

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2005.
Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I respectfully re-
quest that you permit me to vacate my seat
on the House Science Committee as soon as
possible. I am hopeful that I would be able to
retain my seniority position on this com-
mittee should I seek to return in a future
Congress. I have greatly enjoyed my service
on the House Science Committee.

Thank you for your kind consideration of
this request.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
LATOURETTE). Without objection, the
resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CER- TAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by di-
rection of the Democratic Caucus, I
offer a privileged resolution (H. Res.
111) and ask for its immediate consider-
ation.

The Clerk read the resolution, as fol-
lows:

H. RES. 111

Resolved, That the following named Mem-
bers be and are hereby elected to the fol-
lowing standing committees of the House of
Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—
Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms.
Moore of Wisconsin.

Mr. MENENDEZ (during the read-
ing.) Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous
consent that the resolution be consid-
ered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule
XX, the Chair announces that he will
postpone further proceedings today on
each motion to suspend the rules on
which a recorded vote or the yeas and
nays are ordered, or on which the vote
is objected to under clause 6 of rule
XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will
be taken on tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE RECOVERY AND ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE PRIS- ONERS OF WAR OR MISSING

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I move to suspend the rules and
pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 18)

recognizing the historic commitment
of the United States to the recovery of
and full accounting for Americans who
are prisoners of war or in a missing
status.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 18

Whereas the surrender during World War II
on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines,
in April 1942 led to the capture of more than
75,000 American and Filipino military pris-
oners of war;

Whereas American, Filipino, and Allied
prisoners of war endured the 65-mile Bataan
Death March through the jungles of the Phil-
ippines and were subjected to brutal abuse
from which many hundreds of Americans and
many thousands of Filipinos died;

Whereas thousands more American and
Filipino civilians were interned across the
region;

Whereas General Douglas MacArthur, the
Allied commander for the Southwest Pacific
area, including the Philippine Islands, com-
mitted forces under his command to make
every effort, as quickly as possible, to lib-
erate prisoner of war camps and internment
camps as Allied forces began retaking terri-
tory;

Whereas in the fulfillment of that commit-
ment, United States Army units, together
with various Filipino guerilla groups, suc-
cessfully conducted several operations that
liberated thousands of innocent civilians,
prisoners of war, and Filipino citizens;

Whereas in February 1945, elements of the
11th Airborne Division, particularly the
511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that
division, and the 672nd Amphibious Tractor
Battalion conducted a particularly brave and
daring mission behind enemy lines to rescue
over 2,000 people at Los Banos internment
camp; and

Whereas the United States has an historic
commitment to the recovery of and full ac-
counting for Americans who are prisoners of
war or in a missing status: Now, therefore,
be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled*, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the rescue missions carried
out by units of the United States Army, in-
cluding the 11th Airborne Division, 60 years
ago in the Philippines during World War II as
sterling examples of that commitment; and

(2) recognizes the bravery and courage of
the soldiers and the Filipino guerillas who
participated in those rescue missions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to the rule, the gentleman from Ar-
izona (Mr. FRANKS) and the gentleman
from North Carolina (Mr.
BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 min-
utes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman
from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

□ 1400

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I ask unanimous consent that all
Members may have 5 legislative days
within which to revise and extend their
remarks on H.J. Res. 18, the legislation
under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the
request of the gentleman from Ari-
zona?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speak-
er, I yield myself such time as I may
consume.

When the Philippines fell in April of
1942, more than 75,000 American and
Filipino servicemen and countless civ-
ilians became prisoners of war. This
number was decimated during the bru-
tal Bataan Death March, which saw the
death of over 16,000 POWs. Many sol-
diers survived the march, only to find
themselves facing murderous treat-
ment in prisoner-of-war camps scat-
tered throughout the island.

When General MacArthur began his
campaign to retake the Philippines in
1945, he made it a priority to liberate
soldiers and civilians who were in-
terned in these camps. This commit-
ment was particularly important, since
it was widely believed that captives
would be killed by their retreating cap-
tors if measures were not undertaken
to liberate them in advance of the
main campaign.

