

(d) REGULATIONS.—Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CLEVELAND SHOOTING

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, Members of the House that are still here this afternoon, and people of America, I ask you to join with me in a moment to say prayers for the families of the victims from the Cleveland shooting this afternoon.

It is unfortunate that we as a Nation once again face a shooting in a public schoolhouse. It is unfortunate that we once again face children who have access to guns in an educational environment.

I ask you to pray for the family of the young man who was the shooter. I ask you to pray for the families of the persons who were injured in this shooting.

Day after day we will get all kinds of questions about what happened and how it happened and what we could have done. But today is a day when we should stop and just for a moment say prayers on behalf of all those families.

The city of Cleveland is my home. I grew up there. I currently represent it, and I ask you to hold us in your thoughts and prayers and pray that God will give us the strength and the ability to work through this difficult time.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TODAY MARKS A TRAGIC DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today marks a sad and tragic day in American history. Today is the fifth anniversary of the House joint resolution which authorized the use of American Armed Forces against Iraq.

I was among the 133 Members of the House who voted "no" on that resolu-

tion. But our voices could not be heard over the deafening spin machine of fear and misinformation that came from the administration.

We were told about mushroom clouds, yellow cake, and weapons of mass destruction. They all turned out to be fairytales. But they became the rationale of something America should never, never do: wage a war of choice.

But now the American people know that our involvement in Iraq is folly, and in 2006 they sent us to Congress to end the occupation.

Iraq is not the American people's war; it is the administration's war. And it goes on because the administration has turned a deaf ear to the will of the people. The administration looks to our involvement in South Korea as the model for Iraq. That means a permanent occupation that may last half a century or more.

Who wants this? The American people don't want it. The Iraqi people don't want it. The people of the Middle East don't want it. Our allies don't want it. The world does not want it. Iraq is the symptom of a foreign policy that is fatally flawed. We have turned our backs on the structure of international cooperation and agreement that is the best way to stop terrorism, ensure our national security, and keep the peace.

Our leaders have told us to wait for history to judge the wisdom of our involvement in Iraq, but we don't have to wait; 5 years is long enough to judge. And we already know what the occupation has done; it has shattered the lives of millions through death, injury, and displacement. It has wrecked our moral leadership, it has wrecked our standing in the world. It has distracted us from fighting the poverty and hopelessness that give rise to terrorism, and from working with other nations to dismantle terrorist networks. It has made us foreign occupiers in the eyes of the people of the Middle East, making it virtually impossible for us to be partners for peace in that very volatile region.

The occupation broke faith with our brave troops. We told them they were going to fight America's enemies, and then we left them to police a civil war that has nothing to do with America. The occupation has undermined our commitment to civil liberties and human rights. America should be known as the great champion of democracy; instead, we are known for Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, illegal wiretapping, and the PATRIOT Act.

The occupation has squandered nearly half a trillion dollars from our Treasury, robbing money from domestic needs. And the occupation has not made our Nation safer. Our intelligence community has warned us that al Qaeda is using the occupation to recruit operatives for attacks on the United States.

So how should we mark this fifth anniversary day? Let us use October 10, 2007 to correct the mistake this House

made on October 10, 2002. Let us use this day to commit ourselves to a bold new course of action. Congress must rescind the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq. Congress must use its power of the purse to defund the occupation and, instead, fully fund the safe, orderly, and responsible redeployment of our troops and withdrawal of all military contractors now. And Congress must resist the new drumbeat of war, this time against Iran.

The occupation of Iraq represents a failure of national policy. America's true strengths lie in our commitment to moral action, lies in our compassion for the people of the world, and a government based on the rule of law. Let us use this day to return to those values and ensure the safety of our country and our people. And let us be committed to bring our troops home from Iraq.

□ 1815

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to commend Homes for Our Troops, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, for its remarkable service to military men and women who have returned home with serious disabilities and injuries.

Homes for Our Troops was founded in 2004 to assist severely injured service men and women and their families by raising donations of money, building materials and professional labor, and coordinating the process of building a new home or adapting an existing home for handicap accessibility.

Homes for Our Troops has been awarded the Seal of Excellence by Independent Charities of America, and all services provided by the organization are at no cost to the veteran it serves.

This Saturday, I happened to be fortunate enough to witness firsthand the great work of this organization when U.S. Sergeant Edmundson and his family received keys to their new home in New Bern, North Carolina.

Sergeant Edmundson was severely wounded on October 2, 2005 in an IED attack in Iraq. His injuries include shrapnel wounds to his abdomen and right leg, and fractured vertebrae. Sergeant Edmundson has not been able to walk since the explosion, and he still cannot talk. He has worked very hard the past 2 years to regain quality of life, and just recently returned to his family after a 6-month rehabilitation stay in Chicago.

After Sergeant Edmundson was discharged, he and his family relocated to New Bern, North Carolina. Sergeant Edmundson and his family were selected to receive a new home after they encountered John Gonsalves, the president and founder of Homes for Our Troops. Sergeant Edmundson was at a

recovery center in Washington, DC, when he met Mr. Gonsalves.

