

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 512, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE MARINES OF LIMA COMPANY FOR THEIR SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the brave Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment who returned home to Columbus, Ohio this morning after deploying for ten months, eight of which they spent in Iraq.

This reserve Marine Corps infantry unit, which is composed of young men from all walks of life, left home, family, career, and college to respond with honor and courage to the call of service issued by our great nation. Lima Company served in western Iraq in Haditha, in al Anbar Province, one of the most dangerous and insurgent-infested areas of the entire country. They pursued their mission to seek out and engage insurgents in their strongholds to reduce the terrorists' ability to disrupt Iraq's new democratically elected government.

Central Ohioans could not be more proud of their service. These brave young Marines participated in operations "Matador," "New Market" and "Quick Strike," conducting house to house searches for weapons and terrorists. Lima Company engaged in direct combat with the enemy and performed with great honor and distinction fighting side by side with our active duty troops.

It is often said that freedom is not free. Nobody knows the truth of this statement better than the Marines and their families of Lima Company. In the performance of their duties, Lima Company suffered grievous casualties. 16 Marines lost their lives, and 34 Marines were wounded.

I am grateful to the Marines of Lima Company who put themselves in harm's way to make our country safer, and to make the world a better place. I urge my fellow Americans and this Congress to never forget the debt we owe these young heroes and their families. Now that they have returned, they need our help as much as ever to heal from their wounds, to reconnect with their families and resume their lives. And in the case of those families whose Marine did not return home, they need our support and prayers as they face each new day without the one they loved.

We must all work together to help these Marines and their families as they return to civilian life. To the Department of Veterans Affairs, I say give these heroes the best care possible. I ask employers to give these young Marines a chance to serve in your organizations. I urge the people of Central Ohio to help the families of the fallen. Finally to the brave Marines of Lima Company, I simply say thank you and God bless you for your service to our country.

RECOGNIZING BOWATER'S CATAWBA OPERATIONS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bowater's Catawba Operations, the largest coated paper manufacturing facility in North America. The plant makes paper used in magazines, flyers, inserts, and coupons, and I am proud to say that it is located in my congressional district.

Fifty years ago, when Bowater chose the site for a paper-making plant on the Catawba River in York County, South Carolina, a special session of our General Assembly was called to amend the state constitution so that Bowater, then a British firm, could purchase unlimited timberland acreage.

That plant site has proven its worth many times in the years since then. Now, Bowater's Catawba Operation has been recognized for meeting and surpassing world-class standards in manufacturing, employee programs, community outreach, and environmental stewardship.

The Catawba plant employs 1,000 associates. Most live in York, Chester, and Lancaster counties. And they are the reason that the Catawba plant won Industry Week's 2005 Best Plant competition, one of just 10 plants out of 220 nominated. They are also the reason that Catawba plant was named South Carolina's Manufacturer of the Year for 2004 by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Industry Week calls the plant a "pacesetter" that will "continue to lead the way in the future."

Bowater's Catawba Operations recently undertook major capital improvements, including the construction of a \$175 million state-of-the-art kraft-pulping mill, along with a \$106 million paper machine conversion. Both were completed while the mill maintained a full 24-hour production schedule.

The plant's associates and managers not only work hard and smart, they work safely—recently reaching a significant safety milestone by working four million hours without a disabling or lost time injury.

It comes as no surprise to us in South Carolina why the Catawba plant is second to none in its class.

As the editors of Industry Week put it in honoring the Catawba plant and the nine other "Best Plants": "These plants produce different products from one another, operate different machinery, rely on a host of different improvement methods, and face different competitive challenges in their quests to excel at the jobs they do. What they share, however, is a vision of excellence by design, not by accident. They hire the right people and train them well, and they focus continually on improvement. They have leadership that encourages input from all employees and employees who take up the challenge; and they look outside their four walls to their upstream and downstream partners in their efforts to be the best."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Bowater's Catawba Plant and its outstanding associates, and honored to call them today to the attention of the House.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RAUL RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Raul Rodriguez for his work to improve the quality of life in the U.S.-Mexico border region as he prepares to end his tenure as the Managing Director of the North American Development Bank.

The NADBank is jointly operated by the United States and Mexico, financing and developing needed environmental projects in the border region, such as water and wastewater treatment plants. Raul has guided the expanding NADBank since October of 2000.

