

HONORING SPECIALIST JUSTIN JOHNSON

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of a true American hero, Specialist Justin Johnson from Floyd County, Georgia. Specialist Johnson was killed in action on April 10, 2004, when he was hit by shrapnel from a roadside bomb in Iraq. He is the first soldier from Floyd County to fall in our effort to free the Iraqi people.

Like countless others after 9/11, Justin felt called to serve and protect his country, so he enlisted in the Army. Prior to enlisting in the Army, Justin worked construction with his father, Joe, who was himself a retired soldier. By enlisting, Justin proudly followed in the footsteps of his father and his older brother, Josh, who is currently stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Like his father, Justin was a forward artillery observer.

On April 10 Justin had only been in Baghdad 8 days when he was riding gunner on a Humvee and paid the ultimate price. His mother received word of his death when she returned home from church on Easter Sunday and just 2 weeks after undergoing major surgery. The news came to her as her husband, Justin's father, was joining a National Guard unit in Washington State that was preparing to deploy to Iraq so as to be with his son in the defense of our Nation. As they had earlier on the construction site, Justin and his father would have worked together, worked in the rebuilding of Iraq and assuring their freedom and protecting the world from terrorism.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and I was moved by their reaction to this tragic event. When I spoke to them, all they could say was that their loss had only made them more resolute in their conviction about the rightness of this war; and Mrs. Johnson was especially vocal about how America's efforts have given her, and all Americans, a freedom from fear. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson remain firm in their support of President Bush's stand in Iraq and declared that he is a "true man of God."

At Specialist Johnson's funeral, when a bugler began to play taps and the honor guard fired a rifle volley, Joe Johnson saluted his son for the last time as they laid him to rest. Justin was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his heroic service.

Mr. Chairman, this is a proud American family giving all that they have to their country and more. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are to be commended and honored for their sacrifice, and my thoughts and prayers remain with them as they endure this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask to take the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

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

There was no objection.

CYPRUS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, 2 days from now the people of Cyprus will take a historical vote on the future of their country, voting on a referendum finalized several weeks ago by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Secretary General Annan has dedicated a great deal of time over the past couple of years to finally resolving the 30-year Cyprus problem. He has been extremely patient in dealing with the intransigence of Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, intransigence that continues to this day.

Having met with the Secretary General last month, I have no doubt that he understands the concerns of both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots; but unfortunately, his final plan unfairly benefits the Turkish side and does not achieve the goal of truly reunifying the island nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have serious reservations about the final Annan plan because it forces the Cypriot people to put too much faith in the Turkish Government. When Cypriots go to the voting booth on the 24th, they are forced to take the Turkish Government at its word that the Turkish parliament will ratify the treaty. The Cypriots are forced to take the Turkish Government at its word that occupied land will be returned to its rightful owners 3 to 5 years down the line, and the Cypriots are forced to believe that Turkey will remove its troops according to the

timetable in the Annan plan and are forced to deal with the fact that Turkish troops will remain in Cyprus forever with Turkey having the unilateral right to intervene at any time.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, the final Annan plan gives Turkey too much opportunity to either delay or not implement critical property and security issues in the years to come.

When I met with the Secretary General, I strongly recommended that the U.N. maintain a presence on the island as long as the Turkish Army remains. The Secretary General assured me that U.N. forces would remain on Cyprus for a considerable amount of time, but his final plan allows Turkish troops to stay indefinitely without an international presence; and I find this simply unacceptable. I am extremely worried about the actions Turkish troops might take with the absence of a neutral international presence to keep them in line. I am also concerned that Turkey will not abide by the final agreement and its troops will contribute to further instability and insecurity.

Over the next couple of weeks, the people of Cyprus will carefully analyze this plan and determine if it provides the best framework for the island nation to enter the European Union united. This is their decision alone, and outside forces should not attempt to scare or threaten them into voting a certain way. Whatever the outcome, it is important the international community and the United States honor that decision and work to ensure Cyprus's future remains bright.

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

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

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

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

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over 700 Americans have given their lives for the war in Iraq, a conflict with no end in sight. That number does not take into consideration the report the Pentagon just released stating that over 18,000, 18,000 soldiers have been evacuated from Iraq for medical reasons, nor does it take into consideration the billions of dollars the United States has spent to date on this conflict or the international goodwill we are squandering.

