

Congressional District of Michigan. Should I have been present for today's legislative business, I would have voted "yea" on approving the Journal (rollcall No. 25); "yea" on approving H.R. 2707, The Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (rollcall No. 26); and "yea" on S. 714, the land transfer of Bureau of Land Management property to Douglas County, Oregon (rollcall No. 27).

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3473

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3473.

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

There was no objection.

U.S. POLICY UNDERMINES HAITIAN GOVERNMENT

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a Member elected from Florida, I have always supported the citizens of Haiti, and I was one of the ones that went and witnessed the fair election of Mr. Aristide.

Let me just say that it was just as fair as the election that took place in Florida. But sadly, even though Haiti is right off the shores of Florida, this administration has treated Haitians and the Haitian people like unwanted stepchildren.

Right now in Haiti, people are starving to death and being slaughtered in the streets, and the U.S. is nowhere to be found. U.S. policy has undermined the Government of Haiti. Let me say again, the U.S. policy has undermined the duly-elected Government of Haiti and continues today to threaten the very lives of the Haitian people.

I ask this President, how can he justify our attack of Iraq by claiming we are building a democracy while he sits idly by and watches a democracy in Haiti being destroyed by thugs whose only goal is to steal power from a duly-elected President?

Shame on you, Mr. President.

HONORING ERIC ULYSSES RAMIREZ, AN AMERICAN HERO

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express the condolences of a grateful Nation. I rise so that this Nation will never forget the service and sacrifice of those fallen while working to keep us free.

I rise today specifically to honor the life of Eric Ulysses Ramirez. Specialist Ramirez was killed when his unit was attacked by Iraqi insurgents.

Eric was a sheriff's deputy and a National Guardsman who answered the call to duty when his unit was activated last February. He only had 42 days remaining before his planned return to family and friends when his unit was attacked by RPG, cutting short the life of a young father.

This past weekend I attended services for Specialist Ramirez and can share with my colleagues that his family is very supportive of our actions in Iraq and that we need to honor the fact that he has a very loving wife, children, and parents, and his parents actually live in my district.

We know very well that our freedom could not have been won nor our liberty maintained without those willing to make this ultimate sacrifice, but I know that these are very weak words to the grieving family left behind. I pray that the Lord and that everyone who knew Eric will maintain their memory of Eric and that this will help to assuage their pain.

Eric was a loving father, son, and husband, and this country owes its freedom to Eric and those who came before him. So do the citizens of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this American hero.

URGING U.S. TO MOVE FORWARD IN PROVIDING SECURITY IN HAITI

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Bush administration to move forward in providing the kind of security that we need in Haiti right now. On average, every day in Haiti, 15 to 16 Haitian nationals are losing their lives due to rebel forces and anti-Aristide forces.

I will tell my colleagues right now that the violence will continue to escalate. The rebels are getting more and more arms. They are getting body armor, they are getting helmets, they are getting all of the things that they need to continue to carry on the nightmare in Haiti.

I want to say to the U.S. citizens here tonight, standing by will not make things better in Haiti. Being from Florida and being from Miami, Florida, there is going to be a number of individuals coming to our shores if we do not stand in and intervene now. It is important that the U.S. moves forth with France and Canada, who are willing to bring about peace in Haiti, so that we can have diplomatic talks with the opposition forces.

The reason why there was not an agreement today at 5 o'clock is because there is no agreement to be made. The rebels cannot be controlled by opposition parties right now, and it is important that this administration acts now before military action will be paramount.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to celebrate Black History Month and the achievements and the accomplishments of African Americans in America, today I would like to recognize Elizabeth City State University, one of our historically black universities located in my congressional district, and Chancellor Mickey Burnham, trustees, faculty, alumni, and students.

Elizabeth City State University was founded in 1891 "for the purpose of teaching and training teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of North Carolina." Just three decades after the Civil War ended, African Americans worked hard to live up to the ideals of liberty and freedom. Although there were many challenges faced by African Americans, many persevered and took advantage of established institutions such as Elizabeth City State University in the hopes of educating African Americans.

□ 1945

Despite the obstacles, there was a positive belief that the key to a successful future lies in education. This belief remains today.

As I think about the bright educators and students trying to be triumphant over adversity, I feel very proud of Elizabeth City State University. I wish Elizabeth City State University continued good fortune and success as they work to educate all of our people.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER RICARDO LIZARRAGA

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and regret that I rise to inform my colleagues of the death of Los Angeles Police Department Officer Ricardo Lizarraga, who was killed in the line of duty on Friday, February 20, 2004, while answering a domestic violence dispute in the area of Western and Vernon Avenue in my district. Officer Lizarraga became the first LAPD officer since 1998 to be shot and killed in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, as many of us know, domestic violence calls can be the most volatile and unpredictable situations to which police officers respond. After a woman flagged down Officer Lizarraga's police car and asked for help, the officer and his partner went to remove an abusive boyfriend from her apartment. According to official accounts, the suspect emerged with a gun and shot the 30-year-old officer just below his bulletproof vest.

