

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING  
REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a)  
OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO  
CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN  
RESOLUTIONS

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-498) on the resolution (H. Res. 862) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WE'RE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS  
IN IRAQ

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, despite what some on the left may say, we are making terrific progress in the global war on terror. Last week, U.S. forces took out al Qaeda's number one terrorist in Iraq who was responsible for countless murders and terrorist attacks around the globe. This was an incredible victory for the U.S. military and intelligence communities. This great accomplishment is concrete evidence that the Iraqi people are cooperating with our troops. They are supporting our mission and are demonstrating their desire to be free.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of our troops for the great strides they have made. We have crushed Saddam Hussein's brutal dictatorship and have captured thousands of terrorists. Iraqi children are in school and Iraqi businesses are prospering. Iraq has had several successful elections and has formed their government under a new prime minister. And although it is rarely reported by the media, there is undeniable progress and hope in Iraq with each new day. The Iraqi people have proven they long for freedom and will continue to fight the terrorists by establishing a free, democratically elected government. However, our work is not done. We must stand firm in this war on terror until the job is done and until Iraq can defend and govern itself completely.

□ 2115

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL  
PUNISHMENT—NOT—

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there are a select few men and women in this world who know in advance the exact time of their death. The crime victims are not in that group. Without time to prepare, they never get to say goodbye for the last time. They never get to hug their kids goodbye, their parents for the last time. The last person they usually see on earth is the killer, the one who steals their life.

One of those victims was Pensacola, Florida, police officer Stephen Taylor. He was handcuffing a bank robber that he had captured when another bandit named Clarence Hill cowardly shot Officer Taylor in the back, killing him. This was in 1982, 24 years ago.

Hill was tried and sentenced to death, and his sentence was proper. He was to be executed with a date and time predetermined by law. He knew when he was to meet his maker.

When at the very last minute he claimed that lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment, our Supreme Court today agreed that his civil rights might have been violated and stayed the execution indefinitely. The courts have to figure this all out, according to the Supreme Court.

Today the Supreme Court's wayward ruling will undo sentences and the sanity of grieving families.

Mr. Speaker, has the Supreme Court lost its way? Soon many murderers and child rapists and armed robbers will scurry to have their sentence stopped. They will claim their deaths might be too cruel and unusual. Cruel and unusual they are not. Mr. Speaker, 37 of the 38 States in the United States that use the death penalty use lethal injection, a hardly unusual means of death when most States use it.

Note the phrase is cruel and unusual punishment, not cruel or unusual punishment. Lethal injection drugs, those are the same drugs given to surgery patients every day, just in a different dosage.

But the people on death row who hope Hill's case will serve their lives have committed crimes more painful than any drug could be, holding someone's head under water, stabbing someone dozens of times till they bleed to death, raping, robbing and bludgeoning their victims until every cry is silenced. Those folks have earned the right to be executed.

I spent 22 years as a felony trial judge and 8 years as a felony court prosecutor in Texas. I have probably tried more cases and more death penalty cases than all the Justices on the Supreme Court put together, and I dealt with the Constitution every day, especially the issues of the Bill of Rights.

I have been down there in the trial court, down in the mud and the blood and the beer with vicious criminal cases, and I have seen the families of murder victims grieve and pray and hope that justice will occur in their case when some outlaw snuffs out the life of their loved one. The death penalty is proper in proper cases. Some people deserve that punishment. Hill is one of those people.

Mr. Speaker, his guilt is not in doubt, just the means of his execution is in doubt, according to the Supreme Court. You know we went from hanging criminals to the electric chair to the gas chamber to the firing squad to this, quote, put them to a quiet peaceful death, the lethal injection.

Now those that are more concerned about the way criminals die than they are concerned about the way victims die say this death will be and may be a little painful. This ought not to be. Criminals should not have more rights than victims. This case is 26 years old. That absurd delay in sentencing is cruel and unusual to the family of the victims.

Gunning down officer Taylor by shooting him in cold blood is cruel and unusual punishment for him, the victim. Lethal injection for this killer is neither cruel nor unusual, it is just justice.

And that's the way it is.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be joined by some of our colleagues tonight as we begin our discussion in this great body, in this great House talking about the war on terrorism and the global war that we face.

Mr. Speaker, before I began that discussion with my colleagues, I want to take just a few moments and address some of the statements that the minority made during their hour that preceded this. They have talked a lot about spending, and they have talked a good bit about their dissatisfaction with spending.

One of the things that I would like to remind the Members of this body and those that are watching this debate tonight is that much of that spending takes place because of the bureaucracy that has been built in this Congress over the past 50 years.

Now, you go back and you look at what transpired in the 1960s and the way the bureaucracies grew, and the way programs grew. You see all around here that this bureaucracy has been built as a monument to many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They have put their energy into that. They have put that into growing this government here in Washington. Many of them believe that the government here in Washington knows better than the folks back home. I disagree with that.

