

number of troops necessary to carry out those missions.

Madam Speaker, we have sacrificed the lives of more than 3,609 soldiers and 26,695 wounded Americans, many with injuries from which they will never recover. We have a moral obligation to start the process of bringing our troops home, on our watch. A troop reduction will set our country in the right direction.

After more than 4 years of fighting, \$442 billion spent, and thousands of American and Iraqi lives lost in this war, the war in Iraq has evolved into a conundrum of massive proportions. American money, in the amount of almost \$330 million per day, is being spent on the war. Distinguished colleagues, this adds up to more than \$10 billion per month.

I believe history will regard the decision to go to war in Iraq as a tragic mistake, especially when we realize the cost of this war. The House of Representatives has authorized \$39.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008. The United States government will approximately spend that same amount in Iraq within a span of only 120 days.

The Administration's decision to increase the number of troops in Iraq has added to the already tremendous strain on our military personnel and their families. Both President Bush and General David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to Iraq and that the sectarian strife and the insurgency can be resolved only by the Iraqi government. Simultaneously, the personal lives of our troops have been devastated by unexpected early deployments or unexpected delays in their homecomings. Consequently, we have a moral obligation to get our troops out of Iraq with the same determination that got them into Iraq in the first place.

While our Administration's attention has been on Iraq, 6 years after the Bush administration declared war on al Qaeda, the terrorist network is gaining strength and has established a safe haven in remote tribal areas of western Pakistan for training and planning attacks. The most recent National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concludes that al Qaeda is growing stronger. The report states that al Qaeda may now be a stronger terrorist organization now than it was just a year ago, and may be back to its pre-9/11 strength and reach. Meanwhile, as Osama bin Laden operates freely along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the Administration wants to keep our troops in an open-ended Iraqi civil war. The same administration report concludes that the terrorist group has significantly rebuilt itself despite concerted U.S. attempts to smash the network. Interestingly, while the Administration has escalated our involvement in Iraq, al Qaeda has gained more training, more money, and enhanced their communications.

In addition, according to the Bush Administration's own assessment, the Iraqi government achieved only eight of 18 political and security benchmarks, a mixed rating on two and an unsatisfactory rating on eight benchmarks in a White House report prepared for Congress. The Administration has borne witness to the fact that we cannot continue to support the Iraqi government while the Iraqi government fails to achieve even moderate success. Therefore, it is time for them to determine their own destiny. We can continue to

extend the hand of friendship, but we have to handover the country to them. Iraqis must take control of their streets, their towns, and their country so we can bring our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time to require the President and the Secretary of Defense to commence the reduction of the number of United States Armed Forces in Iraq to a limited presence and begin to bring our troops home. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the one year anniversary of the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers Eldad Regev and Udi Goldwasser by Hezbollah, in a brazen and unprovoked cross-border attack that also resulted in the deaths of three other members of the Israel Defense Forces.

Only weeks earlier, Hamas abducted another Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, and killed two others in an attack carried out on Israeli territory adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

These three brave soldiers—kidnapped by terrorists while conducting routine duties inside Israel—have endured over a year of captivity.

They have endured a year without proper medical care.

They have endured a year without their loved ones.

I rise today to let the Shalit, Goldwasser and Regev families know that we stand with them in this very difficult time, and that we are all praying for the safe and timely release of their courageous sons.

33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress.

PSEKA (The International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus"), The Cyprus Federation of America, SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad), and The Federation of Hellenic Societies are primarily located in the 14th Congressional District of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

For the past several years, the Hellenic Caucus has been very engaged on the issues facing Cyprus. Many members of the Caucus remain concerned about the continued occu-

pation and division of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey illegally invaded Cyprus in 1974. As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, 160,000 Greek Cypriots, amounting to 70 percent of the population of the occupied area and over a quarter of the total population, were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing and unaccounted for since the Turkish invasion. Today, 33 years later, Turkey continues forcibly to occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with more than 43,000 Turkish troops. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. It has joined with us on issues important to our own security, including the fight against terrorism and other forms of international crimes. Cyprus was the first EU member to join the ship boarding protocol of President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, particularly important because Cyprus has one of the world's largest commercial shipping registries. As Cyprus developed into a regional financial center, the government moved aggressively and put in place strong anti-money laundering legislation.

On July 8, 2006, the President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to immediately begin a process of establishing bi-communal technical committees and working groups. This UN-brokered agreement also emphasized the need for confidence-building measures to make this process successful. Unfortunately, the Turkish Cypriot side has not reciprocated the positive approach taken by the Cyprus Government. President Papadopoulos proposed a meeting with the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Talat to jumpstart the process and move forward with the agreement. Mr. Talat initially accepted this invitation but on July 12th decided to cancel. I hope that the Turkish side will reconsider this decision so that the July 8th agreement can proceed.

On March 8, 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus demolished a wall at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the divided capital, as a gesture to facilitate the opening of Ledra Street as a crossing point. I have introduced H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island. Once Turkey removes its occupation forces from the adjacent area and other issues of safety and security have been addressed, the citizens of Cyprus will be free to travel Ledra Street as they had generations ago.

I also strongly support legislation introduced by my colleagues including H.R. 1456, introduced by Representative PALLONE, which would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with

either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish government, and H. Res. 405, introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the implementation of the UN-brokered July 8, 2006, agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations for the reunification of Cyprus.

The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in solemnly commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

Long Live Freedom.
Long Live Cyprus.
Long Live Greece.

HONORING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS AND BEVERLY SHAUGHNESSY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas and Beverly Shaughnessy on their 60th wedding anniversary.