General MacArthur's commitment to
the civilian internees and prisoners of
war on the island manifested itself in a
particularly heroic way in the Allied
raid on the prison camp at Los Banos.
It was here that Filipino guerrilla
forces and the men of the 511th para-
chute infantry regiment of the 11th
Airborne division worked in concert to
organize a multipronged assault with
elements attacking from land, air and
sea to liberate the prisoners of the
camp.

The Allied forces took great risks to
free their fellow soldiers and civilians
who had fallen behind enemy lines.
These truly heroic acts serve not only
as examples of the humanitarian com-
passion of American servicemen and
-women but also as an example of our
Nation's longstanding commitment to
leave no fellow soldier, living or dead,
in enemy hands.

Mr. Speaker, as we have military per-
sonnel spread throughout the world
today, many of whom are daily risking
capture and torture at the hands of
brutal terrorists, it is more important
now than ever to recognize and honor
the heroism and willing sacrifice of
those soldiers who risked their own
safety not to take a strategic objec-
tive, but simply to bring a comrade
home.

Our soldiers, marines, airmen and
sailors must be able to take a small
measure of comfort that whatever hap-
pens to them in battle, that this Na-
tion will always have the will and the
resolve to find and repatriate all of
those who were lost while on duty.

Mr. Speaker, evil has aggressively
manifested itself in many forms
throughout human history, and for the
last 200 years, whether fighting totali-
tarian evil of monarchial, fascist or fa-
natical roots, American servicemen
have made a habit of putting them-
selves squarely in evil's way. They
have done so, secure in the knowledge
that if they fall into the hands of the
enemy, they will not be forgotten. In-
deed, every effort possible will be un-
dertaken to bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 60th anniver-
sary of the liberation of over 2,000 pris-
oners from the camp at Los Banos, and

at a time when our military is deployed in harm's way around the globe, let us recognize those individuals who sacrificed to bring their brothers and sisters home, and let us honor the heroic actions of the past by officially reaffirming our Nation's commitment to leave no fighting man or woman in enemy hands at any time, now or in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Resolution 18, introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), my friend and colleague on the House Committee on Armed Services.

This resolution today recognizes our Nation's commitment to the recovery and full accounting of Americans who are prisoners of war or who are in a missing status from current and previous conflicts, and in particular, it recognizes the actions of the 11th Airborne division and the Filipino guerrillas who participated in the liberation of an internment camp in the Philippines during World War II.

Following the United States surrender on the Bataan Peninsula in April of 1942, thousands of Americans and Filipinos and Europeans, both military and civilian, were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese. In the town of Los Banos, on the island of Luzon, over 2,000 civilians, including men, women and children, and 12 American Navy nurses, were held as captives. From May 14, 1943, until they were freed by Angels on February 3, 1945, they were held captive at the former agricultural school of the University of the Philippines.

The 11th Airborne division, also known as the Angels, arrived at Leyte Beach in the Philippines on November 19, 1944. Their first objective was to clear a mountain pass from Burauen to Ormoc. After nearly 3 months of bitter fighting, the 11th Airborne had killed almost 6,000 enemy soldiers and had driven the Japanese from the pass and surrounding areas. On January 6, 1945, the Angels landed on the island of Luzon. Their mission was to clear enemy opposition on the major highway leading to Manila.

As American forces successfully regained territory that was lost to the Japanese at the beginning of the war, General Douglas MacArthur became concerned that many of the prisoners would be killed before they could be rescued. The 11th Airborne division was given the responsibility of liberating the prisoners at Los Banos. The Angels worked with the Filipino guerrilla groups in the area to gain valuable information as to the layout of the camp, the schedules of the guards and other details that were essential for a successful mission.

It is said that the rescue of the detainees at Los Banos was one of the most successful missions ever con-

ducted. Not one prisoner was killed or seriously injured in the assault, and not one paratrooper of the battalion that was directly involved was killed.

The historic rescue of Los Banos by the 11th Airborne and the Filipino guerrillas, and other efforts to recover prisoners of war and those missing in action are not forgotten. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they stand as testament to our Nation's strong commitment to ensure that no one will be left behind on the battlefield.