I would encourage our colleagues to join with us as we work on waste, fraud and abuse, as we work toward reducing the size of this government. When we passed the Deficit Reduction Act that would have made nearly 1 percent across the board cut, they chose not to cast a vote in favor of that.

But they do enjoy coming and talking about how wonderful they feel it would be to have a debt-free America and a balanced budget, and, yes, that is something we would like to do, but we don't want that budget to be balanced

by raising taxes. We want that budget to be balanced by reducing spending. That is a big part of our focus as we continue to work.

Soon we are going to have a spring cleaning week where we are going to talk about 150 of these different agencies that absolutely need to go through a house cleaning. They need to reduce their size. They need to get their priorities in order, and bureaucrats that are in these buildings need to start responding to the citizens of this great Nation. They should be held accountable, and we are going to press forward on that issue.

One of my colleagues also made a comment about economic growth, and I would invite our Members to look at the economic stats from 1995 and the economic stats from 2005. If you compare those 2 years, what happened in the economy in 1995 during the Clinton years and what has happened in 2005 during the Bush years? What you are going to see is on every single economic indicator, whether you are talking GDP, unemployment rates, economic growth, homeownership, every single indicator, the 2005 economy beats the 1995 economy on every single point.

I would commend that to individuals that are watching tonight, to be certain that they look at those facts, that they look at those statistics and add those numbers.

It was also mentioned on the floor tonight what type of America do you believe in? I always love it when I hear that type of comment. What type of America do you believe in? I think the colleagues that join me here tonight would join me in saying we believe in an America that is strong. We believe in an America that is free. We believe in an America that is compassionate and caring and wants the best, the very best, for all of our citizens. We believe in an America where children can dream big dreams, where they can grow up happy and free and educated and watch those dreams become reality, where they can take hold of their best efforts and say you know what, we are going to make this even better.

We are going to make it better. We really believe in an America that is focused on hope and not focused on fear. We believe in an America that is strong on individual freedom that understands the importance of freedom for being able to freely live, to freely think, to freely work. We know that that requires that we have a secure homeland, and that is why this majority has been focused on our security agenda, being certain that we look at the moral security of this great Nation, the retirement security, the economic security and, of course, the national security of this wonderful free land that is a beacon of democracy to every single nation on the face of the earth.

You know, when you talk about what kind of America you believe in, I love it sometimes when we are visiting with our troops in war-torn areas, and you

meet somebody, and they walk up to you, and they say, you are an American. You are an American? You are an American.

There is a certain awe that comes out of their mouth when they look at us and they know we are what they would like to be. We have got something they want. That is something that we have got that they want, that other nations want, is freedom. It is the chance to do and to be and to have your children do and be all that they would hope to be.

That is why the majority is going to take this entire week and we are going to have a discussion with the American people. We are going to bring forth our hopes. We are going to bring forth our thoughts of what is happening in this war on terrorism. We are going to talk about the progress we have made. We are also going to talk about the areas where we want to improve.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to talk about the big picture. We are going to hold a debate on the Republican and the Democrat approaches to winning the war on terror. We are going to compare, and we are going to contrast the different philosophies that each party has toward the war on terrorism. Our military's elimination of al-Qaeda's top leader in Iraq is an auspicious start to this debate. That success should make it clear that winning takes patience, and it takes perseverance. But things that are worth fighting for and things that are worth working for are items that are worth waiting for because we don't live in a world of instant gratification where everything is decided within 30 minutes. Some things take time to do them right.

History has taught us, history has taught us that it is important that when we look at democracy, when we look at working with other Nations that we get this right. It also takes excellent work by our military and our intelligence folks, and God bless them all. God bless them all.

I am especially grateful for our troops from Fort Campbell from the 101st who are in Iraq now and are certainly working diligently on this effort. Many of our National Guardsmen are there, and they are working as well.

□ 2130

I am very grateful to them and to their families.

Last week, we got to see part of the big picture in the war on terrorism more quickly with Zarqawi's death, with the destruction of a major leader in the global terrorist network. The big picture is the U.S. chasing these people down and eliminating them.

It is helping free nations, Mr. Speaker, free nations develop and throw off the shackles of terrorism in the Middle East. This, Mr. Speaker, will be our topic and our discussion for the week.

At this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) who is so focused on protecting this great Nation and our Nation's security.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) especially for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be here amongst my colleagues for whom I have such respect and gratitude for the work that they do on a daily basis to help lead this country in the right direction.

As the gentlewoman from Tennessee mentioned, we are going to talk about the big picture in the global war on terror, and oftentimes we lose sight of the big picture. One of the reasons is because we are watching the news every night, and it seems as though they are setting up television cameras or movie cameras in Iraq wherever the IEDs might be planted, and they seem to be able to turn the cameras on seconds before they detonate an IED and seconds before there is some kind of an atrocity that takes place over there. That gives us a very narrow picture of what is going on in Iraq, Mr. Speaker.

