

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), my brilliant co-chair. And I also did not see him at the Boston convention; but, nonetheless, he would have been welcome, as was everybody there.

This is indeed a moment for us to celebrate the outstanding job that was done both in Boston and New York, led by Mayors Thomas Menino and Michael Bloomberg, respectively. Their tireless efforts to make the 2004 major-party conventions such successful events are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the two police commissioners, Kathleen O'Toole of Boston and Raymond Kelly of New York, now there is diversity for you, for making it possible for the delegates to nominate their candidates, which of course is the purpose of the convention.

I also want to thank the thousands of other public employees who helped to make this possible, not only the Boston and New York municipal governments but also at all levels, Federal, State, and local; and of course as the chairman has already pointed out, the outstanding job that was done by our Capitol Police and all the security that went into these two wonderful events.

I would especially like to thank the Massachusetts delegation for the hospitality that they provided for each and every one of us, and of course their two great Senators, Senator KENNEDY, for which this was a homecoming, and Senator KERRY as well, who was featured prominently in Boston as well, and our outstanding House delegation here from Boston as well. So I thank the chairman and join him in these remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that I am sure the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), did a wonderful job at the convention in Boston; and as far as our convention in New York, I want to thank the Speaker and also Scott Palmer, Ted Van Der Meid, and Bill Pitts, who did the rules and carried out the process at the convention and service to the Members.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the cities and residents of Boston and New York City for their tremendous efforts in hosting this year's national political conventions. With two of the Nation's most historic and vibrant cities as their backdrops, the Democrat and Republican conventions were both great successes.

Boston and New York have long been known as centers of culture, education, and heritage. After this summer's conventions, it is apparent why they are also recognized for their hospitality, charm, and warm spirit. As tens of thousands of delegates, elected officials, volunteers, and tourists converged on these great cities, countless others worked behind the scenes and on the front lines to make sure programs ran smoothly and safely. These individuals labored tirelessly, not just during the conventions but for several weeks prior, crossing every "T" and dotting every "I."

These events would not have been possible without the efforts of everyone involved. A special thanks to those at the city, State, and regional, as well as national, levels who coordinated and secured the safety of Boston and New York. This includes, of course, the city police and fire departments, the United States Secret Service, the United States Capitol Police, and numerous other agencies that coordinated protective services for both convention-goers and city residents alike.

As the first political conventions held in the post-9/11 world, our police, firefighters, and first responders faced security risks never before envisioned. True to their great reputations, the respective agencies of New York and Boston exhibited consummate professionalism and ensured the safety and security of all those attending and visiting these great cities.

Those accolades extend as well to our Capitol Police and those Federal agencies that worked side by side with their brethren in New York and Boston to ensure a seamless coordination.

Mr. Speaker, the cities of Boston and New York have long represented the freedoms and liberty that nurtured democracy in this country. Today, several hundred years later, one of the best enduring examples of these fundamental rights is the ability to participate in the political process. National political conventions provide a forum for this participation like no other.

To all those who helped make the conventions possible, and to the gracious residents of Boston and New York, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks on behalf of the House for helping to foster greater political participation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in expressing gratitude to the cities of Boston and New York.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 765.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Resolution 765, the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

ONCOLOGISTS GIVE CONGRESS BAD NEWS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, oncology services are critical for Texans. The American Cancer Society expected 83,400 new cancer patients for Texas in 2003.

Cancer sufferers need access to care near where they live, and they need stability of care. An accessible, caring oncology clinic is welcome news for people who have heard some very bad news from their diagnosis. Congress gave some very bad news to oncologists in the passage of the Medicare bill this past session.

The American Society of Clinical Oncology came out on September 8 with their take on the effects of this bill. Their analysis finds that half of practices expect that they will pay more than they are reimbursed for specific drugs for anemia or lung, colon, or pancreas cancers; that they expect a loss of funds for community-based cancer care in the range of 43 to 54 percent; and that one-fourth of the drugs used for cancer treatment will cost the typical oncology practice more than what is covered by Medicare.

I urge my colleagues to press for restoring oncologists' ability to give cancer patients the ability and stability in treatment they need to fight their illnesses. Congress should not deny the drugs necessary to those who need them in this life or death struggle.

U.S. ECONOMY IS IN A MESS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, every time I hear the administration announce that the economy is going very well, I wish they could ride home on a United Airlines flight with me. On the way back today, four out of the six flight attendants raised the same question with me: Is there money in the pension guarantee fund for our pensions?

Mr. Speaker, we know that this country is in a mess. USAir declared bankruptcy this morning. There go the pension for those folks. And Delta Airlines over the weekend, they are talking

about it. They are saying if the pilots take those pensions, they will bankrupt the company; it will be gone. United is in the same position. All those people who were out there with Enron, Enron went down; and what did they have left? All they had left was Social Security. Nothing, if this administration had its way.

We have an administration that has to be changed. We have lost 1.4 million people's health insurance, 1.5 million people's jobs, and countless numbers of pensions. The regime change ought to come in 49 days.