Today, the Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office continues to coordinate recovery activities and investigate locations from past conflicts to ensure a full accounting, a full accounting of those who remain missing in action from past conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to speak briefly in support of all POW/MIAs. Over the past 100 years, over 88,000 of our fighting men and women are still classified as missing in action, remains not recovered or remains unidentified. Every American who puts on the uniform of this Nation accepts the dangers that are entailed, and I am touched by the strong efforts to recover the remains of American servicemen and -women, and to find individuals who may still be alive. Every man or woman unaccounted for is a family who never knew the fate of a loved one, and it is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that our government never let a single American be left behind. It is important to the families of our fighting men and women, and it is the duty of this government to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), a true American hero.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that remark and I appreciate the gentleman's remarks that just spoke. God bless you.

I stand here before you as a former prisoner of war in Vietnam. Despite 7 years in captivity, with 42 months straight in solitary confinement, I am one of the lucky ones because I came home. Some of the men I served with in Vietnam did not, and guys, say, oh, we really had it rough. I tell my colleagues, the guys in that Bataan Death March are the guys who had it rough. Those are the guys that gave their lives for this Nation, and we can never repay them in my view.

I firmly believe we need to send a strong, clear signal that we must account for Americans who are prisoners or classified as missing, and while I was in captivity, I made it my duty to memorize the names of my fellow POWs, committing about 374 names to memory just from tapping on a wall, never seeing them. We were trying to memorize them in case anybody got out because every one of us thought we

could escape. So we knew the names but we did not have any idea what they looked like.

Most of the time we never saw another American except occasionally through a crack in the door, but I knew they were there, and I know some did not come home, especially from Cambodia and Laos.

This just is not about Vietnam. It is about the Korean War, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Iraq and World War II. I fought in Korea as well as Vietnam. I am on the U.S.-Russia Commission on POWs and MIAs. We have been looking for them, and we know some of them were taken to the Soviet Union. We are starting to hear about it in the press now. We know some of them are still alive, at least some are from the Korean War, and we know there may be some still alive today from Vietnam. We are still searching for them.

So help me, if they are alive and we do not get them out, we have not done our job. I truly appreciate what my colleagues are doing with this resolution. I think it is important that America know that we never leave anyone behind. We are Americans and we take care of our own.

I hope today's action is not just lip service but people continue to act, follow through on finding our fellow Americans. We owe it to our men and women in uniform and their families because, after all, we are the land of the free and the home of the brave.

God bless our military servicemen and the POWs and MIAs that are still out there. I salute each and every one of you.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

(Mr. CASE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding me time, and it humbles me to follow the previous speaker in light of his service.

I rise in full support of this resolution and wish to fully associate myself with the comments of my colleagues with respect to the heroic rescue missions carried out 60 years ago by units of the U.S. Army in the Philippines. It allows us to follow anew not only their efforts but also the heroic effort of many, many members of the Filipino citizenry, including the Filipino scouts who rose up and fought alongside U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines during the Second World War and allied themselves very much with the Allied effort.

I also want to take the opportunity in this resolution to highlight, as the previous speaker said, the work undone, on a broader scale, which includes almost 2,000 of our own still unaccounted for in the Vietnam War. In that spirit, I want to highlight the great commitment shown by our Joint POW/MIA Command, JPAC, which is operated by the Defense POW missing personnel office.

JPAC is headquartered in Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. It was activated in October of 2003, and its mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing, worldwide, as a result of our Nation's previous conflicts.

Of course, the highest priority of JPAC is return of any living American that remains a prisoner of war, but equally important is bringing resolution to the families who still await news of their loved ones.

JPAC was created from the merger of the Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii and the Joint Task Force Full Accounting and contains almost 425 personnel. One-quarter are Navy civilians and the rest handpicked soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Every individual attached to JPAC is chosen through the specialized skills necessary for the command's unique mission.

Some brief facts about JPAC and the Central Identification Lab-Hawaii. Even today, they are still identifying roughly two individuals each week formerly listed as missing.

They have identified remains from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War, and in each of those cases where it is possible, repatriation ceremonies, with a full honor guard, are held nearly every month at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. As the remains are brought off the plane in flag-draped caskets and moved to ground transportation, a multiservice honor guard salutes the remains while family members, veterans and members of the Armed Forces offer their respects.