But the bigger picture over there is this, and that is that Iraq is a battlefield in the global war on terror, and we began this 20 years ago or so. It came home to roost when we all realized September 11, 2001, that this was not just a sometime enemy, not just an enemy that attacked the USS Cole or the U.S. embassies in Africa or did the bombing on the Marine barracks in Lebanon, and the list of those kind of terrorist attacks went on and on; but it came home to roost in a way that Americans all understood on September 11, 2001.

The bigger picture of it is this that there is a culture out there that believes that their path to salvation is in killing people who are not like them, and I will contend that that organization that is out there, al Qaeda, also remnants of the Taliban, those that are left, are really a parasite; and it is radical Islam which is a parasite on the religion of Islam. Islam itself as mainstream may well be a peaceful religion, but the parasite that rides on them is not.

The definition of parasite, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, and the other listeners as well, it is a species that rides upon the host. The host is Islam. The parasite is radical Islam, and that parasite species rides on the host, feeds off the host and reproduces on the host, sometimes attacks the host and drops off and attacks other species and sometimes gets picked up back up again and rides on the host again and starts the cycle all over. That is the case with ticks and mites, the whole series of parasites that are there throughout all we know in the animal kingdom, and that is the case also with radical Islam and the overall religion of Islam.

We are faced with that kind of an enemy, and that enemy has killed a lot of Christians. That enemy has killed a lot of Jews, but that enemy has also killed more Muslims than anything else. It gives us a broader picture, Mr. Speaker, of what this enemy is that we are up against.

But the question we needed to ask ourselves, probably well before September 11, 2001, and certainly on that date and every date after that, is how do we conduct a war against a global enemy that is amorphous, an enemy that does not have uniforms or a territory, maybe has a leader or group of leaders, an enemy that simply has an ideology of hatred and terror that comes out and attacks people who are not like them in order to destabilize and somehow gain their presumably greater glory and somehow their salvation in the next life, which I think is down below rather than up above?

Well, as I asked that question subsequent to September 11, 2001, I had the privilege to be listening to an address by Benazir Bhutto, who is the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. She served two different periods of time there, mostly back in the 1990s. She gave an address back in Storm Lake, Iowa, town of my birth, to Buena Vista University, a small private university there, and a very excellent one, that tracks outstanding speakers.

After her profound address, she and I sat down one-on-one, knee-to-knee, so to speak, and this certainly was on my mind and it is on all of our minds even today. I asked her how do we get to this point of victory? How do we bring forth a war on these terrorists to the point where we can declare victory? What is our objective going to be and how shall we carry out this and conduct this war to reach this objective?

And she sat for a little while and she said, You have got to give them a chance at freedom. You have got to give them a chance at democracy. Today, the people in these countries do not have hope. They do not have a way to vent their anger. They do not have a way to apply their energy for change in a constructive fashion with any kind of hope that they can make progress and make this world a better place for themselves, their family, their children, and the subsequent generations.

So, consequently, if we can provide that opportunity, then the climate that breeds terror will turn into a climate that turns that energy towards constructive ends, constructive ends where they would be working to improve their families, their homes, their communities, their country, their churches, their mosques, their synagogues, whatever it might be.

As I listened to that, I asked her a series of questions about it for clarification. I began to think as I drove home that evening this is a pretty good formula to put Benazir Bhutto back in power in Pakistan, but I am not convinced that it is a solution on how we could prosecute and win a war on terror. Yet, I sat down and began to read more and more about Islam, in particular the book, "Radical Islam Visits America" by Daniel Pipes, and I read that through twice with a red ink underliner and a highlighter to try to understand the culture, the religion, the psychology.

I put that together with Natan Sharansky's book, "In Defense of Democracy." When Natan writes that all human beings have a certain energy within them that they will use to try to effect a change, and that they will use that energy if that change is to keep them alive or if that change is to deal with the minutiae that may seem irrelevant to people who will struggle just to stay alive.

Then, to understand, that we never go to war against another free people. Free people do not go to war against free people. So if we put that into the equation, there is an energy and a drive for change, by Natan Sharansky. We never go to war against another free people. So to the extent we can promote freedom and a form of democracy around the world is also a formula for more peace and more safety for all Americans and all free people.

We add that then to Daniel Pipes' understanding and to the idea to promote freedom, and the President's doctrine which he gave out in his second inaugural address, which now we know as the Bush Doctrine, and that is, that all people yearn to breathe free, and it is the duty and it is the obligation of all freedom-loving people to promote freedom throughout the globe and throughout the ages.

Put that formula all together, and that is the formula for how to move forward on this global war on terror and how to finally declare victory.

So we began operations in Afghanistan a couple of months after September 11 very successfully, and 25 million people that had never before in that place on the globe gone to the polls to select their leaders and to direct their national destiny went to the polls and voted, and there were American troops in the field, especially our troops that I noticed in the field, guarding those paths to the polls, guarding those polling sites, and now you have 25 million people in Afghanistan. Some would say, and there were many detractors over on this side of the aisle, that said, oh, it is another Vietnam; you will never be able to get through the Khyber Pass, no one's ever been able to go into Afghanistan and come out of there having won a victory; that country has always fought off all of its invaders.

