

After training at the Naval station at Norfolk, Virginia, he was assigned to the ammunition ship *USS Pyro*; and on January 2, 1940, Dorie, as his shipmates nicknamed him, was transferred to the battleship *USS West Virginia*. When he was not cooking he was boxing with his buddies, and he became the ship's heavyweight boxing champion. He was serving on the battleship *West Virginia* that December morning in 1941 when the Japanese surprise attack took place.

As the bright rising and violent sun came up on the morning of December 7, 1941, Dorie was already awake and collecting laundry when the battle stations alarm sounded throughout the ship. Pearl Harbor and Hawaii were under attack.

He ran on deck to help his fellow wounded soldiers. In the midst of the chaos, an officer ordered him to aid the critically wounded captain of the ship. While struggling back to the bridge and then amid horrendous and heavy fire and bombs, Dorie came upon a machine gun whose gunner had already been killed. Dorie, rescuing his captain, made sure that he was protected and immediately began firing this machine gun at Japanese airplanes.

□ 1945

He continued firing until the crew was ordered to abandon the ship. Miller had never been trained to operate a machine gun, but he was credited with shooting down at least two Japanese planes, probably more than that. Later he said, "I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine."

In the spring of 1943, Dorie Miller was assigned to the *USS Liscome Bay*, an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, and he was on board November 24, 1943, when the aircraft carrier was sunk by a submarine; 646 sailors were lost at sea, and Dorie was one of them.

Before he died, Miller was honored for his brave acts at Pearl Harbor on December 7. He was awarded the second highest medal in the Navy, the Navy Cross, for his extraordinary courage during that battle. It happened that Admiral Chester Nimitz, another Texan, presented the award to Miller personally. And he said of Miller, "This marks the first time in this conflict in this war that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific fleet to a member of this race, and I am sure that the future will see others of this race similarly honored for these brave acts."

Admiral Nimitz mentioned Miller's race because he was black. The Navy had been integrated, but segregated responsibilities. So Miller, since he was black, he was assigned to being a cook on the ship. He was not required to be topside manning that .50-caliber machine gun on December 7, but he was there. He voluntarily helped protect his ship and protect his captain. By the way, Mr. Speaker, in the movie "Pearl Harbor," Cuba Gooding, Jr., portrayed Doris Miller in his actions on December 7.

Mr. Speaker, every February our Nation celebrates Black History Month to recognize the contribution that African Americans have made to our country. This Black History Month, as we note accomplishments of African Americans, we take time to salute their military accomplishments as well. We honor the loyal duty of heroes like Doris Miller. He was an extraordinary American and a sailor. He received many awards for his bravery during the attack on Pearl Harbor, and he acted above and beyond the call of duty. He could have certainly qualified for the medal of honor for his courage. He was a man of valor, and Doris Miller is entitled to respect and gratitude of our country.

There were many of the World War II Greatest Generation that gave their youth and their lives for our Nation. Mr. Speaker, over 400,000 Americans, young men and young women, died in World War II protecting our Nation and the concept of freedom. Dorie Miller was one of those Americans. And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE POLICY OF ROYALTY RELIEF

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today Americans woke up to the unfortunate news that because of the actions of this Congress, the major oil companies that are drilling in the Gulf of Mexico are in all likelihood not going to be paying any royalty on billions of dollars, some \$65 billion worth of oil, that they will be extracting from the Outer Continental Shelf of this country and on which they would be expected to pay some \$7 billion in royalties; and, in fact, they may not be paying that. It may go even further that some of the majors have suggested that they are not required to pay any royalties on oil extracted from the Outer Continental Shelf. In that case, the cost to the taxpayers would be maybe \$35 billion, \$35 billion in lost revenue to this country at a time when we are running record deficits, at a time when we are telling people we cannot afford to help them with their home heating oil, at a time we are making basic cuts to basic education; and it goes on and on and on and on.

The fact of the matter is the policy of royalty relief that the Congress passed was an unwise policy when we passed it. But the oil companies convinced this Congress to do so, and they have convinced the administration to allow it to continue. Although the Bush administration opposed the further extension in expansion of the oil royalty relief program that was in their most recent energy bill that was just signed by President Bush, unfortunately, his opposition did not go to such an extent that he insisted that it be taken out of the bill.

So what do we have? We have the major oil companies securing leases on land that is owned by the public, land that is owned by the taxpayers of this Nation, to go in and to drill those lands. And in exchange for that, they said that they would not go in there and drill unless we gave them royalty relief, unless we took away the royalties that they were entitled to pay to the landowners, the taxpayers of this country, for the privilege and the right to drill those reserves.

These are some of the most important reserves in this country. They are some of the more important reserves in the world. There is a huge amount of competition for drilling for this. At the time, it was suggested that nobody would bid on these leases, that nobody would participate, that nobody would raise the capital to do so if they did not have royalty relief. The fact of the matter is I think the record will show that at the same time they were arguing that, they were already in the construction of the rigs that were necessary for deepwater drilling and that the decisions had already been made. Some companies decided they would bet on the gulf. Other companies decided they would go to the Caspian Sea. But the fact of the matter is the competition was hot and heavy.

