

In fact, in the Senate, they have already said that this is not a natural disaster. The Parliamentarian there ruled against emergency assistance by the junior Senator from Oregon, because he said this was not a natural disaster; it is manmade. The Bush Administration made this disaster through their mismanagement of the resources in that region.

So now we have the agency saying they are not going to declare a disaster. I think they are just trying to put the small fishers out of business. What the end game is, I am not sure. Maybe giant aquaculture. Who knows? But the point is they are refusing, despite the request of the Governor of Oregon, the Governor of California, the Senators from Oregon, the Senators from California, a large number of Representatives from Oregon and California, we have all requested a disaster declaration, and the White House is silent, and the bureaucrats say "no."

JUDGMENT DAY

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, tonight there is one less brutal murderer in Texas. Angel Maturino Resendiz is gone. He has been executed, ending one of the most brutal reigns of terror a serial killer has ever known.

Some called him the face of death. He rode the rails from Mexico to the heartland of America, leaving a wake of bloodied and mutilated bodies behind him, quickly earning the top ranking of the FBI's most wanted list.

Thanks to the tenacity of Texas Ranger Drew Carter, who captured Resendiz, and the work of the FBI and numerous local law enforcement agencies, justice has occurred. The wanted posters have come down.

Resendiz raped, brutalized, tortured, maimed, and he took the lives of at least nine people, all who live within yards of railroad tracks throughout America. But he stole. He stole the security of citizens everywhere he went. Small town shops sold out of pistols. People who never locked their doors even sealed their windows because of the fear of Resendiz. Resendiz never knew where he was going, never brought anything with him but always knew what he would leave behind, a trail of terror and the darkness of death.

Tonight, much to the dismay of his victims' families, he met a far more peaceful fate than the one he inflicted on a 73-year-old woman. Her last view of Earth was his wicked face and a pickax coming right at her that was lodged in her head and embedded between her eyes. Tonight, Angel Resendiz is gone.

Americans are rid of the beast that pulverized a church secretary's face with a sledgehammer. Then he sexually assaulted her. His death sentence was

for only one single slaying, the rape, stabbing and beating of a Houston doctor whose husband watched the execution tonight, saying people have to understand what evil really is.

Resendiz' sentence was objected to by the Mexican government, who tried to intervene today in U.S. Federal courts to prevent this justice from occurring. The Mexican government instead should pay reparations to the nine families he murdered, since Mexico encourages illegals like him to enter the United States.

Resendiz is accused and suspected of many, many more killings throughout the United States, all tied together with the winding railroad tracks that carried this monster to his chosen chore, committing unspeakable random acts of butchery.

Tonight, Texas and the rest of the country, they are safer. The man who considered himself half man and half angel was neither. He was not half angel. He was totally a demon. Tonight, he has met his judgment day.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RESET OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, before I make my remarks about the readiness of the Army and Marine Corps equipment, I would like you to share my thoughts on the recently released information of a possible plan for troop redeployment in Iraq.

Let me say I am incensed that General Casey's recommendations to the President and Secretary Rumsfeld for possible force redeployments in the coming months were leaked by someone in the administration to The New York Times.

The options presented to the President for the success of our operation there should not be on the front page of a major paper. Such a leak does not benefit considered deliberation of military operatives. It can only serve a political purpose. Members of the Congress overseeing the Department of Defense should have been kept informed of our senior military commander's best thinking in an appropriate forum.

That said, I am pleased to hear that the Iraqis and the American people may be able to begin to see a correlation between increasing numbers and capability of Iraqi battalions and some reduction in American combat power. This is something that I have sug-

gested for some time. This apparent consideration of options could not come at a better time, given the poor readiness posture of the Army and Marine Corps equipment.

Over the last several years, we have seen readiness rates plummet as the operation tempo in Iraq has climbed. Readiness rates for equipment have fallen so far, so far that I fear that now they present a strategic risk to our ability to respond to contingencies we may have faced beyond our current commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 40 percent of the Army and Marine Corps ground equipment is deployed to the Central Command theater. That equipment is suffering terribly due to battle losses and damage and increased operations and harsh climate.

Since the start of the war, the Army has lost over 1,000 wheeled vehicles and nearly 100 armored vehicles. Increased usage and the weight from extra armor are wearing out equipment in Iraq up to nine times the peacetime rate. That means that some equipment has added the equivalent of 27 years worth of wear since the start of the war in Iraq.

To keep this equipment serviceable, the Army and Marines have had to expend extraordinary effort. To their credit, the readiness rates for equipment deployed to Central Command remains high, with spare equipment and repair parts flowing quickly to the fight.

Unfortunately, theater readiness has come at the expense of equipment here in the continental United States. Readiness reporting from non-deployed Army units shows that equipment readiness continues to fall, with very few continental United States units rated as fully mission-capable.

These low mission-capable rates disturb me greatly, as they are an indicator of a military under stress. Non-deployed units are our strategic base. They are the units we will call if a crisis emerges. Looking at these readiness rates, I truly wonder if our military will be able to answer the call should it come.

The cost of all this repair and maintenance is enormous, with the Army spending \$13.5 billion in 2006 alone. General Schoomaker, in his testimony before the Armed Services Committee today, said that the Army will require an astounding \$17 billion next year to reset equipment damaged or destroyed by the war in Iraq. Even more disturbing is that the largest bill for the reset will not come due until after combat operations end. At that point, future budget pressure may make it difficult to forward the reset, leaving us with significant shortfalls of equipment to fill a transforming military.

This Congress has a responsibility to provide for our force for the battles that they are in today and for those that they may have to fight tomorrow. To do that and to budget responsibly, we must know the true and full cost of the bill that will come due.

