

affectionately known, flew more than 29 types of aircraft, including *Flack Bait*, which is on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Straight's years of service to our country are complemented by his service to his community. After retiring from the Air Force in 1976, Straight volunteered with various groups including the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the Longmont Rotary Club, Masons and Shriners, the Patient Advocacy Team, St. Vrain Photographic Society, the Salvation Army, Westview Presbyterian Church, and the Rollins Pass Restoration Association, for which he served as president for more than 25 years. Straight's motto was "Never give up."

On February 7, 2007, Danley Elson Straight passed away at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Juanita Watson Straight, his 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Straight and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "greatest generation," I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Danley Elson Straight.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIC A. LILL OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Sergeant Eric A. Lill, a courageous young soldier and father, who died in Iraq on July 6, 2007. As we all deeply mourn his loss, we use this time to honor his life and express our gratitude for his dedicated service.

Eric Lill grew up in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and graduated in 1997 from St. Lawrence High School in Burbank, IL. He then attended Marshall University where he played hockey and studied criminal justice. From an early age, Eric desired to serve the public and our Nation, and he felt called to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Eric's determination and outstanding performance enabled him to attain the rank of sergeant and become a mentor to other soldiers. Most recently, Sergeant Lill served under the 2nd Infantry Division and was deployed to Iraq in October 2006. During this time, Sergeant Lill utilized his background and interest in criminal justice to help train Iraqi police officers. Although this mission was hazardous, Sergeant Lill always downplayed the danger to his family so that they would not worry. Two days after Independence Day, an improvised explosive device detonated near Sergeant Lill's vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad. The injuries sustained by Sergeant Lill resulted in his death—he was only 28.

Aside from his military service to our Nation, Eric Lill was dedicated to his family as a loving father and son. He is survived by his two children, Cody and Mikayla, affectionately known to him as "Bug" and "Lala;" his parents, Charmaine and Tony; his sister, Kortne; and his maternal grandparents, John and Marlene Alvarado.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Sergeant Eric A. Lill. We will never forget his sacrifice and are forever indebted to him, as well as all of our soldiers who have died, for making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. My thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with the Lill family in this difficult time.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the steadfast friendship between the United States and Israel and to express support for Israeli soldiers held captive by terrorist organizations.

July 12, 2007 marks the one year anniversary of Hezbollah's infiltration into northern Israel, and it is a stinging reminder of Hezbollah's attack that sparked the bloody conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

For the past year, three Israeli soldiers have been away from their families, held captive by terrorist organizations. Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were kidnapped by Hezbollah in the attack on July 12, 2006, and Gilad Shalit was abducted by Hamas on June 25, 2006 near the Gaza Strip.

Gilad Shalit is the youngest of the three men at the age of 20. He began his service in July of 2005, and volunteered to work in a combat unit. Shalit loves math and sports. Ehud Goldwasser, 31, is always willing to lend a helping hand. Passionate about photography, sailing, and the environment, Goldwasser is recently married and looks forward to starting a family. Eldad Regev, 26, is a law student at Bar Ilan University. Regev enjoys soccer, music, and reading. The families and friends of these talented young men look forward to their safe return.

Since its independence in 1948, Israel has continuously struggled to protect its citizens and ensure the safety of its men and women in uniform. As a Member of Congress, I recognize the bond between the United States and Israel and support the Israeli people on this solemn anniversary.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAN WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to prevent the Bush Administration from launching war in Iran without prior congressional authorization. It is a companion bill to S. 759, authored by Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia.

This is not a unique proposal—several of our colleagues in the House have introduced resolutions expressing the sense of Congress

that the President should not initiate military action against Iran without first obtaining authorization from Congress.

This legislation would establish a binding legal limit on the ability of the President to expend funds to commence military action against Iran in the absence of explicit prior congressional authorization.

I think several factors require Congress to insist that the President meet that requirement before committing this country to another war.

Those factors include this administration's inability or unwillingness to engage with the Iranian regime, the stated interest on the part of many administration officials and political supporters in attacking Iran, and the U.S. deployment of additional aircraft carrier groups to the Persian Gulf.