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S 2004 OLYMPIANS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the participants of the 2004 Summer Olympics from California. Last month, 537 American athletes traveled to Athens to compete for what is arguably the most esteemed prize in the sporting world, an Olympic medal. Among them, were 143 athletes from my own home State of California, and I was able to witness their success.

Our California Olympians made their country proud, winning 78 medals: 31 were gold, 17 silver, and 30 bronze. As representative of the 33rd Congressional District, I would like to honor these California Olympians and their contributions to the Golden State's tradition of individual and collective human achievement.

In particular, I wish to enter into the RECORD the names of those Californians who brought home Olympic gold from Athens:

Lindsay Benko, Women's Swimming, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Laura Berg, Women's Softball; Shannon Boxx, Women's Soccer; Crystl Bustos, Women's Softball; Brandi Chastain, Women's Soccer; Natalie Coughlin, Women's Swimming, 100 Meter; Backstroke, 4x200 Meter Freestyle Relay; Matthew Deakin, Men's Rowing.

Joy Fawcett, Women's Soccer; Lisa Fernandez, Women's Softball; Jennie Finch, Women's Softball; Tairia Flowers, Women's Softball; Julie Foudy, Women's Soccer; Amanda Freed, Women's Softball; Yolanda Griffith, Women's Basketball; Joanna Hayes, Women's 100 Meter Hurdles.

Monique Henderson, Women's 4x400 Meter Relay; Lovieanne Jung, Women's Softball; Lenny Krayzelburg, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Lisa Leslie, Women's Basketball; Jason Lezak, Men's Swimming, 4x100 Meter Medley Relay; Misty May, Women's Beach Volleyball; Jessica Mendoza, Women's Softball.

Stacey Nuvean, Women's Softball; Leah O'Brien-Amico, Women's Softball; Kimberly Rhode, Women's Double Trap Shooting; Diana Taurasi, Women's Basketball; Jenny Topping, Women's Softball; Alyson Wagner, Women's Soccer; Kerri Walsh, Women's Volleyball; Andre Ward, Men's Light Heavyweight Boxing; Natasha Renee Watley, Women's Softball.

The talent, dedication and sportsmanship of our California Olympians serves to inspire all of us to strive for success, no matter what our

goals. I am proud to stand here to pay tribute to these California Olympic heroes, and to all of America's Olympic athletes. I thank them all for using their gifts to inspire us all to greatness.

IRAQ AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(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, violence is rampant both at home and abroad. At least 80 civilians died in Iraqi violence. As the Washington Post reports, "Car bombings, mortar attacks, and clashes between insurgents and the U.S.-Iraqi security forces killed at least 80 civilians across the country Sunday."

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In Baghdad, the scene of some of the most intense fighting in months: 27 people died, and 107 were wounded. The green zone no longer exists. There is no exit strategy with honor in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the American people to hear from this administration and this Congress how we are going to address the valiant work of our young men and women on the front lines every day and their safety being jeopardized and threatened or killed because we have no foreign policy plan. It is time for an after-plan for Iraq. The reason we are in this catastrophe is because we went into an ill-directed war with no plan.

Today, of course, we bring shame on the House of Representatives for not extending the assault weapons ban. The ATF said assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire and close-quarter shooting, not for Olympics or the duck line.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the assault weapons ban to stem the violence at home and the violence abroad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXPIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at the decision of the President and the leadership of this House to allow the assault weapons ban to expire. This law has been a critical part of our Nation's successful effort to dramatically bring down the violent crime rate. Since the ban went into effect in 1994, annual firearm deaths have decreased by 25 percent.

According to a study published by the Brady Center, the number of cases in which the ATF traced an assault weapon to a crime has dropped by 66 percent since the enactment of the ban. And the ATF has data showing, the longer the ban is in effect, the fewer assault weapons have been available for use by a criminal. The effect is to dry up the source.

This ban has broad public support. Most importantly, key law enforcement officers and agencies support it. They know these weapons have no place in our communities. The ATF description of these weapons in their "Assault Weapons Profile" clearly shows us why. It says, "Assault weapons were designed for rapid-fire, close-quarter shooting at human beings. That is why they were put together the way they were. You will not find these guns in a duck blind or at the Olympics. They are mass-produced mayhem."

The Department of Treasury has reported these weapons are not suitable for sport and are more attractive to criminals. The ATF goes on to say that, "Access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless." In essence, these are not weapons to be used by sportsmen or kept at home. They are weapons designed to kill people, lots of them.

Assault weapons have been at the center of many of the worst mass murders in the United States. In 1984, 21 people were killed and 19 people injured by a man with an Uzi in a McDonald's in California.

In January of 1989, another man used a semiautomatic version of an AK-47 to kill five children at an elementary school, and 29 other children and their teacher were wounded in the same incident. This man fired 106 rounds in 2 minutes.

In 1993, Mir Aimal Kasi killed two CIA employees and wounded three others outside Langley using a Chinese-made semiautomatic AK-47 he bought in a gun store in Virginia.

And in July of 1993, eight people were killed and six people were wounded in a San Francisco law office. The man responsible used two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines.

These weapons are a serious threat to the men and women who serve our