We were told that this war was necessary to keep us safe. We were told last November that by sending another \$87 billion for military operations and reconstruction, on top of just a few months earlier \$78 billion for the same purposes, that Iraq would be in better shape and that our soldiers across the world would have the support that they need.

The fact is, even after Congress approved \$155 billion in supplemental spending bills, Iraq is not in better shape; and many of our troops in Iraq still lack the equipment that is essential for their survival: body armor capable of stopping bullets; armor for tanks that will help prevent the destruction of U.S. military convoys; and the necessary water equipment to keep them hydrated in the desert heat.

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Under the Bush administration, the annual Pentagon budget has grown from \$310 billion in fiscal year 2001 to \$420 billion in fiscal year 2005, an increase of 35 percent in just 4 years. At the same time the United States spends outrageous amounts of money on outdated weapon systems, America's contribution to U.N. peacekeeping missions has suffered a 6.5 percent cut, despite the fact that several critical peacekeeping missions will be launched in the coming year.

There has to be a better way, and there is, one that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, and one that is consistent with American values. I have introduced legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for sensible multilateral American response to terrorism.

We need to shift our budget priorities so that they reflect the true security needs of the American people instead of spending billions on new bunker-buster nuclear weapons and the President's beloved missile defense system, which would not provide an effective defense against a full frontal missile attack in the first place.

SMART security calls for stronger and smarter investments abroad in peacekeeping and conflict prevention programs and at home on homeland security and first responders. SMART security means creating a permanent postconflict unit that provides the first layer of reconstruction in countries that have been devastated by war and/or by oppressed dictators, like Iraq and Afghanistan. And SMART would mean

funding all Army peacekeeping units devoted to studying and preparing for future peacekeeping missions. SMART would develop a real strategy for energy independence because nothing threatens our national security more than our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership.

SMART security is tough, pragmatic and patriotic. SMART security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

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

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

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here on the floor to talk about an extraordinary event that took place in our Nation's Capital today and what it signifies to me.

I attended the Holocaust Memorial and Remembrance Program that took place in the dome of the United States Capitol. I was struck by two different feelings as I sat there and I listened to one extraordinary remembrance and speech after another. The first was, of course, that feeling that always startles me; that man's inhumanity to man knows no bounds, and that a mere 60 years ago 6 million Jews were exterminated throughout the world. Their only transgression was the fact that they were Jewish.

I was also struck by the incredible fact that 60 years after this most heinous episode in our civilized world's history, that there we were, generation after generation after generation of survivors, those that survived, their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, all gathered under the dome of the United States Capitol, the very seat of power, the most important and strongest Nation in the world. And here we have a seat at the table where we are welcomed, where we are valued as citizens, and where we have an opportunity to participate in our government as we have never been able to participate before. Here we gather not only to remember those that lost their lives in the Holocaust, but to ensure that something that happened 60 years ago could never ever happen again.

I am second-generation American. My grandparents walked across Europe to come to this country. My mother's side of the family comes from Salonika, Greece. Prior to World War II, prior to the Nazis, there were 80,000 Jews in Salonika. By the time the Nazis finished, there were merely 1,000 left. I am not presumptuous enough to think I would have been among the 1,000 selected to live.

On my father's side, the Russia-Poland side, there were no towns, no Jews. Hundreds and hundreds of years of a rich culture and civilization obliterated, exterminated in the course of the Second World War.

When my grandparents came to this country, they could not speak the language, they had no money, they had no skills, but they had a dream, and that dream was that their children and their children's children would lead a better life here in the United States than they had where they came from. My grandparents, who could not speak English, have a granddaughter who serves in the United States House of Representatives. It does not get better than that.

Last year, I had an opportunity to go back to Greece, back to Salonika to meet with the 1,000 Jews that survived and their children and grandchildren. I was there to help rededicate the Holocaust memorial, and I remember standing there in a beautiful plaza with Greek Orthodox and Jewish Greeks knowing that if my grandparents had not gotten out when they did, that memorial would have been to them, and I would not exist.

So for those who organized this extraordinary day of remembrance, to all those that spoke, to everybody that participated, and to all our fellow countrymen, let me give you a hearty and heartfelt thank you for giving me the opportunity I have to live in this incredible country, but also tasking me with a responsibility that future generations of our world citizens will never, never have to go through what this world went through 60 years ago.

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

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

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

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

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

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