Under Raul's leadership, the NADBank has grown dramatically. It now provides over \$703 million in financing and assistance for 89 infrastructure projects in the U.S.-Mexico border region, including technical and financial assistance projects in border communities that would not otherwise have been feasible.

The North American Development Bank is assisting on a set of projects whose total cost is estimated at over \$2.4 billion, a level of investment that may have been impossible to achieve if not for the efforts of the NADBank.

Prior to joining the NADBank, Raul was the Executive Director of the Mexican Foreign Trade Bank, and he served as Mexico's Trade Commissioner in Canada during the NAFTA negotiations. Raul also served as a professor for several years.

Thanks in large part to the contributions of Raul Rodriguez, the NADBank is more able to make a positive impact in the border region than many could have ever imagined. I thank Mr. Rodriguez today for his hard work and dedication, and I wish him the best as he continues to serve our border community.

HONORING ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LANCASTER, OHIO

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Ohio, for 1 celebrating its 200th anniversary as a congregation on October 16, 2005.

The history of St. Peter's began in 1804, when a traveling preacher, the Reverend Johannes Stauch, visited Lancaster. A year later, Reverend William Forster was sent to the territory by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to preach throughout the area, most notably in Fairfield and Perry Counties. The result was the founding of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is the oldest existing Lutheran congregation in the State of Ohio.

For several years, the church had no regular place of worship. A parcel of land was secured on the banks of the Old Canal, and a cornerstone for the log cabin church was laid in 1819. The congregation worshipped at this site until 1832, when a brick building was constructed as a new home for the church. And

in 1882, the present building at the corner of Broad and Mulberry Streets in Lancaster was dedicated. The current church is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Over the years, members of St. Peter's Church have dedicated themselves to their faith through their worship and involvement in the community. The congregation is involved in a variety of programs that help provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need in the region and throughout the State of Ohio, including the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and the church's "We Care Corner".

In addition, St. Peter's church has also been a part of the Fairfield Heritage Association's annual candlelight tour of churches in downtown Lancaster. The event takes place December and attracts nearly 800 people each year.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the residents of the 7th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating St. Peter's Lutheran Church for its honored history and its contributions to the religious and community life of the Lancaster area for the past 200 years.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for others purposes:

Mr. Chairman, the addition of paragraph (6) to the Endangered Species Act section 7(a) is intended to preclude agency actions from being subject to section 7(a) requirements, if those actions implement or are consistent with a conservation habitat plan or agreement incorporated in a permit issued under section 10. The issuance of a section 10 permit is itself an agency action and therefore subject to section 7(a) requirements. This new paragraph allows agency actions authorized in an approved section 10 permit to transpire without having to meet further section 7(a) requirements.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES WAR ON TERROR AT NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Bush addressed supporters of the National Endowment for Democracy about the War on Terrorism. As he spoke at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center about our country's continued efforts to spread democracy and defeat terrorism around the globe, I was reminded of the tremendous parallels between the 40th and 43rd Presidents of the United States.

Over 20 years ago, Ronald Reagan advanced the idea of peace through strength.

Today, we are witnessing the greatest spread of freedom in the history of the world. I am grateful for President Bush's leadership and his continued commitment to turning Ronald Regan's vision into a reality.

Please see the following copy of President Bush's speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for the warm welcome. I'm honored once again to be with the supporters of the National Endowment for Democracy. Since the day President Ronald Reagan set out the vision for this Endowment, the world has seen the swiftest advance of democratic institutions in history. And Americans are proud to have played our role in this great story.

Our nation stood guard on tense borders; we spoke for the rights of dissidents and the hopes of exile; we aided the rise of new democracies on the ruins of tyranny. And all the cost and sacrifice of that struggle has been worth it, because, from Latin America to Europe to Asia, we've gained the peace that freedom brings.

In this new century, freedom is once again assaulted by enemies determined to roll back generations of democratic progress. Once again, we're responding to a global campaign of fear with a global campaign of freedom. And once again, we will see freedom's victory.

Vin, I want to thank you for inviting me back. And thank you for the short introduction. I appreciate Carl Gershman. I want to welcome former Congressman Dick Gephardt, who is a board member of the National Endowment for Democracy. It's good to see you, Dick. And I appreciate Chris Cox, who is the Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and a board member for the National Endowment of Democracy, for being here, as well. I want to thank all the other board members.