Well, we did not invade them. We liberated them and the Afghani people now breathe free and have selected their leaders, and the same formula with the same advisers and the same advice was to go to Iraq and do the same thing for the same number of people, 25 million people, and the American soldiers did that and the marines did that and our airmen and our sailors did that and liberated 25 million people.

They went to the polls three times, Mr. Speaker, in 2005 to select their leaders, to ratify a constitution and to put a legitimate government in place, and now they are a sovereign Arab nation in the Middle East. This sovereign

Arab nation has had a difficult struggle, and the casualties have been by some measures high, not by measures of previous wars, by measures of the contemporary media. It is tragic to lose America's best in a struggle like this, but it is the highest calling.

So, today, Iraqis breathe free, and we think that somehow, because there is casualties there in the streets of Iraq, it is an intolerable level in that civilization. I asked the question, how can they tolerate living in a society with this high level of violence, this high level of casualties?

So I went back and took a look at the level of casualties that were there, and they need to be measured as a percentage of the overall population. We do that, we do that statistically by measuring how many people out of every 100,000 die a violent death. Well, that would be murder in most societies; and in Iraq, the civilians would be the measure, some are victims of IED bombings, some are victims of murder. We added up those numbers. There are several Web pages that provide that information. We took the most reasonable numbers that we could find. It comes to this number: 27.51 Iraqis per 100,000 die a violent death on an annual basis, 27.51.

Now, what does that mean, and to me it really does not mean a lot until I compare it to places that I know where I have a feel for the rhythm of this place. Well, I by now have a feel for the rhythm of this place called Washington, D.C., and my wife lives here with me. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, she is in far greater risk being a civilian in Washington, D.C., than an average civilian in Iraq.

Forty-five out of every 100,000 Washington, D.C., residents die a violent death on an annual basis, 45. 27.51 in Iraq out of 100,000, 45 out of every 100,000 in Washington, D.C.

If you go to New Orleans, pre-Katrina, before Katrina, 53 per 100,000, almost twice as many violent fatalities in the city of the New Orleans than there are in Iraq as an average civilian.

Now, we took out the military, took out the police because they are involved in combat, but that gives you a measure, Mr. Speaker, of what is it like in Iraq. The United States military has provided, first of all, liberation for the Iraqis that were dying at an average rate of 182 a day at the hands of Saddam Hussein, collared him, put him on trial, took out Zarqawi and gave them a safer, free society than the society that they lived in.

Statistically, if you want to chart that for the duration of this operation from the liberation of the Iraqis in March of 2003 until today, there are over a 100,000 Iraqis alive today because the United States and coalition forces went into Iraq and took on that calling to promote freedom throughout the globe. Now, Iraq stands as near the end of the military security solution of the operation in Iraq, at the beginning of

the political solution in the operation of Iraq, where now they have a sovereign Arab government, and they are on the cusp of the solution for their economics. When they are able to start pumping oil out of that ground and sending it around the world and cashing the checks, we will see then this lode star of Iraqi being an inspiration for all the Arab world. A free Arab world, a prosperous Arab nation, and inspiration for all the Arab world.

I have to believe that as the Berlin Wall went down on November 9, 1989, and freedom echoed across Eastern Europe, hundreds of millions of people breathe free today, I have to believe that same kind of contagious desire for freedom will take place in the Middle East among the Arab people.

That is the big picture, Mr. Speaker. That is the vision of our President. That is the sacrifice of our military. That is the commitment of this Congress, and that is where we are headed. I believe and I pray that we will arrive there one day soon, and I expect to be around to celebrate that joyous day. I will stand here with our military every day until that is accomplished.

Thank you to the gentlewoman from Tennessee. I appreciate this privilege to address this Chamber and the Speaker.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa, and I am so appreciative that he mentioned that this is not a sometime enemy that we are dealing with. This is an enemy, as he said, that is amorphous. They are located everywhere. Terrorist cells are around the globe, but it is an enemy with an agenda. Their agenda is to end freedom as we know it, and they work at it 24/7. They are an enemy to freedom, and we do know that the Iraqi people are grasping at their chance for freedom.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I think it is really quite important to note that a development that got swamped by the Zargawi news, but a development that I certainly believe is very critical to our long-term security goals, was that the Iraqi Government's confirmation of its top three security chiefs was last week. You had Sunnis and Shiites standing together as the security chiefs for this nation.

What an enormous step in the right direction, and we have now had tremendously successful elections in Iraq. We have a unified government. We now have 275,000 Iraqi security forces that are in place.

□ 2145

So we do know that we are seeing progress in the right direction. There are no guarantees, but it is steps in the right direction.

