

Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama,
Mr. PENCE, Indiana.

STABBING VETERANS IN THE BACK

(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, this is National Salute to Hospital Veterans Week, and just on Sunday I had the opportunity to visit my veterans hospital in our community in Houston, visiting veterans and speaking to them and thanking them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, not one of them, not one of them had one moment of regret for the service to their Nation. That is why I stand here today to read the words of Al Marlowe, the 75-year-old, eighty district commander for 17 Houston-area American Legion posts: "It's a stab in the back," he says. "It's a stab in the back," says Marlowe, 75, a Korean War veteran. "This is what they do behind closed doors in Washington if you want the real truth."

It is a stab in the back because we have cut veterans benefits. We are asking them to enhance the copay of veterans who have served this country.

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When they served, we promised them benefits for life. It seems a shame on this House if we cannot come together and establish priorities and begin to give back to veterans who have given to this Nation.

This is a national salute to veterans who are hospitalized, Mr. Speaker, but there are many more veterans who come to outpatient clinics at veterans hospitals all over America. It is time to stop stabbing them in the back and provide them the lifetime benefit for serving this country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAWSON COMMUNITY FAMILY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to announce the fact that I introduce tonight the Dawson Community Family Protection Act of 2005.

In my district in Baltimore, unfortunately, about 2 years ago we had a family of seven incinerated in the middle of the night because they wanted to cooperate with the police, and drug thugs made a decision that they would burn them up instead of allowing them to cooperate with the police.

The Dawson Family Community Protection Act would require the director of National Drug Control Policy to direct each year a minimum of \$5 million in HIDTA funds to support HIDTA initiatives aimed at increasing safety and encouraging cooperation in neighborhoods like the Dawson's.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). 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.

SMART SECURITY AND IRAQ'S ELECTIONS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am beginning to lose count of the number of reasons why we went to war in Iraq. First it was because Saddam Hussein was closely linked to al Qaeda, the terrorist group that conducted the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11.

After that theory was disproved, the reason for going to war became the imminent and immediate threat that Saddam posed to the United States. According to the White House, Saddam possessed stockpiles of nuclear and biological weapons.

When we learned that Saddam's nuclear weapons program had actually been dismantled after the 1991 Gulf War, which was a full 12 years ago when the U.S. began its first invasion of Iraq, the Bush administration changed its rationale yet again. This time the reason for going to war was for the very cause of democracy itself, to bring democracy to the Iraqi people.

Some have said that Iraq's recent elections are the very embodiment of Iraq's quick embrace of democracy. It is important right now to commend the brave 58 percent of registered Iraqis who voted in these elections, voted to select the legislators who will write the Iraqi constitution.

In fact, Iraq's voter turnout was higher than the turnout in most American elections. Believe me, the people who live in my congressional district, Marin and Sonoma Counties, north of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge, know how important elections are to keeping a viable and vital democracy in a country. In last November's election, we voted with a record 89.5 percent of registered voters turning out.

Sadly, despite Iraq's elections, the Middle East is as unstable as it has ever been. The war in Iraq has made Iraq a more violent and unstable place, making America less secure from the threat of terrorism by creating a terrorist breeding ground in a country that had never been a haven for terrorist groups like al Qaeda in the first place.

Some members of the Bush administration have expressed their disappointment with the high Shiite turnout of Iraq's elections, fearing that significant participation by religious Muslims may lead to the creation of an overly religious Iraqi constitution, but

that is the danger, the danger risked by invading a country when you will not admit the real reason you are there in the first place.

Are we there to stabilize Iraq so we can control their oil resources? Are we there to force our notions of democracy onto the Iraqi people? Or are we there to honor the Iraqi voters, voters who went to the polls because they want to control their own destiny?

The most important thing to recognize is that Iraq will not resemble the United States, and Iraq's constitution will not be an updated version of our own. Mr. Speaker, it has become clear that we cannot keep our troops stationed halfway around the world with the hope that Iraq will become a Middle Eastern version of the United States.

But the elections do demonstrate that the Iraqi people are prepared to manage their own affairs. That is why, now that Iraq's elections are completed, the United States must ensure that the people of Iraq control their own affairs as the country transitions towards democracy.

We can do this by supporting the Iraqi people, not through our military, but through international cooperation to help rebuild Iraq's economic and physical infrastructure.

We owe this to the people of Iraq, who are being killed by the thousands. We owe it to our troops who are sitting ducks for the terrorists, and we owe it to the nearly 1,500 American troops who have died in this ill-conceived misadventure, as well as the 11,000 who have been severely wounded.

To help the situation in Iraq, I have introduced H. Con. Res. 35, which is legislation that will help Iraq secure its own future and ensure that America's role in Iraq actually does make America safer. So far, 27 of my House colleagues have signed on as cosponsors of this important legislation.

My plan for Iraq is part of a larger strategy that I call SMART security, which is a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism that will ensure America's security by relying on smarter politics.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear; we should not abandon Iraq. There is still a critical role for the United States in providing the developmental aid that can help create a robust civil society, build schools and water processing plants, and ensure that Iraq's economic infrastructure becomes fully viable.