It is also true that JPAC's work extends well into the realm of diplomacy because especially with the countries of Asia, where we had former enemies, JPAC and its efforts have often meant the initial unifying factor, the item on which we can all agree, and they have definitely led in many cases to rapprochement between previous enemies.

In addition to its primary mission of identifying, recovering and repatriating the remains of the POWs and MIAs, JPAC personnel also support nontraditional and humanitarian missions as well. For example, in the recent tsunami effort in southeast Asia, JPAC deployed their two teams of eight people, including a forensic anthropologist, forensic dentist and other specialists to assist the Government of Thailand to identify and recover the bodies of more than 3,500 individuals who died there.

I have here for inclusion with my remarks at this point an article that recently appeared in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin entitled "Joint POW-MIA Accounting Group Using DNA Expertise," which acutely describes some of these humanitarian efforts and which contains this very poignant remark: "Everybody is given a name when you are born, and everybody should have a name when you die. That's what we do."

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Jan. 21, 2005]

JOINT POW-MIA ACCOUNTING GROUP USING
DNA EXPERTISE
(By Craig Gima)

PHUKET, THAILAND.—At the Tsunami Victims Assistance Center, unanswered questions hang in the air around the bulletin boards where family members have posted pictures of missing friends and relatives.

The photos—a haunting reminder of lives probably lost—mean there are lives in limbo, families holding on to hope, however faint, unwilling to accept death without proof.

The large crowds of family members that gathered here daily right after the tsunami are gone now. The people who show up are sometimes friends continuing the search or, as in the case of a visitor earlier in the day, a brother who believes his sister needs his help.

"If his sister is dead, he doesn't want to know now," said Verity Cattan-Poole, a volunteer at the center who speaks both Thai and English. "He wants to find her. He thinks possibly that she's somewhere and lost her memory, and he wants to be there to help her."

"In their heart of hearts, I think they know," Cattan-Poole said. But "if you have a loved one who has died, you need closure."

A little more than two hours north of the center, an international team of forensic scientists that includes members of the Hawaii-based Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command are trying to bring closure to families.

JPAC is best known for its work in recovering and identifying the remains of U.S. service members from Vietnam and other wars. But it has deployed teams before to disasters, including the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the Korean Air crash in Guam and the bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.

Two teams of eight people, including a forensic anthropologist, a forensic dentist and mortuary affairs specialists, have been helping the Thai government identify and recover the bodies of more than 5,300 people who died in the tsunami.

Most of the work is done at Wat Yan Yao, a Buddhist temple about two hours north of Phuket. JPAC also helped coordinate the delivery of supplies and materials such as lights and tents from the U.S. military's relief effort and is helping to set up a temporary morgue, donated by Norway, near the Phuket airport.

On Wednesday, JPAC members joined thousands of Buddhist monks at a candlelight service at a stadium in Takua Pa, a city in the province north of Phuket where about 4,000 people died.

Organizers said the memorial service was multi-denominational, offering prayers to comfort survivors and to help those who died find happiness and peace in the afterlife.

Many of the team members are now returning to Hawaii. A smaller group will remain for an undetermined time.

At a briefing in Hawaii earlier this month, Gen. Montague Winfield, the commander of the unit, said his men and women were prepared to go when they saw the extent of the tsunami devastation.

Winfield said they had just finished a plan on how to deploy quickly in the event of mass casualties anywhere in the world.

Still, while the JPAC team members had planned what to take and to get their equipment there in the event of an emergency, "nobody can adequately or fully prepare for something of this magnitude," said Dr. Robert Mann, deputy scientific director at JPAC.

"In this situation here, you're going to be dealing with a lot of children, and a lot of people here have kids," he said.

Mann, who was at the same briefing as the general, said the forensic scientists in Hawaii are experts at extracting and using DNA to identify remains. They are also bone and teeth experts.

Bone structure, Mann explained, can show whether a person is of Caucasian or Asian descent, a man or a woman. Dental records also can help with identification when fingerprints are not available.

"Everybody is given a name when you are born, and everybody should have a name when you die," Mann said. "That's what we do."