At this time, I want to yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. CARTER, who has Fort Hood in his district. Judge Carter has worked so diligently with our men and women in uniform, and I thank him for coming to talk a little bit about the big picture, about

the global war on terror, and why it is imperative that we persevere. And I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee. She is a real asset to this Congress, and I am just proud to be able to be with her tonight to talk about the war on terror.

I live in a district where on any given day we have between 15,000 and 20,000 American heroes standing on that wall protecting freedom in the United States, in harm's way, giving their lives and limbs and time so that we can sit here in this House and so that our children and our wives and our loved ones can walk the streets of the United States free.

You know, this war on terror is a war on a cancerous idea that is, when you really think about it, is really one of the most horrible, horrible things there is; that there is a group of people that are fighting a war not against military soldiers as proud warriors marching off to war. No. In fact, they do not want to even see an American soldier anywhere near them, if they can help it. They want to terrorize society. And that terrorism, in their way of thinking, starts with civilians, not military.

We got a real good dose of that on 9/11, a dose that I do not know how the American people can ever get it out of their minds. When we were attacked at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, they attacked our military installations at Pearl Harbor. But when we were attacked on 9/11, a building full of business folks was attacked. This was not an attack on a military target, this was an attack on a civilian target, and its sole purpose was to kill American citizens.

We need to thank the Lord that their timing was slightly off and that the building was not completely full. If it had been, instead of numbering in the thousands we might have been numbering in the hundreds of thousands of people in those two buildings that might have died. But that was their purpose. Their purpose was to change how we live by hitting us where we live. I just can't think of anything more horrible.

You know, I was in the judge business for a while, as were several people in this room here today, and we know from experience that there's a lot of evil out there in the world, and we spent our time trying to deal with that evil. And I think, from what I know of my colleagues here in the House, we did a pretty good job of fighting evil. One of the things we did to curtail evil was we put them away, and we put them down so that the price of being evil was a high price in the places where we lived. And we are proud of that.

I think the American soldier knows that the hard part of fighting the war on terror, on fighting people who are really not out to fight them but are out to fight their children and their wives and their moms and dads back home, and moms and dads and children of

people in Iraq and Afghanistan and many other countries in this world, the Philippines, Indonesia, and the list goes on and on and on, they are always attacking the innocent trying to live their lives.

But what is their theory behind this? I have thought about this. And I want to say that Mr. KING gives some great insight into some of the things he has read, and I was fascinated by some of the things he had to say. But I think about this, and what they are really trying to do is to change the way we live until we just really cannot tolerate living that way any longer and we are willing to compromise and give in to what they view as a world view, until their radical Islam dominates the world.

They want our school children in Texas, or our school children in Tennessee, or our school children in Iowa to get up in the morning, every morning, and be afraid to stand at the bus stop, be afraid to ride on the school bus, be afraid to go to their school for fear that somebody might blow it up, somebody might shoot at the bus, somebody might hijack them or kidnap them. That is the world they are developing right now that we are tearing apart right now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This is not easy work for our soldiers. Our soldiers are out there in a special role that soldiers have never been in. Soldiers are trained to fight soldiers. Soldiers are trained to go onto a battlefield and fight a battle. And sometimes it is an unconventional battle, and we are trained to fight unconventional battles. Our soldiers are not policemen, although some are trained as policemen. Our soldiers shouldn't be policemen, but today the American Marine on patrol in Iraq or Afghanistan has a special mission, and that mission is to make sure that the safety of that population is as safe as the safety he wants for his population back home.

And he cares about those people. He cares about those kids. A great story I heard when I was back in Iraq was about a soldier walking down the street and a little girl comes running out and hands him one rose. A beautiful rose. He later gave it to a lady at the hospital who told me the story. She explained, and somebody was able to speak the language and tell this to the soldier, that that was the only thing living left in their garden. But she knew he deserved to have that rose because he was keeping her garden safe. This was a little 10-year-old girl.

Now, I'm sure that soldier will go for the rest of his life with the memory of that little girl. And I know sometimes they have to be standing out there in 115 degree heat with all that armor on and saying, man, this is a tough job. But that is the kind of thing that tells us what we are fighting for. We are fighting to protect innocent human

beings. Not warriors, but to protect innocent human beings from being terrorized until they surrender their freedom and their will to terrorism.

That is what terrorists want. That is what they do. They just attack the innocent until the innocent throw up their hands and say, whatever you want, you can have it.

And we have examples of how they have done that. Look at Lebanon. Look at the other places around the world where the terrorists have just run rampant through the streets until Lebanon, which used to be called the Riviera of the Middle East, is now an example of destruction when people use the term Lebanon.

So why are our American soldiers doing this? They are doing their duty with pride and with conviction. And I will tell my friends on the other side of the aisle who seem to have this cut-and-run mentality, I want them to think about the times, and I know they have visited Iraq and they have to have talked to the same soldiers that I have talked to, but the soldiers that I talked to are proud of what they are doing in Iraq. They are confident that they are succeeding in what they are doing. They do not understand why the American people don't hear about their successes.

