

In particular, the Parliamentarians do an extraordinary job in making sure that things are done correctly, by the book, and Muftiah has certainly been a part of a great team and will be greatly missed.

Muftiah, thank you for the wonderful, wonderful, good, solid advice and the professional manner with which you have distinguished yourself in this House of Representatives. I know it is very difficult to walk away.

Mr. Speaker, we owe her a great deal for what she has done for those of us who have had the privilege of presiding and for her great advice.

Good luck and Godspeed. We are very grateful to you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say to my friend that so many of us have seen the gentleman from Illinois, in an extraordinarily able manner, preside over this institution. The word is now out that it is not RAY LAHOOD who is presiding so ably over this great institution, it is Muftiah McCartin who is, in fact, making that happen.

When it comes to appreciation, the gentleman is absolutely right, Mr. Speaker, we do not express enough appreciation to our staff.

Muftiah, I will say to you, you saw what RAY LAHOOD did to ensure that he was adequately appreciated. He went from serving as a staff member to becoming a Member of Congress. I don't want to necessarily recommend that to you as you head into retirement, but if you do want to follow the LaHood model, it is certainly something you might consider.

Let me say again, congratulations to Muftiah for her phenomenal service. I know on behalf of Speaker HASTERT, the House leadership, and all the Members of this institution on both sides of the aisle, we are very, very honored to have had you serve here so ably.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House parliamentarian, Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week.

Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers of the House, and six Presidents.

In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian. As someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings, I am particularly honored to acknowledge her outstanding work.

Muftiah has always had a wonderful smile and a warm demeanor on the House floor. As we know, it can get pretty heated in debate and very partisan.

But Muftiah has always been a calm and rational presence to Members of both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She has brought a keen mind, and a clear understanding of House rules that has served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours that she has spent on the House floor, Muftiah McCartin has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke. I'm sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work that we do every day. And we will miss you.

Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making this House of Representatives a better place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the 1-minute speech I just offered.

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

There was no objection.

SAYING FAREWELL TO MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week. Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's Office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers and six Presidents. In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian.

The minority leader, Ms. PELOSI, is someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings. She had hoped to be here personally to congratulate Muftiah on her outstanding work and her dedication over the many years.

She goes on to say Muftiah always had such a wonderful smile and warm demeanor on the House floor, which I might comment often lacks smiles and warm demeanors. Well, it is warm; sometimes heated. As we know, it can get heated in debate and very partisan, but she has always been a calm and rational presence to Members on both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She brought a keen mind and a clear understanding of House rules that have served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours she has spent on the House floor, she has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke, one of whom has the great, good sense to have moved to my congressional district. That is my district, not Ms. PELOSI's. I am sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work we do every day, and we will miss you. Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making the House of Representatives a better place.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I find it a great irony and some goodness that I can get some time from my friend.

I was sitting in my office and I did not know, frankly, that Muftiah was old enough to retire, take on another job, or leave the nest here, or whatever she is doing, but as somebody who has personally benefited from her expertise and wisdom, as I have had the honor to sit in the Chair, I can say we could not have laymen go up there and hold the gavel without somebody like Muftiah at our right arm telling us sometimes what to say and what not to say. I am sure she never would sit down when I had the gavel because she was nervous something would go awry.

The other thing that is important, when school kids and visitors come to the House Chamber, I often point to the picture of George Washington and the fact that you can still see the sword painted out of his hand. I explain to school kids the reason the sword was painted out of his hand in his portrait in the House Chamber is that we philosophically believe that our debate here, our spirited debate, sometimes our acrimonious debate, sometimes our bitter debate, is still better than the alternative, and that alternative is civil war or civil disruption, as we see around the world.

□ 1845

I believe that all of our Parliamentarians aid that in that sometimes we get out of line, Democrats or Republicans, in the spirit of the moment, in the emotion of the moment, and we say something that we regret saying; and it is at that time when all eyes turn to a nonpartisan, objective third party who can say everybody sit down, a little calmness here, let us get through this maze of parliamentary mystery and then get back on the course of civil discussion.

I want to say, Muftiah, thank you for being part of that team and thank you for everything that you are doing. Your job is a profound one, and it is one that should be studied in every civics class in every school at every level of education in America.

And I want to say to my friend from the west coast who does not always vote green when I vote red and vice versa, we always agree that this is the place where we can come and have good, open debate thanks to people like Muftiah and the Parliamentarians.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is correct. I only regret that she trained him too well.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, 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 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.)

HONORING THE 100TH TEXAN: MARINE STAFF SERGEANT RUSSELL SLAY

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that "never in the history of the world has any soldier sacrificed more for the freedom and liberty of total strangers than the American soldier," said by Zell Miller about the American fighting men.

I rise today to honor a young American marine from my southeast Texas district, Marine Staff Sergeant Russell Slay, who valiantly served the Nation in Iraq and who died doing so. He was a member of the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Russell Slay grew up in my hometown of Humble, Texas. As a student at Humble High School, he played football and was in the band. After he graduated from Humble High School, he started working, but quickly realized that he needed something more in his life. His high school friend Jason Tucker had joined the Marine Corps, and he had made the decision to join him and fight for his country. His father, Roy, a retired Houston police officer and a long-time friend of mine, said of his son, "Russell wanted to be somewhere that would teach and inspire him."

