

Today the Independent Electoral Commission confirmed that the Iraqi people voted by 78.9 percent to adopt their landmark constitution. The turnout of 63 percent exceeded January's election turnout of 60 percent, and the elections are being hailed as a shining success. Terrorists attempted to intimidate voters, but they were unable to stop 9.8 million Iraqi voters from exercising their freedom.

Additionally, Iraqi Security Forces deserve enormous praise for their ability to provide excellent security at polling centers and the barriers outside these centers. Every day these forces are playing a larger role in protecting and securing their country, inspired by our courageous troops.

The passage of Iraq's constitution marks yet another milestone for the nation. Iraqi citizens continue to demonstrate they are serious about establishing a democracy and committed to the future of their nation. Their success in building a civil society is a critical step in the global war on terrorism and is helping to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

PASSPORTS ARE A NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, every day thousands of packages travel throughout the world. United Parcel Service ships and tracks packages from places far and wide, and these packages are kept up with a simple bar code. These packages are scanned at every stop they make when they enter or leave a building, or, when they are loaded on to trucks, ships or planes, they are scanned.

From when a package leaves its destination, let us say in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, until its ends up here in its final destination in Washington, DC, it is scanned at least 10 times and tracked with almost up-to-the-minute data on where it has been and where it is going.

Mr. Speaker, millions of people cross our borders every day. We do not even record who enters our Nation. A border agent at a port of entry in south Texas just looks into the vehicle and may or may not examine papers, and waves the passengers in. We must require the machine-readable bar code passports to enter the United States. It will add no measurable amount of time.

We take the time to record letters and packages; now we must start recording foreign citizens who enter the United States. It is an issue of our national security.

SPENDING REDUCTIONS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Americans are writing us, sending us e-mails, calling us, stopping us at the grocery store and at the high school football game on Friday night, and they are telling us that they want to see us reduce government spending. They support us on the \$35 billion in reductions already part of the 2006 budget plan, and they support our effort to begin eliminating 98 programs that have shown little, if any, results.

They appreciate the Speaker of this House making fiscal responsibility a part of his economic agenda, putting that at the heart of our economic security of this Nation. But our constituents do not appreciate that not one Democrat in this House, not one, has stood up to support our effort to get that 2006 budget savings from \$35 billion to \$50 billion.

Americans do not appreciate that the Democrats are refusing to call for across-the-board cuts. They will not even support a 1 percent reduction, not even 1 percent, Mr. Speaker. If the liberals in this House had their way, we would be spending billions of dollars more every year.

I hope the American people will reach out and let them know that they would like to see Federal spending reduced.

JOB LOSS IN OHIO

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the job loss in my State of Ohio continues, yet this Congress does nothing; no manufacturing policy, no industrial policy, bad trade policies, passing the Central American Free Trade Agreement in the middle of the night, a tax policy that benefits and gives incentives for corporations to outsource manufacturing jobs to China and New Mexico and to Central America, into other parts of the world, but does nothing to assist small manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, this country's economic leaders and political leaders are taking this country in the wrong direction. It is time we passed better trade policy. It is time we passed a manufacturing policy. It is time we assisted America's and Ohio's small manufacturers, because they create the jobs and create the middle class in this country.

ROSA PARKS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I would just add to the gentleman from the State of Ohio that the State of Texas added 15,000 jobs last month.

Mr. Speaker, when she sat down, society stood up and took notice. Rosa Parks, the name is synonymous with civil rights. Often referred to as the Mother of Civil Rights, Ms. Parks, with

one small act of defiance, refusing to give up her bus seat, galvanized a generation of activists, including the young Reverend Martin Luther King, who then organized a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system. Finally in November of 1956, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks was then a 42-year-old seamstress, an active member of the National Organization for the Advancement of Colored People, and had worked as its adviser to its youth council. But it was on a city bus on December 1, 1955, when her seat was demanded and when history was made. When questioned why she did not vacate her seat that day, her answer was simple. She said, "I felt I had a right to be treated as any other passenger. We had endured that kind of treatment for too long."

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks received many awards throughout her lifetime, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996; and then in 1999, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Ms. Parks. But Ms. Parks wanted people to remember what was most important, to understand the government, to understand their rights, and the Constitution.

ROSA PARKS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rosa Parks who passed away yesterday.

A reporter called me last night and wanted to know what did Rosa Parks's life mean to me. I remembered that I was a young teenager, as a matter of fact, the same age as Emmett Till, growing up during that period, living in the southern part of the country.