Officer Lizarraga had only recently joined the police force 2 years ago. Fellow officers described him as cheerful,

soft-spoken, hardworking, who loved his job and in April had landed an assignment on a fledgling special problems unit in the Newton division, where my father served and died of injuries related to his service. A fellow officer called Officer Lizarraga a gentle giant, who could look intimidating; but all one had to do was talk to him, and he would respond softly. He was very nice, very quiet, and it belied his stature.

Officer Lizarraga was born and raised in Los Angeles and attended Hamilton High School and Santa Monica College. He worked for the Ralphs Supermarket chain before fulfilling a long-time goal of joining the LAPD in September 2001. He leaves a wife, Joyce, and a mother who resides in Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies are extended to Officer Lizarraga's colleagues at the LAPD and his wife, family, and friends. It is my sincerest hope that Officer Lizarraga's death will not be in vain, but once again remind us that our business is unfinished in dealing with domestic violence, gang violence, and the proliferation of handguns which remain the weapons of mass destruction in many of our Nation's urban areas.

A TRAGEDY IS OCCURRING

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy is occurring off our shores. A duly-elected government in Haiti, President Jean Bertrand Aristide's government, is in jeopardy. He is being challenged by the former FRAPH, a paramilitary group of outlaws and bandits, the former military leaders who are across the border in the Dominican Republic and drug dealers who have taken over parts of that country, using their influence to corrupt the citizenry.

On the other hand, we have a person who is duly elected, President Aristide. I cannot understand why our Nation that stands for democracy all over the world stands idly by while we let thugs who are burning and raping and looting take a free hand.

The French have said we are willing to go in. We have 4,000 troops, as a matter of fact; and they even said, as a matter of fact, U.S.A., we do not need you, just support us.

I urge our government to help the people of Haiti by coming up with a diplomatic solution to the problem in that country.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1997, UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2004

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-427) on the resolution (H. Res. 529) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1997) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform

Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN HAITI

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the bloody spectacle of this week is not the release of Mel Gibson's gory movie exploiting the suffering of Jesus Christ. In this hemisphere, 600 miles from our shores, blood is flowing in the streets of Haiti with the complicity of the Bush administration. This White House and its agents are like Pontius Pilate, pretending to wash their hands while the democratic nation of Haiti is assassinated.

At least one former CIA asset has been identified as a leader of the band of savage guerrillas. The people of the United States must turn their backs on this conspiracy and demand that the democratic nation of Haiti, the democratic government, the duly-elected President of Haiti be supported by the United States Government and that Aristide be allowed to serve out his next 2 years without any compromise with bands of thugs in the street.

There is only one opposition. The so-called civil opposition is not civil at all. They operate hand in hand with the violence. Stop the violence and support democracy in Haiti.

ANARCHY IS HAPPENING TO OUR NEIGHBOR

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, if not now, when? Blood is in the streets. Anarchy is happening to our neighbor right next door, our third border is at stake. It is time for the United States of America to take serious the activities that are taking place on that island called Haiti, for indeed we should have been there long ago, talking and trying to negotiate and bringing things so that democracy can prevail.

We are the largest democracy on the planet Earth; and if democracy means anything, we should look just 90 miles off our shores and say that we are going to support and stand for democracy and not stand for anything that will be less than that, where mere villains and thugs can then take over a country.

We should stand strong and say that we are not going to allow that to happen, that we want democracy to flourish everywhere, not just overseas, not just away from home, but right on our third border. That protection that we need, we should be mounting the troops together, the United Nations as well as other foreign countries, to bring to the people on the ground peace.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the headline reads, "Haitians Man Barricades Against Armed Rebels."

Mr. Speaker, this is the 200th year of the anniversary of independence of our friends who live in Haiti. If my colleagues recall, in the founding of our constitutional country, it was the Haitians who helped us claim our independence. How can we stand idly by and not demand for them justice, equality, and democracy? How can we watch blood run in the streets and not provide peacekeeping troops and the dignity to provide all of them an equal opportunity? As the President, who was duly elected, stands against the rage of the insurgents, we stand idly by.

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State, it is time now for us to deal with democracy here at our very shore and then, Mr. Speaker, might I say, do not, do not denounce or do not disregard the fact that there will be thousands of Haitian refugees which we have to deal with. We are not addressing the question of those refugees or possible immigrants coming into this country. We need to be prepared and provide the asylum and provide the coverage and the opportunity for them to be here.

I simply say that now is the time for us to act. It is important for peacekeeping troops to go to Haiti now.

HAITI'S HISTORY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as President Bush makes his decision about sending troops to Haiti, I wish that he would look at Haiti's history and would look at the history of our relationship with Haiti.

210 years ago, Haiti was a nation as wealthy as the 13 Colonies. After a slave revolt, Haiti in the early part of the next century, in 1804, proclaimed its independence. Our government, a country with slave owners, would not recognize the government of Haiti, a country where slaves were now running the government, running the country, former slaves. We did not recognize them for more than 50 years; and then, Mr. Speaker, the United States Marines, in the early part of this century, occupied Haiti.

Some years later, when Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier were in power in Haiti, U.S. interests funded and propped his government up, a bloody dictatorship. So now that President Aristide is in power, Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize this democracy. We have to deal with that as a democracy of equals.