Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act have been weakened. EPA enforcement funds have been cut. The "polluter pays" principle for cleaning up toxic waste sites has been abandoned. Mining and logging on public lands have increased, protection from wilderness areas has been removed, and attempts are being made to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling and weaken protections for the California coast.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is already the Nation's mercury hot spot, and our children should not be suffering from the toxic exposure. Texas leads the Nation in mercury pollution from coal plants. Nineteen coal-burning plants spew out nearly 9,000 pounds of toxic mercury per year in Texas. Coal waste contains mercury that can leach into the waterways as well. Utilities, the largest source of mercury, 34 percent, are the only industry unregulated for this dangerous pollutant.

I consider environmental protection to be a national priority. I pledge to work with my colleagues to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the public's health. Today, as we celebrate Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner and more peaceful world.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INDICATORS 2004 REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I transmit herewith a report prepared for the Congress and the Administration by the National Science Board entitled, "Science and Engineering Indicators—2004." This report represents the sixteenth in the series examining key aspects of the status of science and engineering in the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 22, 2004.