Thousands of dollars in donations from businesses and members of the Craven County community poured in to support the efforts of Homes for Our Troops to build a home for this hero and his family in New Bern, North Carolina.

This Saturday, my heart was touched so deeply as I saw the joy of Sergeant Edmondson, his wife Stephanie, and his little girl, Gracie, as they were welcomed into their home.

This story is only one example of many individuals and groups across this Nation that are doing God's will for our men and women in uniform. I feel humbled to have met Sergeant Edmondson and his family, and all of those who have formed such a caring support system for them. These contributions and acts of service are what truly shows the goodness and the greatness of America.

Madam Speaker, with that, I close by asking God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and ask God to continue to bless America.

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

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ AUMF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate a sad and very tragic anniversary in our Nation's history. Five years ago today, over my strong objections and the objections of many of my colleagues, Congress voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq.

This campaign of shock and awe was a campaign that shocked us all. It was hard to believe that this administration, based on what little information they had, would move in and bomb and invade Iraq.

I often wonder what would have happened had the House approved the amendment that I offered that would have allowed the United Nations inspectors to finish their jobs. If my amendment had passed, and from what I remember, there were about 72 "yes" votes on that amendment, inspectors would have made it clear what we believed then and what the world knows now, that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. And how sad it was to see a great general, military man, then Secretary of State, Secretary of State Colin Powell, go to the United Nations and cherry-pick information to present to the world to try

to convince the world and to convince this Congress to vote to invade and bomb Iraq.

Five years later, the President's failed policy in Iraq has claimed the lives of more than 3,800 brave service men and women, nearly 30,000 wounded, and countless Iraqi civilians, and yet we heard many years ago that the mission was accomplished.

This has cost us more than \$400 billion, nearly a half trillion dollars, with the President poised to ask for \$200 billion more, and no end in sight. The invasion and occupation of Iraq has undermined our Nation's security and the security of the world.

Along with Congresswomen LYNN WOOLSEY and MAXINE WATERS, many of our colleagues in the Progressive Caucus and in the Out of Iraq Caucus have indicated that we in Congress have the power, and we know we have the power, it is a constitutional mandate and requirement, to end the President's failed policy in Iraq. And today, we worked together, over the last few weeks, to put together the information so that this morning we could release a poll today that shows that the American people support us in doing this.

The President wants to pretend that Congress's only choice is to provide funds that he has requested unconditionally or cut off funding for our troops. This is a false choice, and we cannot buy into that argument. We can use our constitutionally mandated appropriations power to end his failed policy, to protect our troops and contractors, and to bring them home. We have the power to fully fund redeployment, and that is what we must do.

Our poll found that 70 percent of those surveyed rejected giving the President further funding for Iraq without conditions, and people favored requiring funds be spent on redeployment over providing the administration funds without conditions. And this was by a 2-1 margin. So, with the support of the American people, we will continue to build support in Congress for fully funding redeployment.

We wrote to the President of the United States to indicate that that is the only way he will get our vote for any funds for this very tragic occupation and tragic civil war that we find ourselves in now. Now we have maybe 86, 87 Members who have committed to this strategy because they know that this is the only way we can end this.

The truth is, the President's "stay the course" strategy provides an exit strategy really for him at the expense of our troops. It allows him to run out the clock on his failed policy and to slip out the door, to leave the American people holding the bag.

How many of our troops should die so that the President can save face? How large of a sacrifice must we make of our children's and grandchildren's future so that the President can avoid just admitting that he was wrong?

The President is not going to take responsibility for this failed policy, we've

seen that and we know that now, so the Congress must. We must act. And the best way for us to do that is to fully fund the safe, timely, and responsible redeployment of our troops and contractors from Iraq.

So on this somber anniversary, we must remind our colleagues of what happened and how we got to this place; but also we must stand tall and say we will bring our young men and women home, and we will end this occupation soon.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, for more than 90 years, Armenians were denied recognition for the genocide of 1915. We promised in 1945 to never forget the Holocaust, to remember when such atrocities are committed. But the world could well forget the first genocide of the 20th century. In fact, Hitler used the world's denial of the Armenian genocide as the justification for his invasion of Poland and the ensuing murder of Europe's Jewry.

In a speech he gave in 1939, Adolf Hitler stated, "I have placed my death-head formation in readiness, with orders to send death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women and children of Polish derivation and language. Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Unfortunately, Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, are seeking to, once again, bury this to appease Turkey. We remember Turkey well, a formerly strong NATO ally; but in 2003, when the United States Army requested permission to transit this ally's territory, Turkey said no, a decision which cost the lives of American service men and women.

Former U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, once an ardent supporter of the Armenian Genocide resolution, is now registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent of the Turkish Government. Like many other former Members of Congress, he is lobbying against a bill that he co-sponsored when he served in this body. As a defender of human rights, our country must formally recognize the genocide that Hitler so easily dismissed.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Turks systemically annihilated more than 1.5 million ethnic Armenians. There is no other way to describe this organized campaign of murder other than as genocide.