JPAC is a vital part of our Nation's ongoing commitment to its service members, and we in Hawaii are proud and humbled by their commitment to their mission. This mission on behalf of all of us must continue until every last unaccounted American citizen is accounted for.

□ 1415

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 18. Today, we recognize the heroism of America's POWs, and we recognize the heroism as well of those men and women of our military who rescued our POWs in various conflicts.

We are focusing mainly on the Philippines. And, of course, in the Philippines there were so many thousands of Americans that were captured by the Japanese and held and who were rescued by Filipino Americans, or Filipinos I should say, and by U.S. troops near the close of the war.

Let me note that the Filipinos who fought side by side with us, and there were many thousands of Filipinos who were also held as prisoners of war during the war with Japan. During those 4 years, those Filipinos who fought, those Filipinos as well as those Americans who fought with us to liberate the Philippines and rescued our POWs as the war ended, were shortchanged. Today, the Filipinos who fought alongside Americans, many of those were promised veterans status, and they never received the veterans status we promised them when they helped us liberate the Philippines. So they were shortchanged.

Our own POWs were shortchanged. Those Americans held in the Philippines have been prevented by our own government from suing the Japanese corporations that used them as slave labor during the war. This is a horrendous gift to give a POW, like the survivors of the Bataan Death March who then were used as slave labor by the Japanese. They cannot even be compensated by suing the Japanese.

And this is not something that happened just in history. American POWs from the last Iraq war, who were held prisoner and tortured by Iraq, are now being prevented by our government from suing the Iraqis who tortured them. We should be on the side, if nobody else, of our greatest heroes, America's POWs; but we have shortchanged them at every step.

And what do we say about those who fought in Vietnam, along with some of those Vietnamese, those Americans that were captured in Vietnam and were not returned after the war and that we abandoned? We know that is true. We know a number of them were taken to Russia. We do not even know their names. We have not even insisted on their names. As we expand our trade now and begin selling things in our stores, we are not even demanding that Vietnam please give us the full accounting we deserve.

They have not, for example, given us the records from the prisons in which our POWs were kept so we can check to see who was kept in those prisons. I have asked for that for 20 years and have never received it. Obviously, they are covering something up. But we are letting it slide. We are letting it slide.

We ended up turning against our POWs in the Bataan Death March and not letting them sue the Japanese, and we are turning against our POWs from the last Iraq war by not letting them sue their torturers. We need to start thinking about where our loyalties lie in this country of the American heroes. We have a lot to stand up for, because these men and these people, the men and women who sacrifice for us, including the Filipinos who fought with us in World War II, we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be paid. At the very least, let us be faithful to them and give them the kind of recognition and honor they deserve.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for yielding me this time, and for his words, as well as those of the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Arizona. Again, this is, I think, a singular moment when there is no voice of dissent.

Might I pay special tribute, of course, to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), who has always reminded us in this House, as have many others, but in particular, as he hails from my State of Texas, the debt of gratitude and the debt of commitment that we still continue to owe to those who are missing in action.

This resolution I want to acknowledge because of a very precise statement that it contains, which is very key to what we are doing here today. It states we are celebrating the historic commitment of the United States "to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status."

I think more than celebrate, I hope with the passage of this legislation that the American people will understand that no brave young man or woman, no brave person who has submitted themselves to the oath of office to fight for this country on foreign

shores, will ever become just a footnote in our minds and hearts, but that we will continue to press the envelope, we will continue to use all the resources, we will continue to wave the flags, we will continue to teach our children that they have given the ultimate sacrifice, maybe, but that their names still have not been described as having passed in battle and, therefore, it is our obligation to continue to search for them until we determine their status.

It gave me great pride to share with former council member Ben Reyes the first raising of a POW-MIA flag in front of the city hall in the City of Houston. We did that some many years ago. How proud we were to stand with veterans from Houston as they watched that flag recognizing and commemorating, in just the City of Houston in this Nation, on behalf of its children, on behalf of its soldiers that we would never stop searching or at least pushing for our MIAs.

Let me also appreciate the recognition of the 11th Airborne Division, particularly the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that division, that were particularly brave as they went behind enemy lines to rescue over 2,000 people in an internment camp.