During his 10-year military career, he was trained to drive armored vehicles that carried combat troops from ships to beachheads during amphibious attacks. During his first tour of Iraq in 2002, Slay took part in overtaking Baghdad. He had been in charge of a section of four armored all-terrain vehicles. He left for his second mission on September 11, 2004.

Upon receiving his orders to report for a second tour in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Slay told his family and friends that he did not think he would make it back. A year ago today, Russell Slay's perceptive premonition became a reality. He was the 100th Texas member of the Armed Forces to be killed in Iraq. And, by the way, Mr. Speaker, one out of every 10 Americans wearing

the uniform today is from the State of Texas. Russell Slay was 28 years old. He died in combat with seven others in Fallujah when his armored vehicle was attacked by terrorists.

His funeral was a moving memorial to him as a devoted father, son, and friend. More than 450 people paid their respects to a man that was remembered for his engaging spirit and his love of life. Family and friends expressed that Slay was nothing short of spectacular. His sense of humor was contagious. He was a loving, loyal, and dedicated father.

He left behind a 9-year-old daughter, Kinlee, and a 5-year-old son, Walker. At the funeral, Marine Captain Mike Evans read letters that Slay had prepared for his children in anticipation of his death. He told his daughter, Kinlee: "I love you and never knew what life was before you were born. You will always be Daddy's little girl." He encouraged her to have the best life possible and to be sure that she went to college. He said: "Daddy will always be with you and watching out for you. Hugs and kisses. I'll miss you."

He also wrote to his son, Walker, and told him that watching him grow up was "like reliving his own youth. He said: "You're the best little man there ever was. Be a studious son and stay in school. Always be a man. If you make mistakes, stand up and say so." Russell Slay encouraged his son to have children of his own so he too could feel the joy and happiness that had been brought to him.

He insisted in his letter that his family know how much he loved them, and he wrote: "I promise you my family was my last thought. Don't mourn for me, but celebrate my life."

Nine-year-old daughter Kinlee spoke at her father's funeral, and through tears she talked about playing cars with her dad and brother and shopping at Wal-Mart. She spoke fondly about the weekend family ritual of washing the car.

Charlie Flannigan, who officiated the funeral service, told of Slay's skills in the band that he and his buddies had created in Iraq. They called it the Texas Trio. He said Russell was not the best athlete, but he sure knew how to play a guitar.

Staff Sergeant Russell Slay in 28 short years had already exhibited a lifetime of bravery and boldness. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson once said: "From time to time the tree of liberty must be watered with the blood of tyrants and patriots." Russell Slay was a true American patriot. Russell Slay died for Americans. He died for Iraqis. He died for freedom.

Staff Sergeant Russell Slay, we will never forget the price you paid for America, and we thank you for devoting your life to your country. You are a true American hero. You make us proud.

So Semper Fi, Staff Sergeant Slay, Semper Fi.

HONORING THE AMERICAN FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day marks the 87th anniversary of the armistice ending World War I. On this date we honor the soldiers, sailors, marines, and aviators who have protected the United States in times of war.

Today, we are again a Nation at war; 2,058 American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in Iraq; 247 Americans have fallen in Afghanistan.

This Veterans Day we must honor those who have served, those who have been wounded, and those who have fallen.

For this reason, I have introduced a resolution, with 73 cosponsors, honoring each of the fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan by name.

I have also led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Tonight, we continue this tribute with the names of the most recently fallen, completing all 2,300.

God bless each of the brave Americans, men and women, whose memory we honor tonight; and their families are in our prayers.

Sergeant Eric A. Fifer, Private 1st Class Nicholas J. Greer, Lance Corporal Sergio H. Escobar, Staff Sergeant Gary R. Harper Jr., Staff Sergeant Jerry L. Bonifacio Jr., Specialist Jeremy M. Hodge, Lieutenant Colonel Leon G. James II, Sergeant Leon M. Johnson, Sergeant 1st Class Brandon K. Sneed, Staff Sergeant Matthew A. Kimmell, Sergeant Donald D. Furman, Specialist James T. Grijalva, Master Sergeant Kenneth E. Hunt, Jr., Sergeant Lorenzo Ponce Ruiz, Petty Officer 1st Class Howard E. Babcock IV, Specialist Robert W. Tucker, Specialist Samuel M. Boswell, Specialist Bernard L. Ceo, Sergeant Brian R. Conner, Sergeant Mark P. Adams, Specialist Thomas H. Byrd, Specialist Jeffrey W. Corban, Specialist Richard Allen Hardy, Staff Sergeant Vincent E. Summers, Specialist Timothy D. Watkins, Lance Corporal Daniel Scott R. Bubb, Lance Corporal Chad R. Hildebrandt, Chief Warrant Officer Paul J. Pillen, Lance Corporal Christopher M. Poston, Specialist Lucas A. Frantz, Lance Corporal Norman W. Anderson III, Specialist Daniel D. Bartels, Staff Sergeant Tommy Ike Folks, Jr., Specialist Kendall K. Frederick, Sergeant Arthur A. Mora, Jr., Specialist Russell H. Nahvi, Specialist Jose E. Rosario, Sergeant Jacob D. Dones, Staff Sergeant Dennis P. Merck, Staff Sergeant Richard T. Pummill, Lance Corporal Andrew D. Russoli, Lance Corporal Steven W. Szwedek, Lance Corporal Kenneth J. Butler, Corporal Benny Gray Cockerham III, Corporal Seamus M. Davey, Captain Tyler B. Swisher, Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher W.