Mr. Speaker, the Army and Marine Corps have been involved in prolonged combat under the harshest of conditions. The combat has taken an enormous toll on troops and their equipment. Yes, we have strategic interests in Iraq, but we also have strategic interests around the world that we must be prepared to defend. We cannot allow the war in Iraq to destroy our ability to fight and win in other contingencies. Our Army and Marine Corps must have what they need to fight and win.

HONORING MEGAN JESSE

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the memory of an exceptional young woman. Less than 2 months ago, the community of Michigan City, Indiana, celebrated when they heard the good news. Megan Jesse, one of their own, was selected as the Second District's first place winner in the Congressional Art Competition. Today, unfortunately, the same northern Indiana community mourns her sudden and tragic passing.

Megan had just completed her junior year at Michigan City High School where she was a member of the Wolves ladies' soccer team. She was on her way to soccer camp with fellow teammate Katherine Stoll on Friday when they were involved in an automobile accident. Katherine was seriously injured, and Megan tragically lost her life.

Just hours before, Megan and her parents were busy planning their visit to Washington, D.C. They were coming to Capitol Hill today to attend the Congressional Art Competition's dedication ceremonies. Photography was one of Megan's favorite hobbies, and it was her artistic photo project, "Highlights," that was chosen from Indiana's Second District to hang here in the Capitol building.

When I attended the awards ceremony at Indiana University South Bend, Megan talked about her love of art and her inspiration for her winning piece. At first she was going to portray a towering lighthouse on the shores of Lake Michigan. But when she got to the beach, something else caught her eye, a simple picturesque lifeguard tower looking out over the water. Megan photographed this scene instead, and she was able to capture it with striking effect.

She said she chose the scene because of her love of the beach, and she wanted to express her feelings and emotions in a way that could be shared with others. I think it is truly fitting that her artwork will now hang in the United States Capitol where it can be enjoyed by thousands of visitors and passersby.

Sadly, Megan and her family will not be here for the Congressional Art Competition's ribbon-cutting ceremony this week, but we will still celebrate the ac-

complishments of a gifted young woman whose life was cut short by tragedy. To thousands of visitors to our Nation's Capitol and to my colleagues in Congress, the next time you walk through the tunnel in the Capitol, stop to consider the picture from the Second District of Indiana, Megan Jesse's picture, and remember this part of her life that she so graciously shared with us.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that we honor her life and her work and that our thoughts and prayers are with Megan's family at this very difficult time.

STOP SWEATSHOP PROFITEERS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I see them all over Ohio, Toledo, Hamilton, Lima, Youngstown, Mansfield and Dayton. In every community, there are signs that the Federal Government's trade policies are undermining American manufacturers, especially small machine shops, tool and die makers, other manufacturers, and encouraging the spread internationally of abusive sweatshop practices.

China is the sweatshop of the world, with oppressive labor policies resulting in wage suppression of as much as 85 percent. We all know that American workers can compete with workers anywhere in the world on a level playing field, but no one can stand, no one can compete with child labor, with sweatshop labor, with prison labor.

The year I first ran for Congress in 1992, the United States had a trade deficit of \$38 billion. Today, just last year, in 2005, that trade deficit had jumped from \$38 billion in only 13 years to a \$720 billion trade deficit.

The result of the sweatshop labor of this trade policy with China alone is trade deficit records being broken year after year and ever-increasing losses of manufacturing jobs to China. In my State alone, 200,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost since the year 2000, yet America's trade agreements are actually encouraging the development of new sweatshops. All of us in this body supported the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement because Jordan's labor protections were seen as meeting international standards.

The New York Times, though, recently reported that in the few years since the Jordan Free Trade Agreement took effect, lax enforcement and an abusive guest worker system have made Jordan the new haven for some of the world's most brutal sweatshops.

Senator BYRON DORGAN and I have introduced the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act to end sweatshop profiteering.

The bill is simple. It bars the importation or the sale of goods made with sweatshop labor. In other words, if a

product is made in a Chinese sweatshop, if a product is made by child labor or slave labor or prison labor, you can't import it into the United States, you can't sell it into the United States.

The Federal Trade Commission would enforce it, but the bill also gives retailers and shareholders the right to hold violators accountable, and it prohibits Federal government agencies from buying sweatshop goods. We can't afford to continue to tolerate these abuses. We certainly cannot afford, cannot continue to encourage them.

We don't have a \$200 billion trade deficit with China because China's companies are better than ours and certainly not because their people are smarter or more dedicated or hard working. We know how China is able to do so well in the game of international trade. They break the rules.

When China breaks the rules, and we lose in places like Marion and Cleveland, when we lose in places like Chillicothe and Zanesville and Toledo, when they lose thousands of manufacturing jobs, it not only hurts those people that lose those jobs, it hurts those families. It causes police and fire to be laid off in those abandoned communities. It means fewer schoolteachers teaching our young people.

□ 2300

It devastates people's families. It devastates people's communities. It is our job here in Congress to provide a level playing field for U.S. workers, to help those small manufacturers, to help those workers, to help those families, to help those communities and provide decent working conditions for workers here and abroad.

I ask my fellow Members of the House to support the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act.

AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, a couple of my colleagues and I tonight are going to spend a little bit of time talking about our Constitution, the founding principles on which this country is based, and a document that I am concerned that many of our colleagues in this Chamber are not as intimately familiar with as they should be.

I have introduced H. Res. 883 to try to address this issue. The acronym for the act is called the AMERICA Act, A Modest Effort to Read and Instill the Constitution Again, which is a bit tortured, but at least it gets us going in the right direction.

This resolution would require, or would encourage, each Member of the House and each staffer that works for a Member of the House to read the Constitution once a year. We hope to be voting on this in September during Constitution Week. But I want to talk about it tonight.