These have led many—likely including the Iranian regime—to think the U.S. is intent on preparing a military strike against Iran. While that perception could be far from the mark, I think there is no doubt that there are increased risks of confrontation brought on by heightened tensions in the region.

If we've learned nothing else from the war in Iraq, we should have learned that saber rattling doesn't get us far—especially when the tough rhetoric comes from an administration with a history of mismanaging the war in Iraq, a war that is in its fifth year of straining our military and depleting our Nation's blood and treasure.

As I said in 2002—before voting against the resolution authorizing war in Iraq—I am reluctant to vest in the President all discretion about when and where America will go to war. I thought then and I think today that Congress, which has the constitutional responsibility to declare war, must play a more significant role in authorizing the use of our armed forces in what could become a full-scale war.

My purpose in introducing this legislation is to reassert Congress's constitutional responsibility and to remind the Bush Administration of the important role that Congress plays when it comes to matters of war and peace.

I recognize that the President, as commander-in-chief, must have some flexibility in deciding whether to allow U.S. forces to conduct intelligence gathering and to directly respond to attacks or possible attacks from Iran. That's why my legislation makes exceptions for these contingencies.

Madam Speaker, my introduction of this legislation should not be seen as evidence that I deny the reality of the potential danger Iran presents to our country, our allies, and others.

The prospect of an Iran with nuclear weapons is a matter of serious concern for America and the rest of the world. Since the revelation of its nuclear program, Iran has defied the international community by continuing to work to advance it. Iran's president has publicly stated his intention to "wipe Israel off the map," and there is evidence that Iran is arming insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So it is no surprise that there are also reports—as recently as last month—that the internal debate on Iran among the White House, State Department, and Defense Department is heating up, and that the mood is shifting back toward military action against Iran. My bill responds to those reports by reasserting the basic principle that Congress must consent before the president can take such action.

Sending our troops into harm's way is a decision that affects all Americans, as we've

learned the hard way in Iraq. So before this president makes any more rash decisions about going to war, I believe he must come to Congress for authorization to commence military action.

The bill I am introducing today—like its companion in the Senate—is intended to do one thing: to restore the balance between the executive and legislative branches with regard to authorizing large-scale military activities. It is a balance that needs restoring after the mismanagement of the war in Iraq, and it is a balance we should be watching closely as some in the Administration continue to discuss presidential authority to wage war in contravention of the Constitution.

COMMENDING AMPUTEES ACROSS AMERICA ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND MISSION TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AMPUTEES AS PEOPLE WITH ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Amputees Across America for their achievements and mission to increase public awareness of amputees as people with active lifestyles.

Amputees Across America is a group of amputees cycling from coast-to-coast. The riders departed on May 28, 2007 from Tustin, California, and arrive in Alexandria, Louisiana on Monday, July 2. The group is riding in 150-mile relays, visiting hospitals and local amputee support groups. The group will complete their 3,500 mile journey when they arrive in Vero Beach, Florida on July 25, 2007.

While in Alexandria, Amputees Across America cyclists Joe Sapere, Abel Cruz, Clifford Clark, and Beasey Hendrix will visit with patients and members of a stroke and amputee support group to share stories of overcoming their amputations to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding the mission and achievements of Amputees Across America. I acknowledge their commendable mission and significant contribution to not only the state of Louisiana, but our nation as well.

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recall the tragic anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey brutally attacked the Republic of Cyprus. To my deep regret, the shameful legacy of this despicable act remains. To this day, Turkish troops illegally occupy Cyprus, splitting the island into two areas, and continuing the oppression of the people of Cyprus which has remained since that infamous day.

Reminiscent of the infamous Berlin Wall, Cyprus has remained divided by “the green line,” a 113-mile barbed-wire fence that has run across the island for the past 33-years. Despite pressure from the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations, Cyprus remains one of the most militarized areas in the world.

