

peace, particularly Norway and Kenya. Now all parties have to live up to the agreement and begin the task of rebuilding the lives of millions of people.

This would be a good time for the administration to appoint a strong acting ambassador to immediately go to Khartoum to help implement the peace agreement. This would not be to reward Khartoum, but to keep pressure on all parties to make sure the agreement sticks and to speak out on the issue of Darfur. There is nothing like being on the scene every day, all day. So much has gone into getting this agreement. We must do everything to make sure that it lasts.

It is also important as we look forward that we do not forget the tragedy still unfolding in Sudan. As I speak, women continue to be raped, children die from hunger and disease, men continue to be murdered by the government-sponsored Janjaweed, and new attacks continue to be launched against defenseless villages.

Many of these people have been huddled in camps for over a year. Put yourself in their shoes for a minute. You are uprooted from your home. You live in a refugee camp where conditions are terrible. You do not know if your family members are dead or alive. You are sick, weak, watching people die all around you from hunger and disease. Now picture you have been there for over a year.

The tsunami in South Asia demonstrates how quickly and effectively the world can respond to such terrible disasters. Once again, we are reminded that the world has failed the people of Darfur. I commend the quick and generous response to the tsunami, but we must not only focus on disasters as they occur, but also to respond to disasters like in Darfur that have gone on for decades.

The peace agreement between the north and south opens new doors for a comprehensive peace throughout the country; and Dr. John Garang, who will now be vice president of Sudan, has an opportunity to play a positive role and should go to Darfur to help bring about peace.

I have strongly supported the United States commitment to the United Nations. Since I became chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, all U.S. assessments to the U.N. have been paid in full. But over the past year, we have seen the United Nations fight an uphill battle on Darfur. Resolution after resolution has failed to have any impact. At least two Security Council members, China and Russia, have threatened to veto strong resolutions from being passed.

Secretary General Kofi Annan continues to report that the situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate and the Government of Sudan has violated the previous Security Council resolutions by failing to disarm and prosecute the Janjaweed.

NGOs are leaving the region. Secretary General Annan has sent a Commission of Inquiry to Darfur to investigate if genocide has occurred, and he has the report in his hands as I speak. Most people believe there is genocide. But whether or not they use that term, it still is horrible what is taking place. And no matter what you call it, the facts remain, innocent civilians are systematically being murdered, raped and displaced; and the world has failed to stop it.

It is time for the United Nations and the international community to respond in a meaningful way. I ask Secretary General Annan to go to Darfur to confirm with his own eyes that the situation has not improved. Then Secretary General Annan should make bold recommendations and call on the Security Council to immediately implement them, because a strong, meaningful resolution should be put forward and could make a difference.

It is now time for Secretary General Annan to use his strong moral leadership. He is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and surely the Security Council would take his recommendations. He should use his power and prestige to plead for the people of Darfur. And if the Security Council fails to take meaningful action, Secretary General Annan should resign in protest.

I am not blaming Kofi Annan for Darfur. He does not control the Security Council. But I ask him to use his leadership to demand a new course of action from them. I believe these actions could turn the attention of the world back to what is taking place in Darfur.

Resigning under protest is an act of great moral leadership, and this world would respect his actions. Great men in history have given up their posts to force change. In 1973 at the height of the Watergate scandal, President Nixon ordered Attorney General Elliott Richardson to fire the special prosecutor. He refused and resigned in protest and later got the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

William Wilberforce, a member of the British Parliament, he could have been Prime Minister, but spoke out to abolish the slave trade, and gave up being Prime Minister of England. Anything Kofi Annan can do to get the world to focus on Darfur would be greatly admired.

Mr. Speaker, if in the year 2005 the Security Council cannot deal with genocide, the raping of women and the systematic burning of villages now occurring, then I believe it is fair to ask, what purpose is the United Nations serving in the 21st century?

Mr. Speaker, I close by adding that just yesterday the New York Times reported that villages continue to burn and that civilians are bearing the brunt of the violence in Darfur. Just last week fresh attacks killed over 100 people and drove thousands more from their homes.