The Shaughnessys are long-time residents of Berwyn, Illinois and are the proud parents of two children. Thomas served the town of Berwyn as mayor for three terms, retiring in 2005. Beverly retired in 1999 from a career in public service working in the Cook County Circuit Court. Both Thomas and Beverly have been deeply involved in the community and continue to be to this day. Thomas belongs to the Knights of Columbus, VFW, the American Legion and the Claddaugh Ring, while Beverly is a member of the Berwyn Women's Club and the Red Hats.

It is my honor to recognize Thomas and Beverly Shaughnessy and provide my heartfelt congratulations to them on this wonderful event in their lives. Together they exemplify the ideals of strong family and public service. I would like to extend my best wishes to the Shaughnessys as they and their family celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN RYAN KELLY

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Ryan Kelly, an exceptional everyday hero from my district in Denver, Colorado. Ryan Kelly is one of many voices that paint a clear picture for America of the war our nation is waging. A company commander and an Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot, Kelly spent a year fighting in Iraq.

Ryan Kelly participated in a national project by the National Endowment for the Arts called Operation Homecoming. This project sought to bring a real time perspective of what our soldiers are experiencing and allowing America to see through the lens of not only the soldiers

fighting this war, but also the family members they leave behind.

While serving our nation at war, Ryan Kelly wrote numerous letters home to his wife Judy and his mother Lynn. Two of his letters, as well as short stories, eyewitness accounts, poems and even lyrics written by other soldiers and their family members, appear in "Operation Homecoming," and his writing is also included in a new documentary, "Muse of Fire," with Ray Bradbury and Kevin Costner.

The messages contained within these words by the everyday heroes of America who are fighting this war need to be heard. The message of the sacrifice that our soldiers are making can be best summed up by this paragraph written by Ryan Kelly to his mother while he was serving in Iraq:

If it weren't for the Army uniforms and the constant noise of helicopters taking off and landing, and the Russian 747-like jets screaming overhead every hour of the day, and the F-16s screeching around looking for something to kill, and the rockets exploding and the controlled blasts shaking the windows and the "thump, thump, thump" sound of the Apache gun ships shooting their 30 mm guns in the middle of the night, and the heat and the cold, and the hero missions and the body bags and the stress, and the soldiers fraught with personal problems—child custody battles fought from 3,000 miles away, surgeries on ovaries, hearts, breasts, brains, cancers, transplants and the scorpions and the spiders who hide under the toilet seats, and the freakish bee-sized flies humming around like miniature blimps, and the worst: the constant pang of home, the longing for family, the knowledge that life is rolling past you like an unstoppable freight train, an inevitable force, reinforcing the desire for something familiar, the longing for something beautiful, for something safe, with love and laughter and poetry and cold lemonade and clean sheets, if it weren't for all that, Iraq would be just like home—almost.

I rise today to thank Captain Ryan Kelly and all of our Armed forces for their commitment to our country, and the sacrifice that all of them and their families are making.

TRIBUTE ON THE GRADUATION OF AMERICAN STUDENTS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to Dr. Melissa Barber, Dr. Evelyn Erickson, Dr. Carmen Landau, Dr. Toussaint Reynolds, Dr. Teresa Thomas, Dr. Wing Wu and especially my two constituents, Dr. Jose de Leon and Dr. Kenya Bingham, who will all be graduating on July 24, 2007 from the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. They have all traveled a long road to earn Medical Doctorates in Havana, Cuba.

These dedicated doctors overcame immense hurdles to complete their medical educations. They not only had to face 6 years away from home, but had to pursue their educations in Spanish after attending a 12-week intensive language program. They had to complete their studies cut off from their families and uncertain about their futures due to the

draconian Cuban embargo that continues to threaten this excellent program. I was proud to have initiated the scholarship program, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, after a visit to Cuba in 2000. I am also proud to support the students' ability to travel to Cuba and I hope to encourage more students to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to bring access to healthcare back to those who need it most.

These pioneering students of medicine should be recognized for not only the many challenges that they had to overcome, but also for their dedication to service. They had to commit to serve in medically underserved communities, back home in the United States, in order to receive their free medical education in Cuba. The Cuban government offers 250 full scholarships each year for students from the United States to study medicine there. Tuition, dormitory room and board, and textbooks are all provided free of charge and allow students who might otherwise not have the resources to pursue medical degrees in the United States to become doctors and to serve the uninsured and underinsured who too often fall through the cracks of our for-profit healthcare industry.

It is my hope that these doctors have achieved will not only bring desperately needed health care to the uninsured, but will also serve as an example to the healthcare industry, the American people and the Members of this Congress, that health care is a basic human right, not a privilege.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in March 2003 the United States set out, with the overwhelming support of the American people, to remove Saddam Hussein from power and establish a stable democracy in Iraq that would no longer threaten our nation or its neighbors. Coalition forces led by the finest military in the world, quickly accomplished the first goal. Unfortunately the conflict did not end at that point.

Future generations of military scholars will use this administration's conduct of military, diplomatic and reconstruction efforts in Iraq between June 2003 and November 2006 as a case study in how not to fight a war. The American people are justifiably disillusioned with almost every aspect of the conduct of our operations in Iraq for the past four years. The near sole exception to this disappointment is the pride which all Americans share in the dedication, professionalism and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

Time does not permit a full catalogue of errors, nor would a demonstration of 20-20 hindsight provide a positive contribution to this discussion. It is sufficient to recognize that by March 2006 forward thinking members of Congress recognized the need for a change of direction and asked the United States Institute of Peace to form an Iraq Study Group, ISG, to conduct a forward-looking, independent assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq, its impact on the