But, folks, even when we don't publicize their successes, they are having them. This last week has been a huge step forward in the war on terror because we took out the top terrorist. And from his little notebook, over the next couple of days we took out 17 other locations. Today we had another very successful raid. And we are not only getting rid of the bad guys and punishing them for their misbehavior by putting them into the Never-Never Land, but we are also capturing things that tells us more.

So I say to the terrorists: Beware. The American soldiers are coming. Beware. We are learning every day and we are getting better and we are learning more and more information about you, and we are coming to get you. We are going to stop what is going on.

I was real proud to know when Zarqawi was killed that the first people at the site were my boys in the 4th Infantry Division. Proud of them. They are the guys who caught Saddam Hussein. They are the guys who have been up front on every war, as has the 1st Cav. The 1st Cav. Gave us free elections. The 4th Infantry Division gave us Saddam Hussein, and now the first people on site after that beautiful job the Air Force did.

But you know what, the real war on terror, and we need as American citizens to think about this real strongly, is the first time the President spoke, I think it was after this thing happened, and he said what would be our top policy on the war on terror. He said if you help our enemies, you are our enemy. We are taking the fight to the enemy.

I think that is the right policy. I think the right policy is to say, we are

not going to stand for people who kill innocent civilians no matter where they are, and we are going to stand up to them. Why? Because as Prime Minister Blair said right here in this House, it is our turn. We are the beacon of freedom in the world. We have the resources, intelligently used, to meet the challenge.

People say, oh, but it is going to be a long war. You know what? I think it is going to be a long conflict, but it's going to be a conflict that is going to have a series of battles in it. We are misdefining Iraq by calling it the war in Iraq. We are misdefining Afghanistan by calling it the war in Afghanistan. It is the battles in Iraq, the battle in Afghanistan. And maybe whatever we do in the way of successes will postpone the next battle.

Folks, we went into what we called the Cold War, and the Cold War included the battle of Korea and the battle of Vietnam and the battle of Panama and a lot of other battles that took place. But we won the Cold War by sticking to the principle that freedom and democracy and the ability to live your life in a world that was peaceful and loving was worth fighting for and worth standing up to people who wanted to change that and put totalitarianism in place of freedom.

We have now got a group of people who are fanatics and who want to put this radical Islam in place of freedom. And, unfortunately, once again, we have to stand up and be counted. And we will, as long as we produce people like I have met at Fort Hood and many other places where I have gone with the military, these quality young men and women. And as long as the American people are willing to stand the ground and do the job we back here have to do to win the war on terrorism, we will succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the American public realize that the only thing standing between us and another 9/11 is the will to face the terrorists' onslaught not only with our troops but with our hearts and minds in America we should stand up for what is right. There is right and there is wrong in this world, and imposing the will by terror, by Islamic terrorists, is wrong.

Standing up for freedom and letting our kids be able to go to the park and play without fear of terrorism or wander the streets or your wife to go shopping at the grocery store or you be able to go to work every day without the fear of terrorism, that is right. It is the freedom we fought for and died for in this American country, and it is the freedom the whole world should be able to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say, I am proud to say that I am an American and that Americans stand for right, I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much how well the gentleman represents his constituents at Fort Hood, and I know he is so very proud of them and the work that they do.

I, likewise, am so very proud of my men and women at Fort Campbell, men and women of the 101st, there in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

□ 2200

How appropriate that the gentleman from Texas referred to them as heroes, because indeed they are. And as they work to gather in the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people, the trust of a little girl who brings the rose from her garden to one of our military men and women, the trust of an Iraqi citizen who takes the key out of a lock of one of Saddam Hussein's former jails and hands it to an American soldier and says, "Thank you, thank you for my chance at freedom."

Mr. Speaker, those are the stories that we are hearing day in and day out. They are coming to us from our men and women in uniform who do understand the big picture, who do understand that we have an enemy that would like to change our way of life.

It is imperative that we communicate that message that we are not going to stand for that. We are not going to stand still and let that happen. You know, I think it is really quite interesting that sometimes the liberal elites try to couch this debate about Iraq as to whether it was wrong or whether it was right to go in and free millions of people from Saddam Hussein, whether it was worth it. Many of the leftists think it was not worth it. They would like to just sit down and talk about this. I believe we should put that question aside for a moment because it really does simplify the question of our involvement in Iraq. It oversimplifies it. The question ignores the relevance of Iraq to America's national security framework.

You know, as the gentleman from Texas said, our daily lives, how we go about them, when we are made more unsafe, when our national security is made unsafe by the existence of a hostile and isolated Middle East ruled by murderous thugs and their terrorist supporters, then we have to do something about that. That is a fact. I challenge anybody to come in and argue with that.

The truth of this fact is written in the blood of Americans and the citizens of dozens of other free nations, the people who have been murdered by terrorists, spawned in the Middle East over the past 40 years. Whether anyone believes we should be in Iraq for the sake of freeing an oppressed people is something we could haggle about all night, but it is not the point of our mission there. We should be in Afghanistan, Iraq and in the Middle East actively working to put an end once and for all to the systems of government that have promoted and celebrated brutal attacks on America, on Europe, and in countries across Africa.