Although Cyprus remains divided, there is reason for optimism that the nation will one day be made whole. In late April of 2004, the people of Cyprus went to the polls to vote on a plan of reunification. Unfortunately, this reunification proposal was rushed, allegedly to coincide with the ascension of Cyprus into the European Union. Because of many legitimate concerns, including security, and in a demonstration of great courage and independence, approximately 75 percent of Greek Cypriots opposed the plan. However, this rushed and unfortunate effort must not, and will not, be the end of attempts to reunify the island. A lasting and equitable solution for the people of Cyprus, and the goal of a united Cyprus, is too important to abandon.

I firmly support the efforts begun with the bicommunal agreement reached at the meeting of July 8, 2006. The framework of July 8 established guiding principles to accomplish the goal reunifying the two halves of Cyprus within a bizonal, bicommunal federation. I urge both parties to proceed with establishing working groups so that there can be movement forward in implementing these principles. The remarkable achievement of the July 8 agreement gives me great reason to be hopeful that a solution is near. Yet so long as Cyprus remains divided, we have great work ahead of us.

I remain committed to achieving a solution to this problem so that we never have to gather again to commemorate an anniversary of this condemnable invasion. Madam Speaker, I pray that this will be the last year of a divided Cyprus. It is my fervent hope that, 33 years after Cyprus was torn asunder, all Cypriots can be reunited, living in peace and freedom forever.

APPROVAL OF THE “MEN OF MIKE” RESOLUTION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to applaud today’s passage of H. Res. 541 by unanimous consent to recognize the Marines of Company “M,” or “Mike Company,” on the occasion of their 25th annual reunion. I am proud that men in my home State of Nebraska served in this distinguished unit.

In fact, former Marine Commandant General Chuck Krulak and General Tom Draude served together in Vietnam in this unit. The U.S. Marine Corps told me that during General Krulak’s tenure as CMC, he often took the opportunity in speeches to extol the heroism of fellow Marines from Mike Company—in particular Tom Draude, a former Commander of M/3/7 who was awarded the Silver Star for heroism in a 1966 action.

The Marines of Mike Company served honorably and heroically in the Vietnam war from July 1965 to October 1970. Their service in

defense of freedom, liberty and political self determination for the South Vietnamese people earned the unit numerous citations and commendations for valor, including:

The Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars;

Navy Unit Commendation Streamer; Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with 2 Bronze Stars;

National Defense Service Streamer; Vietnam Service Streamer with 2 Silver Stars and 3 Bronze Stars;

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer; and

The Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Streamer.

The Men of Mike Company were the subject of a 1968 documentary entitled “A Face of War,” which accurately portrayed the sights and sounds of Marines performing their duties in a combat zone. My constituent, retired Captain James Sackett, appeared in the film as part of the Mike Company “Band of Brothers” who displayed their courage under fire on behalf of all U.S. Marines.

The Marines of Mike Company, along with their loved ones, have held a reunion every year since 1983. They have formed the Mike 3/7 Vietnam Association to honor the memories of their fallen comrades; celebrate the lives of their surviving comrades; express profound appreciation to their families and loved ones; recognize the monumental sacrifices and achievements necessary for freedom; and to hold forth their contribution to the Marine Corps legacy of courage, patriotism and military excellence as an example to future generations.

Americans everywhere owe a debt of gratitude to the Marines of Mike Company for their selfless dedication to duty and their admirable display of courage under fire. The U.S. House of Representatives is proud to honor their sacrifices on the occasion of their 25th annual reunion.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2337

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in recent weeks, I have witnessed the lengths to which the oil and gas industry will go to frighten my colleagues about the contents of H.R. 2337, the energy legislation approved last month by the House Natural Resources Committee. The tales they weave would make good fodder for a Stephen King novel.

I have heard arguments of all kinds—that the bill will cause oil and gas prices to increase, that it will harm energy supplies, and even that it will cost American jobs. Falsehoods such as these, while creative, are simply unfounded.

I have seen no data to substantiate these claims or to show how the mild provisions of Titles I and II in my bill will result in such ill effects. And, I might add, what these detractors always conveniently fail to reveal is that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided zip in the way of lower prices.

Let me take this opportunity to give you a little insight into what is really behind this smear campaign.