Instead of troops, we need to send scientists, educators, urban planners and constitutional experts to help rebuild Iraq's flagging economic and physical infrastructure.

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

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER
TIME

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

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

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
YOUTH COORDINATION ACT

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I spent a good part of my life in coaching, dealing with young people, and not long ago, I had a call from a young man whom I had not heard from for about 7 or 8 years.

This young man was abandoned by his father in infancy and then by his mother when he was 12, and he spent basically 2 years on his own on the streets, and he spent some time in a group home and, needless to say, had a very difficult life. Maybe things are getting a little better now, but unfortunately, this story is not unusual. It happens more and more frequently.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that 10 million teens, which is one-fourth of our teenagers, are at serious risk of not achieving a productive adulthood. There are 22 million fatherless children in our country. Fifty percent of our children currently grow up without both biological parents. We are the most violent Nation in the world for Nations that are not at war for young people in regard to homicide and suicide. We have 3 million teenagers addicted to alcohol and hundreds of thousands addicted to other kinds of drugs.

I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that this level of dysfunction among our young people is a greater threat to the long-term well-being of our Nation than terrorism. That is an extreme statement, but I really believe it is true.

The Federal Government has responded to this problem by creating more than 150 youth-serving programs spread over 12 agencies. Most of these programs are in Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Justice.

The problem is that many of these programs are duplicative. Most have not been evaluated for effectiveness. Many of them do not serve the function for which they were designed. Many have no clear mission or goals. There is often little communication between agencies and programs, and there is unnecessary complexity in obtaining youth services. For instance, someone in foster care may have to deal with four or five different agencies, and for a young person in foster care that is almost impossible to negotiate.

The General Accounting Office calls Federal response to youth programs a perfect example of "mission fragmentation," and it recommends coordination, consolidation and streamlining of youth-serving programs.

The White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth did a study and they arrived at a similar conclusion, that we had a tremendous amount of dysfunction and disorganization in our youth-serving programs.

Therefore, at the request of numerous youth-serving agencies, we have drafted the Federal Youth Coordination Act which will be introduced tomorrow. This bill creates a council composed of members of all 12 youth-serving agencies. This council will have to meet at least four times a year. The Council will be charged with basically five different tasks.

Number 1, they will be asked to evaluate youth-serving programs to make sure they are accomplishing what they were designed to do.

Number 2, they are charged with coordinating and consolidating across agencies. In many cases, the way the language of the bill is written, they cannot even talk to each other if they are in different agencies.

Number 3, provide an annual report on progress on coordination, streamlining and consolidation.

Number 4, set quantifiable goals for Federal youth programs and develop a plan to reach those goals. In other words, they have to, in some way, quantify and measure what it is they are trying to do and how far they have gone in achieving those goals.

Number 5, hold Federal agencies accountable for achieving results.

I would ask my colleagues to please support the Federal Youth Coordination Act. This bill will help the Federal Government deliver more services more effectively to a greater number of children. It will be more cost-effective, and I hope that it will receive broad bipartisan support.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of order.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING MASTER SERVICE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN R.R.
DONNELLEY AND ALL PRINTING
GRAPHICS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company for being a leader in minority business development by entering a multiyear master service agreement with All Printing and

Graphics Incorporated, a certified minority business enterprise headed by Mr. Hoyett Owens.

This agreement goes beyond the ordinary tier one vendor relationship and creates a new model that encompasses the spirit of minority business development. This alliance enables an important minority-owned business in Chicago to draw on R.R. Donnelley's manufacturing, information technology and product development resources, making All Printing and Graphics one of the leading minority-owned printing companies in the country.

R.R. Donnelley is a premier, full-service global print provider and the largest printing company in North America. It was founded 140 years ago and serves the largest companies in the world through a comprehensive range of verifiable printing services and market-specific solutions.

All Printing and Graphics provides award-winning graphic design and imprinting services. Under the leadership of Mr. Hoyett Owens, it developed from a small printing company to a multimillion-dollar business that was selected by Chicago's Civic Committee of Inner City Business Development and the city of Chicago for a unique program connecting strong minority companies with large corporations.

The relationship between R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and All Printing and Graphics, Incorporated, can serve as an example of a possible solution to the problems facing small businesses.

There are an estimated 25 million small businesses in America. They employ half of our workers that account for half of our gross domestic product and create three out of every four new jobs. Small businesses have and will continue to pull the U.S. economy out of recession. They anchor our neighborhoods, employ and train our workers, and take care of our families. They are the reason that the United States economy has consistently been known as the strongest in the world.

Despite all of their contributions, they still have many problems and face many barriers, access to capital, opportunity for new markets.

The agreement between R.R. Donnelley and All Printing and Graphics is an example of something called BusinessLINC, where a major business links with a smaller business in order to provide not only resources but also technical assistance and open markets for the smaller unit.

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And so I commend R.R. Donnelley and All Printing and Graphics as an example of how to strengthen and develop small business enterprises in this country and make sure that small businesses continue to grow, thrive and develop.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of