If we do not, we are going to suffer again and again. We are in Iraq, we are in Afghanistan because President Bush and the American people decided on

September 11, 2001, that enough was enough. Could we have stayed out? Of course. Could we have continued responding to terrorism as a case of civil disobedience? Of course.

We could have decided to simply contain this region and hope to contain the terrorism that grew there, but that did not get to the root of the problem. And the price of that policy would have continued to be periodic September 11s. That would be the price. This country had to decide whether we were willing to pay this steep price of letting the Middle East continue for another 30 years as it had for the past 30 years.

We have had a real champion of freedom join us in the U.S. House of Representatives this year, another judge from the great State of Texas; and at this time I want to yield to Judge POE from the great State of Texas.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for allowing me to make some comments on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tennessee is named the Volunteer State. It was some of those Tennesseans who volunteered to help my State, Texas, become a free and independent nation back in 1836, another example that to be free it always costs something. We called upon those volunteers to make a difference in freedom, noting that every person serving in Iraq and Afghanistan is a volunteer. Many of them are on their second and third tours of duty, volunteered because they understand the importance of what they do.

We just recently learned that the United States Army has met not only its enlistment goals but more enlistments than they had predicted because many Americans, the young of our Nation, understand the importance of what is going on. They know there is a war going on out there, and it is a war against terrorists. It is a war the terrorists started, and terrorism is not something we desire; but it is certainly something we must destroy.

We cannot negotiate with terrorists. We cannot sit down at a conference table and say come let us reason together. It is not going to work because you see, terrorists are determined to kill people, not just soldiers, not just sailors or marines, but all people, any people that get in their way. And that includes their own people. That includes military and nonmilitary. It includes civilians, the old, the elderly, women, children. It includes people in hospitals recovering from sickness. Anybody they think will cause terror in the hearts and souls of the world they murder, and they kill throughout the world. That is the way terrorists operate, and the idea that we can even negotiate with them is almost as absurd as the idea that we can appease those individuals.

Appeasement comes up every time some nation, like our Nation, has to go to war to fight for our freedoms and liberties. It came up in World War II,

and appeasement was talked about even in Washington, D.C., appease the Germans, appease the Japanese, give in, try to ignore. Of course, we saw what happens. Appeasement never works with terrorists because they are determined to become more criminal-like in their activity and promote their desires no matter what it takes.

I, like you and many Members of the House, have been to Iraq. I have seen the Iraqi people. I have seen our military and was fortunate to be there last year and when the Iraqi people had their first free elections in the history of their nation. It was quite the honor to be one of two Members of Congress to see that event.

Of course, the skeptics and critics say, as the gentlewoman from Tennessee says, the northeastern elites, they said the Iraqis do not understand freedom or democracy, it will never work; and every election starting with that first election and every subsequent election after that proved that Iraqis want freedom. They have tasted it, and they do not want to let it go. And they are fighting for it just as much as our troops are fighting for it.

Of course, I visited with our troops. They all say that we are winning the war on terror. And we are winning the war on terror. One thing that an Iraqi woman said to me at the voting booth, she had cast her ballot, had that purple stain on her finger, proudly walking down the street defiant of the terrorists because they said if you vote, the terrorists will kill you, and of course they did kill 57 Iraqis that voted that day. Anyway, she came up to me, she had tears in her eyes. I had an interpreter with me and she said to the interpreter and he told me, she said, We Iraqis are grateful to America for giving their youth to us.

What she was saying was she was aware, as the Iraqis are, that Americans die so other people can live and live free.

You know, 2,400-plus Americans have died in this war. Eight of those who have died are from my congressional district down in southeast Texas. I have talked to the families of those marines and sailors and airmen and soldiers that have been killed. Those families grieve in their own way, but they say to a family that they were proud of their son and they will be proud of America if America stays the course and finishes the job that their kids started in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finish the war, win the war, Mr. POE, win the war. I heard that so many times. Win the war that my son died in.

And I say to those families and other families that this country will win that war on terror. As has been said here on the House floor, it is going to be a long war. It is not an easy war. It is an unconventional war because we fight by the rules of engagement, the United States. We go after the terrorists. The terrorists, unlike any other war in world history, are determined to kill

anybody in their way, including the innocent.

But we will not let those that have died and those that will die, die for nothing because they are dying for something. They are dying for two things. They are dying for the welfare of the United States of America. It is in our best interest to take the fight to the enemy, and we are doing that. We are going to track them down wherever they show up in the world, and we are going to eliminate them. They are beginning to believe us that we will track them down. And we also are fighting this war because of that word freedom.

It is important that Iraq and Afghanistan be free nations. They have never tasted freedom. They have tasted it now; and as I said, they do not want to let go of it. President Kennedy said it better than I can. He said, you know, this country will bear any burden. We will pay any price. We will support any friend, we will oppose any foe to preserve liberty.