For this Congress to have then just given away those royalties is a horrible mistake, and it is a mistake that the Congress must correct. Nobody, even the proponents of royalty relief, believed that there was going to be a complete escape from the royalties owed to the taxpayers for the development of this oil. They believed, as the administration has said, that at a minimum they were not going to get oil royalties relief, they were not going to get relief from the payment of the rent to the taxpayers if oil was over \$34 a barrel. Well, as we all know, the world price of oil today is hovering around \$60 a barrel. It has been as high as \$70, and it has been in the mid-50s, back and forth.

The fact of the matter is these very same oil companies that are seeking a royalty holiday, freedom from the payment of these royalties, have just reported the biggest profits in the history of these companies, in the history of the world in the oil industry. And at the same time, they are suggesting that they have no obligation to pay the taxpayers of this country what is due

them for the privilege of drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Today, some of us introduced legislation to prevent any future royalty holidays for the oil companies, to seek and direct the Minerals Management Service to renegotiate these leases so that it does include the provisions of a minimum of a trigger but hopefully even a better royalty policy than that, and if those companies do not want to cooperate with that renegotiation, then they should be barred from future bids on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Now, to their credit, some of the major oil companies are suggesting that, in fact, they do owe the royalties, that there is a trigger mechanism. But Kerr-McGee and apparently some other companies have decided that they are going to challenge the whole law. They believe they are not obligated to pay any of these royalties, there is no trigger in this law. If that is the case, the taxpayer is just going to be hung out to dry by the major oil companies, and the major oil companies are going to abscond with the natural resources that belong to the people of this country.

It is wrong and Congress ought to correct it.

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

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

WITNESS TO AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, while leading a congressional delegation to Afghanistan, I was struck by the progress that the Afghan Government is making toward establishing a democracy, as well as with the enthusiasm and the determination of the Afghan people to finally and deservedly live in a free society.

The purpose of this trip, which also included stops in Iraq and Kuwait, was for Members of Congress to see firsthand the efforts being made toward U.S. goals of bringing stability and democracy to these nations.

In Afghanistan, where the prospects for reform once looked bleak, a transformation has occurred which has resurrected freedom, established legitimate leadership, and reinvigorated the population.

It is difficult to imagine that a mere 5 years ago the Taliban government

was thriving in this nation, exporting terrorism and promoting archaic extremism. Today media, cultural, business, and political leaders are free to meet, to discuss, to demonstrate and guide policies which are reforming their nation's economy, opening the political process, and liberating society from the fundamentalist laws which enslaved their nation.

This overwhelming progress has been made under leadership of President Hamid Karzai. Having met with President Karzai, I am assured that he is a capable and determined individual and he is able to continue to guide his nation into a transition to a modern democracy. To help facilitate this, Karzai and the Afghan Government are seeking to implement the Afghan Compact, which is a commitment to achieve specific goals relating to security, to the rule of law, to human rights, to economic development, to the elimination of narcotics trade within 5 years.

The task ahead remains difficult. It remains lengthy. But with the sustained help of the United States and other international donors and especially the demonstrated optimism and the resilience of the Afghan people, I am confident that the goals of this compact will be realized.

The progress being made in Afghanistan also has serious implications for our own Nation's security. Our congressional delegation conveyed to Afghan leaders that Congress remains deeply concerned about the mounting bloodshed in this Nation and over the ongoing narcotics trade which supplies over 90 percent of global opium and heroin.

My colleagues and I were also able to meet with high-ranking U.S. military officials, including Commanding General John Abizaid, to discuss the current military situation on the ground. I left impressed with our military's success against the insurgents and confident in our decisive victory over it.

Afghanistan was the first foreign front in our campaign to eradicate terrorism, and the success that we have had in eliminating the Taliban and establishing a democratic government is monumental and undeniable. In this area, however, our job is not complete, and America must not yield in our commitment to our troops and to their noble efforts. Standing side by side with its Afghan counterparts, our military will continue to actively seek out and destroy terror elements and work toward establishing complete stability and a transparent rule of law so that Afghanistan will never again be a safe haven for terrorists.

At a time when many are questioning the legitimacy of U.S. efforts abroad, Afghanistan serves as the perfect example of why our efforts to bring stability, freedom, and security are crucial, just, and attainable. Clearly, the new Afghanistan is emerging as one of our closest allies in our fight against extremists.

While meeting with the Speaker of the Afghan Parliament, he and I dis-

cussed the critical partnership which is developing between our two nations. Both nations are committed to furthering our alliance, which has already borne much fruit, with the knowledge that neither nation's goals will most effectively be realized without the friendship and deep cooperation of the other.

In our meeting, the Speaker expressed his hope that the Afghan people will serve as a "bridge to democracy for other peoples of the region."

I share the Afghan Speaker's hope, and I am confident that the inevitable spread of freedom and democracy will protect and preserve the American way of life here at home and make it available to those currently oppressed abroad.

The undeniable progress that continues to be made in Afghanistan makes peace, security, and prosperity all the more assured and protected—for Americans as well as Afghans.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

H. Con. Res. 315. Concurrent resolution urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month.

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

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

LIHEAP AND NATURAL GAS PRICES

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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. GENE GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring attention tonight to an issue that both the House and the Senate have been debating. Low-income Americans are struggling to pay for heating bills this winter. Thankfully, this winter has not been as cold as expected, and heating bills have not increased as greatly as feared.

Less noticed, however, is that our low-income Americans also struggle to pay cooling bills. When the 90- and 100-