Things became so exciting for us as a result of Rosa Parks and the whole civil rights movement until we could hardly sleep at night waiting to see what was going to happen the next day. So Rosa Parks sparked a movement that shall forever live and can never die. We still have a ways to go, but she helped bring us to a real point. I salute her.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 220) recognizing America's Blood Centers and its member organizations for their commitment to providing over half the Nation with a safe and adequate volunteer donor blood supply, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 220

Whereas each year more than 4,500,000 Americans need a blood transfusion, and for over half the need is urgent and lifesaving;

Whereas one out of three people need donated blood in their lifetime, and one out of seven hospital patients need a blood transfusion;

Whereas it is the blood available on a daily basis that saves lives, and volunteer blood donors are required every day to meet patient needs and to be immediately available in times of disaster;

Whereas community blood centers strive year-round to maintain a sufficient blood supply, an urgent task because blood components must be constantly rotated as a result of blood's short 42-day shelf life;

Whereas America's Blood Centers was founded in 1962 and is North America's largest network of community-based, federally licensed, not-for-profit blood centers;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers serve more than 150,000,000 people and operate more than 600 collection sites, collecting a significant amount of the blood supply of the United States;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers are currently engaged in developing new tests and new technologies to further assure the safety of the Nation's blood supply and are actively engaged in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine;

Whereas America's Blood Centers assists its members and other blood organizations in assuring adequate blood supplies for patients in times of disasters;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers were the first to respond to the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine shootings, and the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy and since 9/11 have supported and developed with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services proposals to ensure rapid response and adequate blood support in the case of a national disaster or act of terrorism; and

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers support military operations around the globe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the role of America's Blood Centers and its members in—

(A) providing life saving blood to patients, including the military in times of war and the Nation in times of disaster;

(B) ensuring the safety of that blood supply; and

(C) promoting essential blood donor initiatives;

(2) acknowledges the efforts made by member community blood centers and other blood organizations to promote and protect the safety and adequacy of blood components provided to patients; and

(3) recognizes the need to promote a stable blood supply and increase volunteer participation of blood donors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the

gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material therein.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 220, a resolution recognizing America's Blood Centers and their member organizations and their commitment to providing over half the Nation with a safe and adequate donor blood supply.

Each year more than 4½ million Americans need a blood transfusion; and for many, donated blood will be a lifesaver. One out of every three people will need donated blood in their lifetime. For many of us, we do our part by participating in blood drives, but we do not fully recognize the significance of our action.

What can take 15 minutes to donate a pint of blood can literally save the life of a mother, a next-door neighbor, or a child. An ample blood supply is also critically important to ensuring we are prepared to respond to health care emergencies.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for offering this resolution. This is a great resolution, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to support H. Res. 220, which recognizes America's Blood Centers. Founded 43 years ago, America's Blood Centers are North America's largest network of nonprofit, community blood centers. Seventy-six blood centers operate 600-plus collection sites in 45 States and provide nearly half the United States volunteer donor blood supply.

There are some facts about blood and blood donation that I think are worth noting. Four and a half million Americans would die each year without lifesaving blood transfusions. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in our country. Every 3 seconds someone needs blood. One out of every 10 people in the United States entering a hospital needs blood. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives. About 3 gallons of blood supports the entire Nation's blood needs for just 1 minute.

We all expect blood to be there for us when we need it, and that time is too often unexpected. Whether it is a 7-year-old battling leukemia, a father in-

jured in a serious car accident, or a 65-year-old woman having heart surgery, every day hundreds of people in our communities need blood; and there is, of course, no substitute for it.

H. Res. 220 recognizes blood heroes who are ensuring that the safest possible blood is readily available whenever and wherever needed. As we recognize the important efforts of the blood centers, it is also important to recognize and encourage those Americans who routinely give blood. Both blood donors and blood centers are an essential lifeline for all of us.

I urge the entire House to vote "yes" for this important resolution.

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 220, a resolution I sponsored to recognize America's Blood Centers and its member organizations for their commitment to providing the United States with a safe and adequate volunteer donor blood supply. I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his support of this resolution.

America's Blood Centers was founded in 1962 and is North America's largest network of community-based, federally licensed, not-for-profit blood centers. With locations in 45 States, America's Blood Centers collects almost half the United States blood supply, more than any other organization. They provide blood products and services to more than 3,300 United States hospitals and serve more than 150 million people.

America's Blood Centers have been a national leader in meeting increased national blood supply needs, developing new donor recruitment tools, and making blood donation a societal priority. They are often the first responders to national disasters and ensure that needed resources are available in times of crisis. And, in fact, Mr. Speaker as a cardiac surgeon and a surgeon with extensive experience in open heart surgery and in trauma, I have seen directly the benefit that these blood centers provide.

Additionally, America's Blood Centers are currently engaged in developing new tests and technologies to further assure the safety of the Nation's blood supply and are actively engaged in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine.

The resolution before us will ensure that America's Blood Centers receives the national recognition they deserve for their work, work that saves lives every day. Their services are invaluable, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to extend a warm thanks and offer my heartfelt appreciation to those who work tirelessly to ensure the well-being of all Americans. The purpose of House Resolution 220 is to give credit where credit is due; to pay our respect