Let me also acknowledge my constituents who marched on that death march some many, many years ago, where they saw some lose their lives and some be carried off, not knowing where they might go. Let me acknowledge them as well, as this resolution does.

My final words this afternoon are simply to say that as we celebrate, let us make a personal commitment both in terms of resources, a large component of defense authorization and appropriations, that there should continue to be funding and focus on our POWs and, of course, our MIAs. We owe that to the families. We owe it to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution enthusiastically.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), and I thank the Members who have been out here this afternoon talking about this critical issue and recognizing this resolution.

I represent the Maupin family in Clermont County, Ohio. Their son, Keith Matthew "Matt" Maupin, Army Specialist, was captured in Iraq in April of last year. We are approaching, therefore, the 1-year anniversary. I rise today to pay special honor to Matt Maupin and to all our brave servicemen and women who are putting their lives on the line for us again on the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Specialist Maupin has been missing, as I said, since April 9, 2004. His convoy came under attack. He was taken captive. He is still missing. He went to Iraq because he believed in the fight. He went to Iraq for the freedom of the

Iraqi people and to make America and our world a safer place. He is truly an American hero.

In our part of southern Ohio, there has been an outpouring of support for Matt; prayers, but also yellow ribbons have cropped up everywhere: on cars, on highway overpasses, and at places of business. His father is a veteran, Keith Maupin; his brother, Lance Corporal Micah Maupin, is a Marine stationed in Miramar, California, currently. Specialist Maupin comes from a family that strongly supports the military and strongly supports our military families.

In fact, Matt's family has taken it upon themselves to establish a Yellow Ribbon Support Network to support families throughout our part of Ohio and, indeed, throughout our country who have their sons and daughters in harm's way.

I again want to thank those who have brought this resolution to the floor today, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) and others, for their strong support and those of our brave men and women who are missing in action. In the case of Matt Maupin, we remember the Army's "Soldier's Creed," which states: ". . . I always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. . . . I am an American soldier." This is Specialist Matt Maupin.

We take care of our soldiers. We leave no soldier behind.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank once again the gentleman from Arizona for bringing forth this resolution today calling for a full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or for those who are missing in action. Our speakers, today, on both sides of the aisle, have spoken so eloquently, and I thank them so much for their comments. They are great Americans.

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply say that I think all of us hold the commitment in our hearts and the understanding in our hearts that no greater love hath any man than this, than a man who lays down his life for his friends.

There are so many men and women who have laid down their lives for American causes and for the cause of human freedom. This is our day to recognize that, and I pray that we never forget them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 18.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER RAFIK HARIRI

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 91) honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 91

Whereas on February 14, 2005, a bomb exploded in Beirut, Lebanon, killing at least 15 people, including Rafik Hariri, former Prime Minister of Lebanon, and wounding at least 100 people;

Whereas Rafik Hariri, a leader and public servant, was believed to be the target of the attack;

Whereas on June 14, 2003, the Future TV studio in Lebanon, which is owned by Rafik Hariri, was targeted by a rocket attack;

Whereas Rafik Hariri, born into a humble family in Sidon, Lebanon, on November 1, 1944, became a successful businessman and politician who served the people of Lebanon in numerous roles;

Whereas Rafik Hariri contributed to the mediation between Lebanese militias during the Lebanese civil war and was a primary architect of the 1989 Taif Accords, which put an end to the Lebanese civil war;

Whereas Rafik Hariri contributed to the economic development and post-war reconstruction of Lebanon, attracting foreign investments from throughout the world;

Whereas Rafik Hariri founded several philanthropic, humanitarian, and educational foundations to provide assistance to needy individuals;

Whereas Rafik Hariri was respected by the international community, as exemplified by the international community's support for the Paris II conference on relieving Lebanon's debt in November 2002;

Whereas the assassination of Rafik Hariri should not be allowed to discourage participation and open debate in Lebanon's upcoming parliamentary elections, which the United States expects to take place in the spring of 2005 as scheduled and be credible, democratic, and free of foreign interference;