That is our mission statement given by President Kennedy over 40 years ago, and that is what our troops are doing.

Freedom has always cost. It always will. Good things have cost. It cost us 7 years of hard war against the British. After we gained our independence, gained our freedom, the British did not believe it, and they attacked us again in the War of 1812. They burned this building down, and they burned the White House. They burned every building in Washington, D.C. except for two because they were trying to make sure that America was not a free Nation. So we had to fight them again.

Freedom has cost this country, and it has cost other countries; and Iraq is one of them. We do not get freedom by sitting down at a conference table and saying, let us reason together so we can be a free people.

There is no substitute for victory. It is the only path to freedom, and I hope that folks in this Nation understand the great job our troops are doing and are as committed as they are to winning the war.

Down in southeast Texas, I have the distinction of having the Port of Beaumont. It is the number one military deployment port of cargo going to Iraq. It comes from Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, and it is the place where our troops come home. Most of the troops coming back to my area are National Guard troops. You see, down in southeast Texas when the National Guard comes home, we have parades for them. Schools and businesses close, and everybody turns out on Main Street waving the American flag. We are proud of what our troops are doing. We understand, as most Americans understand, they are doing a good job and they are putting their lives on the line for that simple word that people since the beginning of the world have wanted, and that is freedom.

So this country I do not think is ever going to flinch and it is never going to



flee and we certainly are never going to fear because we will never fail the war against terrorism, and I hope we will be successful.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) allowing me to make these comments. I hope we will continue the dialogue and the perseverance to be successful and to spread the word not only in America but to those terrorists who live throughout the world that they can run, but they can certainly never hide because the American fighting man is going to track them down.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. I thank him for mentioning that our men and women in uniform are volunteers and they have chosen to fight.

I, like him, have spent time with these men and women and their families and on Memorial Day talked with the aunt of a young man who came to one of the memorial services. And after I spoke, she came up and with her broken heart she said, Mrs. BLACKBURN, you're so right, he was there because he wanted to be there and you're so right. He knows, he knew that we were winning, that we are winning the war on terror.

□ 2215

And yes indeed, he understood the mission. Our families, our military families know this, Mr. Speaker, and they know that this Nation has decided not to play hostage, not to be held hostage. Our men and women in uniform are paying the price to fight this war so that we are not having to fight it on the streets of Washington, D.C., or Memphis or Nashville or L.A. or anywhere else in this country. We have made a choice not to be bullied and not to live with the gun pointed at our head. And I give credit to our President. And, Mr. Speaker, I credit the American people for making a tough decision. War is never easy. War is never, ever easy, but we have to remember the big picture in this and that picture is we have to have a democratic ally in the Middle East. This is about freedom and free people. It is about expanded democracy and education. It is about rooting out terrorists and disrupting their networks and their way of working and their beliefs so that they don't import it and place it on us. It is about slowing them down and eventually making it impossible for them to work.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about whether we are winning or not. And we are winning. But this is not easy. There are going to be a lot of dark days ahead. This is not an easy fight. It is not easy for us. It is not easy for our military men and women and their families. It is not easy for the Iraqi people. And there is a tremendous amount of frustration when they take a couple of steps forward and then a few steps back and a couple of steps forward and another step back. And just as in the past 3 years we have had

some victories to celebrate, we have also had some very tough times. But we come to the point of saying, is it a necessary action? And yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is a necessary action. The defense of freedom is a necessary action for our great Nation. It was the only decision that put America on the offensive when it came to the war on terrorism and our national security because freedom is worth fighting for.

As I close the hour this evening and begin this week's debate, I want to focus where I began in talking about the big picture. Ronald Reagan often said, we could bet on hope or we could bet on fear. You can bet on hope or you can bet on fear. He chose to bet on hope. And, Mr. Speaker, I know why. And I know why the American people choose to bet on hope. It is that hope, that desire that lives in our heart for a better tomorrow.

I love quoting Margaret Thatcher and her comment when she talks about America. She would say it is more than a superpower, more than a great Nation. America is an idea. America is an idea. What a great idea it is. It is the idea of freedom. It is the idea of opportunity. It is the idea of hope. And this week we look forward to talking about hope for our future, hope for the future of our children, hope for the future of the Nation of Iraq.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CARDOZA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. DELAURO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of important congressional business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CALVERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of June 12 on account of taking his son, Alex, to Scout camp.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and June 13 and 14.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, June 13.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7969. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Requests To Amend Import Regulations [Docket No. 02-132-2] (RIN: 0579-AB63) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7970. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Food Labeling: Health Claims; Soluble Dietary Fiber From Certain Foods and Coronary Heart Disease [Docket No. 2004P-0512] received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7971. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the support services function performed by civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7972. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Deposit Insurance Regulations; Inflation Index; Certain Retirement Accounts and Employee Benefit Plan Accounts (RIN: 3064-AD01) received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.