

Coulter speak for you when she suggests poisoning Supreme Court Justices or slanders the 9/11 widows? If not, speak now. Your silence allows her to be your spokesman.

She should apologize to all of us who have lost our fellow citizens on 9/11.

U.S. AIRSTRIKE KILLS LEADING ENEMY OF FREEDOM IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rejoice in the death of no man, but today I will make an exception. As America and the world just learned, the al Qaeda leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is dead. The President of the United States said it was an opportunity to turn the tide and that the ideology of terror had lost one of its most visible and aggressive leaders, and it has.

But this was not simply a tactically significant strike by U.S. and Iraqi forces. Somebody dropped a dime. It is also evidence, as U.S. General George Casey in Iraq said earlier today, of increased cooperation.

I commend U.S. and Iraqi forces for this extraordinary accomplishment. The leading enemy of freedom in Iraq is dead. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is gone. Let freedom reign in Iraq.

MAKE MEMBER VOTING RECORDS AVAILABLE TO CONSTITUENTS

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

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, last month this Chamber passed without my support the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act. Unfortunately, this body failed to truly bring sunshine to its decision-making process to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, democracy works best when the American electorate is engaged and informed. If we want to truly regain the public's trust, we can provide greater accountability and transparency with a simple step. Let's start by communicating to our constituents about the votes we take.

Too many people feel left out of the process and find it difficult to locate and understand the votes cast by their representatives. That is why I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H. Res. 797, which I introduced with my colleague CHRIS SHAYS.

This resolution would require each Member of this Chamber to provide a clear link from their publicly-funded official Web site to a new voting record database organized by Member name maintained by the House clerk. This nonpartisan database would give each American the opportunity with the click of a button to view a comprehensive list of every rollcall vote cast by their representative and see a description of each vote.

We are supposed be the most representative body of government. With this in mind, we should make it easy for citizens to be informed. Please cosponsor H. Res. 797.

WORLD A SAFER PLACE WITH THE DEATH OF AL-ZARQAWI

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the killing of al-Zarqawi is the most important victory in Iraq since capturing Saddam Hussein. Al-Zarqawi was the Osama bin Laden of Iraq. He was al Qaeda's leader in Iraq. He personally beheaded American hostages on national TV. He bombed U.N. headquarters in Iraq and hotels Jordan.

I was with President Bush yesterday at the White House at the very moment he got the message that al-Zarqawi was killed. At exactly 3:57 p.m., National Security Advisor Steven Hadley told President Bush and also handed a note to Vice President CHENEY and Condi Rice that he had been killed. President Bush looked at the note, smiled and winked at Condi Rice. I knew something big had just happened.

I have just returned from Iraq, where I personally met with the people who tracked down al-Zarqawi. I met with General Stan McChrystal and his Special Operations team at their command center. All over the walls of the command center were posters of al-Zarqawi. They told us they were close to getting him and they would get him.

Well, they did get al-Zarqawi, and today the world is a safer place. Thank God for our troops.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Guests in the gallery should refrain from applauding.

AL-ZARQAWI'S DEATH A MAJOR MILESTONE IN WAR ON TERROR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are making great strides in the war on terror with every new day. Just last night, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the mastermind behind countless brutal acts of terror, was killed in an air strike. Al-Zarqawi was directly responsible for thousands of bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and other acts of terror in Iraq and around the globe. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our United States military forces, he will no longer be able to kill.

This is a major victory in the war on terror and a major step setback to al Qaeda, as al-Zarqawi was one of its

strongest leaders. Yet as President Bush said, we cannot expect the terrorists to give up just because one of their most visible leaders is gone. We must continue to prosecute this war on terror until our mission is accomplished and until Iraq can defend and govern itself.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to express how proud I am of our troops for their service, selfless attitude and sacrifice. They are making great strides. They are freeing people from oppression so they may enjoy the same freedoms Americans cherish. They are fighting a global war on terror, and they are winning.

I commend our military forces for reaching this great milestone and encourage them to keep up the great work.

FREEDOM IS ON THE MARCH IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, last night, the murderous mission of one of the most brutal terrorist minds in Iraq, al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's master of death and destruction to Sunni, Shiite, Kurd and coalition forces alike, has been brought to an end. The death of Zarqawi, al Qaeda's commander-in-chief of the insurgency, is proof to the people of Iraq, the United States and the world as a whole that freedom is on the march. His death in a U.S. military air strike represents another milestone in the war on terror.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our men and women in uniform who put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom and to bring terrorists like al-Zarqawi to justice.

I call upon my colleagues to reaffirm our commitment to the important work our troops in Iraq are doing to make the world a safer place for people of all nations.

WASHINGTON REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS RATHER THAN OFFER REAL SOLUTIONS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we need to declare victory with the Zarqawi killing, and this is a time to also declare that the Iraqi government has completed the formation of its cabinet and we can start withdrawing our troops.

Now, all Americans are disgusted by what they see in Washington and they are looking for real leadership on the important issues of the day. First we could announce there are victories and we can start withdrawing our troops.