Whereas in response to the terrorist bombing attack, President George W. Bush stated: "Mr. Hariri was a fervent supporter of Lebanese independence, and worked tirelessly to rebuild a free, independent, and prosperous Lebanon following its brutal civil war and despite its continued foreign occupation. His murder is an attempt to stifle these efforts to build an independent, sovereign Lebanon free of foreign domination."; and

Whereas President Bush further stated: "The people of Lebanon deserve the freedom to choose their leaders free of intimidation, terror, and foreign occupation, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1559. The United States will consult with other governments in the region and on the Security Council today about measures that can be taken to punish those responsible for this terrorist attack, to end the use of violence and intimidation against the Lebanese people, and to restore Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and democracy by freeing it from foreign occupation."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorist bombing attack that occurred on February 14, 2005, in Beirut, Leb-

anon, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and killed and wounded others;

(2) extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of all the victims in this terrorist attack and to the people of Lebanon in this moment of tragedy;

(3) recognizes the significant contributions made by Rafik Hariri during his lifetime;

(4) reaffirms the right of the people of Lebanon to choose their leaders in a manner that is free of intimidation, terror, and foreign occupation in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004); and

(5) urges all members of the international community to facilitate any investigation into this terrorist attack and help bring the perpetrators to justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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 materials on H. Res. 91, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 91, introduced by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) on February 14, 2005, that condemns the terrorist bombing attack that occurred in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and killed and wounded over 100 others. I and my co-sponsors had a hard time writing this resolution with the gentleman from West Virginia, not because there was not an abundance of material, not because the attack was not heinous, but because it is so hard to summarize in a few words on the House floor the devastating effect that his assassination has already had on the people of Lebanon and on this troubled region. As we speak, day after day, the people of Lebanon march in the streets and they chant, "Syria out. Syria out. Syria, who's next?"

There is no proof that Syria is directly responsible for this assassination, but there is no doubt that Syria has remained in Lebanon far longer either than their mandate or than the agreements under the Taif Accords of 1989. Syria has claimed to be the responsible party in Lebanon for security. Yet even after warnings of the possibility of an attack on these and other leaders who have voiced their opposition to the continued presence of Syria in Lebanon, this heinous attack was allowed to occur.

This resolution calls on all foreign forces in Lebanon to leave the country.

This resolution calls on many things. But for today, I would like all of us to remember it calls on a remembrance of the life of a man who had great personal wealth, who had great success, who had been granted even the citizenship of another country in which he had worked but returned to Lebanon, and, at his own expense and at his own peril, campaigned tirelessly for Lebanese citizenship, Lebanese nationality, Lebanon for the Lebanese.

There is little more that we can say. I would hope that all of us would not forget today, and that day after day and month after month we would return to this body and deal with his legacy until his dreams become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 91, condemning the monstrous terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon that killed the late Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, and killed and wounded many others. I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for bringing this matter to the floor in such a timely fashion, and I want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and all other colleagues who have worked on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I met the late Prime Minister Hariri on many occasions. Although I did not always agree with him, I held him in the highest regard because I recognized in him a man who was a true patriot, single-mindedly devoted to healing his nation after 15 years of a bloody civil war. He was a man not only of charm and drive but of vision. He worked a minor miracle in reviving downtown Beirut, and it was characteristically cynical that the murderers chose that particular area of the city as the site for their cruel crime.

I knew that part of Beirut very well. I first visited it in 1956 and it was one of the gems of the Middle East. The late Prime Minister Hariri returned that portion of Beirut to its former outstanding aesthetic qualities. Given his immense wealth, he could be alive right now, living the good life somewhere on the French Riviera with a mansion and a private beach. Instead, he threw himself into the treacherous world of Lebanese politics, Lebanese politics played out under a menacing Syrian shadow, and like so many before him, he paid the ultimate price.

Among Mr. Hariri's most impressive attributes was his capacity for growth. Over time, he evolved from a Lebanese leader who was close to the Syrians, into one who was wary of them, and finally, in his last days, into one who outright opposed them. Of course it is a near certainty that it was that evolution, particularly the final stage, that led to his demise. A long time ago in a private talk with the President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, he taught me a lesson. He said, "Every country has its