Where is the international community? Something needs to be done now.

This past weekend I watched the movie "Hotel Rwanda." I urge you all to go see it. It is a movie about how the world stood by as almost a million people were slaughtered in Rwanda. The lead actor, Don Cheadle is nominated for an Oscar and the movie is nominated as best original screen play.

No one who sees that movie can leave not thinking about what is happening in Darfur. I end by asking the question . . . Who will play the leading role in Hotel Sudan?

NEEDED: CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I want to recognize the terrible tragedy that took place in my district this morning in the city of Glendale where a terrible train accident occurred.

I recently spoke with the Glendale fire chief, who informed me that the death toll has now risen to 10 from that accident. The investigation and the search effort continues. He did report to me that he was very impressed with the level of coordination of the relief agencies on the ground, the rescue agencies on the ground. I know they are doing everything humanly possible to help the victims of that terrible crash.

I also spoke with the mayor of Glendale this morning, very shaken from what he saw at the scene; and I asked him what we could do, what I could do, what our colleagues could do to help. He said just pray. Just pray.

□ 1345

I want to send my thoughts and prayers out to my Glendale and Los Angeles constituents and let them know that we will certainly do everything possible in any way, and I know my colleagues will join me in that.

I would also like to express my condolences as we mourn the loss of the 35 marines in Iraq today. To those whose loved ones were lost in the helicopter crash or in action today, our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers are with you.

Over the past 2 days, we have learned that the President will be asking Congress for an additional \$80 billion supplemental appropriations to finance the war in Iraq and ongoing operations in Afghanistan. I support giving our troops all that they need to ensure their safety and to enable them to perform their missions, but for the past few months, I have been disturbed by continued reports that have detailed persistent shortages of up-armored Humvees in Iraq, especially given the repeated assurances by administration officials that everything that could be done about these shortages was being done. In fact, it appears this was not so.

It should not take a question from a GI in the field to spur the Secretary of

Defense to address critical shortfalls of equipment. That, Mr. Speaker, is our job. That is our job. Congress is charged with oversight of the executive branch, and I am deeply concerned that we have not been fulfilling that critical and institutional role. As a result, our troops are riding into battle in vehicles that are not adequately protected or are jury-rigged with so-called "hillbilly armor" lifted from scrap heaps.

Last May, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, the Republican chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, expressed his unease about the lack of oversight in Congress and admitted that legislative oversight was better when the Democrats controlled Congress. The majority in this Congress, Senator GRASSLEY acknowledged, "has delegated so much authority to the executive branch of government, and we ought to devote more time to oversight than we do."

The critical need for oversight is underscored by a new Government Accountability Office report outlining and updating its high-risk list. The new report lists 25 Federal programs that are vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Increasingly, the GAO also identified high-risk areas to focus on the need of broad-based transformations to address major economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges.

Of the 25 government operations and programs that comprise the GAO list, 8 are associated with the Department of Defense, the government's largest department. These include inventory management, weapons systems and acquisition, financial and contract management, personnel security clearance, management of military bases and other infrastructure, and modernization of computer systems.

The Comptroller General, David Walker, noted at a news conference yesterday that DOD's failure to rectify many of these problem areas results in billions of dollars of waste every year and inadequate accountability to the Congress and the American taxpayer.

I am not surprised to see a large number of DOD programs on the GAO's list. As an assistant U.S. attorney, I prosecuted defense contractor fraud. It was true then that if you throw enormous amounts of money at any department without adequate oversight, you would get tremendous amounts of fraud and abuse. Given the hundreds of billions of dollars in the DOD's annual budget, the potential for waste, the reality of waste, fraud, and abuse is enormous.

No amount of oversight and investigation will eliminate all instances of fraud, but that does not excuse our failure to try. I urge my colleagues, and especially my colleagues in the majority who alone have the power to call hearings, to subpoena witnesses, to take our oversight role more seriously. The American taxpayer and, more importantly, our men and women in uniform are relying upon us.