But, unfortunately, Washington Republicans prefer to waste time on partisan politics, instead of focusing on

priorities such as affordable health care, energy costs, the economy, the rising cost of staying in Iraq and the deficit.

This week, the Senate spent 3 days debating a gay marriage amendment that everyone knew was going nowhere. In order to pass out of the Senate, the amendment needed 67 votes, and they couldn't even get a majority. The issue should be dead for the year, but now we hear the House leadership plans to bring it up later this summer.

Mr. Speaker, let us give ourselves credit for what we have done in Iraq and let us focus on these issues and let us start withdrawing our troops.

AN IMPORTANT DAY IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today is an important day in the global war on terror. One of al Qaeda's most evil and ruthless terrorists, al-Zarqawi, has been eliminated, along with seven of his top aides. Justice has prevailed.

As the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, Zarqawi was the mastermind behind the brutal murder of countless innocent Iraqis, car bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and attacks on our troops. It was Zarqawi who appeared on Internet videos personally beheading innocent civilians for the whole world to see.

News like this shows that we are making steady progress in Iraq. The death of al-Zarqawi strengthens the new Iraqi government and Prime Minister al-Maliki and sends a clear message to the terrorists of the world. The courage and dedication of the U.S. and Iraqi and coalition security forces remind the world that the forces of freedom and liberty will ultimately prevail over the forces of murder and terror.

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DEATH OF AL-ZARQAWI

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the precise and swift action of the United States military forces, al-Zarqawi's reign of terror has ended.

Osama bin Laden and terrorists worldwide should note that there is no safe place for them to hide. Terrorists in Iraq should also note that the events of the last 24 hours are further proof that the Iraqi people want to live free from fear.

Last year we saw the Iraqi people send a strong message to the terrorists at the ballot box. Last month we witnessed the formation of a new unity government, and today Prime Minister Maliki announced the completion of his cabinet.

The American people understand the road to a democratic way of life is not an easy one. Just as our Nation struggled in the beginning, Iraq has difficult and challenging days ahead. But I am confident that with continued support of the coalition forces, Iraq will figure out the best way to govern themselves in freedom.

The Iraqi people, as well as our enemies, should know we will stay the course because the security of our Nation depends on the willingness to take action to protect and preserve freedom.

JUSTICE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last night the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, with Iraqi security forces, delivered a major victory in the global war on terrorism.

Because of their tremendous patience, courage and skill, the most wanted terrorist in Iraq is now dead. And as President Bush has said, there is justice in Iraq.

As the operational commander of the terrorist movement in Iraq, al-Zarqawi delighted in the devastation of Iraq and the destruction of life. As the mastermind behind countless car bombings, mass murders and assassinations, he was responsible for the brutal deaths of many Americans and thousands of innocent Iraqis.

Today's victory in Iraq is a testament to the tremendous talent of the United States military. By risking their lives to kill terrorists in Iraq, these brave men and women are protecting the lives of American families and making our country safer.

As we celebrate this incredible milestone, I rise to express my sincere gratitude to our brave troops and our Iraqi allies.

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

VA DATA SECURITY

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, last week the VA revealed that private information for over 26 million veterans was stolen from an employee's home weeks ago, putting their identities and credit at risk.

Mr. Speaker, my father used to have a saying that the more that you poke at a cow pie, the more that it stinks. Well, for nearly 2 weeks the administration insisted that the stolen data only contained the veterans' names, birth dates and Social Security numbers.

On Tuesday, though, the administration revised their story again. So what is the real story? We know that the stolen data contained personal infor-

mation of more than 2.2 million active duty personnel. Yesterday over 145 Members joined me in a letter to President Bush urging him to take action and help those affected to recover from this security breach.

We have introduced legislation, H.R. 5455, that would be the first step in giving veterans access to 1 year of free credit monitoring. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this last month has been an embarrassing display of the VA consistently failing to provide timely information about the severity and scope of the data. The delays and misinformation have hurt veterans and military personnel. It has hurt them at a time when we should be taking aggressive steps to protect their identities and financial standing.

Our veterans and our troops deserve answers and action right now.

AL-ZARQAWI DOWN, FREEDOM UP

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, sometimes a person's mere existence causes death and destruction in this world. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's leader in Iraq who has led a bloody, bloody campaign of suicide bombings and kidnappings, was killed yesterday by our U.S. forces in an air raid north of Baghdad.

The death of this terrorist breathes new life into our efforts to implement democracy in a region desperate for freedom and hungry for peace.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Parliament, as well, made a major breakthrough today by appointing officials to lead the country's top security ministries, giving Iraq a complete government for the first time since their elections in December of 2005.

Victory in Iraq is not only possible, Mr. Speaker, it is approaching. I want to tell my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, our troops are putting their lives on the line every day and making the sacrifices necessary to ensure safety, security, and a democratic Iraq, which will provide a model for a free and representative government in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, peace is a product of strength and democracy. We are showing strength by eliminating the terrorists and implementing democracy which will help root out Islamic extremists in the Middle East.

DEMOCRATS ARE FOCUSED ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, while House Republicans plan to use the next couple of months trying to distract the attention of the American people away