I appreciate the Secretary of State, Condi Rice, who has joined us—alongside her, Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld. Thank you all for being here. I'm proud, as well, that the newly sworn-in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the first Marine ever to hold that position, is with us today—General Peter Pace. I thank the members of the Diplomatic Corps who are here, as well.

Recently our country observed the fourth anniversary of a great evil, and looked back on a great turning point in our history. We still remember a proud city covered in smoke and ashes, a fire across the Potomac, and passengers who spent their final moments on Earth fighting the enemy. We still remember the men who rejoiced in every death, and Americans in uniform rising to duty. And we remember the calling that came to us on that day, and continues to this hour: We will confront this mortal danger to all humanity. We will not tire, or rest, until the war on terror is won.

The images and experience of September the 11th are unique for Americans. Yet the evil of that morning has reappeared on other days, in other places—in Mombasa, and Casablanca, and Riyadh, and Jakarta, and Istanbul, and Madrid, and Beslan, and Taba, and Netanya, and Baghdad, and elsewhere. In the past few months, we've seen a new terror offensive with attacks on London, and Sharm el-Sheikh, and a deadly bombing in Bali once again. All these separate images of destruction and suffering that we see on the news can seem like random and isolated acts of madness; innocent men and women and children have died simply because they boarded the wrong train, or worked in the wrong building, or checked into the wrong hotel. Yet while the killers choose their victims indiscriminately, their attacks serve a clear and focused ideology, a set of beliefs and goals that are evil, but not insane.

Some call this evil Islamic radicalism; others, militant Jihadism; still others, Islamofascism. Whatever it's called, this ideology is very different from the religion of Islam. This form of radicalism exploits Islam to serve a violent, political vision: the establishment, by terrorism and subversion and insurgency, of a totalitarian empire that denies all political and religious freedom. These extremists distort the idea of jihad into a call for terrorist murder against Christians and Jews and Hindus—and also against Muslims from other traditions, who they regard as heretics.

Many militants are part of global, borderless terrorist organizations like al Qaeda, which spreads propaganda, and provides financing and technical assistance to local extremists, and conducts dramatic and brutal operations like September the 11th. Other militants are found in regional groups, often associated with al Qaeda—paramilitary insurgencies and separatist movements in places like Somalia, and the Philippines, and Pakistan, and Chechnya, and Kashmir, and Algeria. Still others spring up in local cells, inspired by Islamic radicalism, but not centrally directed. Islamic radicalism is more like a loose network with many branches than an army under a single command. Yet these operatives, fighting on scattered battlefields, share a similar ideology and vision for our world.

We know the vision of the radicals because they've openly stated it—in videos, and audiotapes, and letters, and declarations, and websites. First, these extremists want to end American and Western influence in the broader Middle East, because we stand for democracy and peace, and stand in the way of their ambitions. Al Qaeda's leader, Osama bin Laden, has called on Muslims to dedicate, quote, their "resources, sons and money to driving the infidels out of their lands." Their tactic to meet this goal has been consistent for a quarter-century: They hit us, and expect us to run. They want us to repeat the sad history of Beirut in 1983, and Mogadishu in 1993—only this time on a larger scale, with greater consequences.

Second, the militant network wants to use the vacuum created by an American retreat to gain control of a country, a base from which to launch attacks and conduct their war against non-radical Muslim governments. Over the past few decades, radicals have specifically targeted Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, and Jordan for potential takeover. They achieved their goal, for a time, in Afghanistan. Now they've set their sights on Iraq. Bin Laden has stated: "The whole world is watching this war and the two adversaries. It's either victory or glory, or misery and humiliation." The terrorists regard Iraq as the central front in their war against humanity. And we must recognize Iraq as the central front in our war on terror.

Third, the militants believe that controlling one country will rally the Muslim masses, enabling them to overthrow all moderate governments in the region, and establish a radical Islamic empire that spans from Spain to Indonesia. With greater economic and military and political power, the terrorists would be able to advance their stated agenda: to develop weapons of mass destruction, to destroy Israel, to intimidate Europe, to assault the American people, and to blackmail our government into isolation.

Some might be tempted to dismiss these goals as fanatical or extreme. Well, they are fanatical and extreme—and they should not be dismissed. Our enemy is utterly committed. As Zaraqawi has vowed, "We will either achieve victory over the human race or