IN LOVING TRIBUTE TO JUDSON DANIEL "JD" DAVIS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is worthy of note when someone lights up the world with his or her own sunshine and gives us a glimpse of such a beautiful soul that it is more understandable why our Creator would endow us with the blessings He has. Such a person was a young man named Judson Daniel Davis, known to his friends as JD. He was 23 years old, after having experienced life fully every single year he was alive.

He was born in Tyler, Texas, on September 17, 1981, and he left for heaven on January 19, 2005. He was active in high school and in his church, which was Green Acres Baptist. He was constantly looking for ways to help others and to improve himself. Even at his young age, he had found that helping others somehow made him a more complete person. My own daughters knew him well, and even my wife and I felt quite comfortable when we knew one of our daughters would be with JD.

He graduated from Whitehouse High School in Smith County, Texas, after which he attended Tyler Junior College, earning an associate's degree in business, and then proceeded to Texas A&M University, obtaining a degree in finance. After Texas A&M, this unusual individual studied kinesiology and earned a degree at the University of Texas. It does take a rather unique individual to be both a Texas Aggie and a Texas Longhorn, and that is what JD was.

While at Texas University, he did not merely study, he also utilized his talent for playing musical instruments. He played the trombone in the Longhorns' basketball band in addition to performing with the Big Bertha crew. He began studying sports management in the UT program in Austin, and, during the Christmas break, he had talked about the potential for substitute teaching, because he loved to help others. His mother, Linda Davis, said, "He always had a smile, a kind word for everyone, and was always sensitive to the needs of others."

The Longhorn band was excited about coming to play for the President's inauguration this month, and none was more excited than JD. He had run a fever the week before the trip, but he told the university health personnel he did not want to miss the President's inauguration. He was coming. He did feel ill on the plane ride and did not get off the bus when the other students did here in Washington. They got off physically, but he had proceeded ahead of them in spirit. He was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

He was looking forward to being an intern at Lake Hills Church in Austin, a position of which he had just learned about before he came to Washington. He was to start rehearsals when he re-

turned from Washington for a leading part in the play, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Just as he had been active in his work at Green Acres Baptist Church, he was determined to try to make as big an impact as he could, wherever he could. As if to subconsciously follow the admonition of David to number our days aright, JD numbered and filled every one. As a sign in his room said, "Life is short, so fish hard." His mother Linda said the picture and sign that most exemplified JD's life says, "The value of life lies not in the length of our days, but in the use we make of them."

JD brought life and hope and good news to so many. He truly lifted spirits by his presence and leaves us much in his physical absence. He loved his neighbors, he loved his President, he loved his country. He loved the visible and auditory beauty given us by the Creator. May others be inspired by the life, living, and giving of Judson Daniel Davis, and may his loved ones be comforted in that knowledge.

SEVENTY THOUSAND VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE IN AFRICA

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring terrible news from Africa. Seventy thousand people are dead, and more are dying every hour. This would be tragic enough if the deaths were caused by some natural cataclysmic event like a tsunami. But the truth is the 70,000 in Africa have died because they were killed by a regime bent on genocide.

In a region of horrific tragedy, of violence and death, millions have lost their lives, but many have not lost their hope. These are the notes handwritten by members of the Sudanese refugees in the camps. They gave them to us when we were there 2 days ago and asked us to read them; pages upon pages of handwritten requests to Members of Congress, to the American people. I accepted them directly from these people walking away, because we could not spend all day there. They said, would you please take them home and read them? Their words, their hopes, their calls for help are being translated at the moment, and I will share them with my colleagues when they are done.

But I want to share my thoughts about Africa with some of my colleagues in the House, and with the American people. In the past week I was invited to join a congressional trip to the Sudan region by a Republican, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE). I say this because this House and the American people need to know the depth and the breadth of a man who serves his constituency with distinction and his country with honor. The gentleman from California (Mr.