

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 Edmundson, 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 Edmundson 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 gentlewoman 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 systematically annihilated more than 1.5 million ethnic Armenians. There is no other way to describe this organized campaign of murder other than as genocide.

The Armenian Genocide resolution, H. Res. 106, was just approved today by a vote of 27-21 in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I urge Speaker PELOSI to bring this important resolution to the floor so that we may finally provide the Armenian community with the recognition that they deserve.

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

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC DECISIONS EVER MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, this date, October 10, 2007, marks the fifth anniversary of one of the most tragic decisions ever made by this House of Representatives. It was a decision that was also followed in the same way the following day, October 11, 5 years ago, by the United States Senate. That decision was based upon a request by this Bush administration to authorize the military invasion of the sovereign nation of Iraq. And that request by this administration and the subsequent authorization by this Congress was done based upon false information which was presented by various members of that organization.

After the attack of September 11, 2001, which was carried out by the al Qaeda network, this administration began to press the idea that Iraq was involved in that invasion. They began to try to manipulate the intelligence that was presented by our legitimate intelligence agencies. They began to press various parts of those intelligence operations to try to get them to provide some information upon which they could somehow justify the idea that Iraq was involved in that attack of September 11, 2001. That never really happened. The legitimate aspects of our intelligence agencies never produced that information.

Nevertheless, this administration provided that form of intelligence in an internal way within their own operation, evidence that they used to suggest initially that there was a relationship between Iraq and the attack of September 11th. They then began to make allegations that Iraq was a very dangerous country and we needed to engage them in a military invasion, and that military invasion was necessary based upon their assertion that Iraq possessed substantial amounts of so-called "weapons of mass destruction." They were alleging biological and chemical weapons. Those allegations, of course, were based upon the fact that the first Bush administration and the Reagan administration, back in the 1980s, had, in fact, provided biological and chemical weapons and other forms of weaponry to the Iraqi Government of Saddam Hussein. They believed that perhaps some of those weapons were still in existence in Iraq in spite of the fact that they were told over and over again that that was no longer the case. So they continued to press the idea that we should justify the invasion of Iraq. Unfortunately, the majority of the Members of this House and the Senate apparently bought into that idea and voted to authorize that invasion.

Those of us who voted against it had access to information that everyone should have had access to, I believe that most people did, that there was no connection between Iraq and the attack of September 11; that whatever chemical and biological weapons had been sent into Iraq in the 1980s were no longer there; and that there was no justification for the assertion that was made by many members of this administration, including the President himself, that Iraq was engaged in the production of nuclear weapons.

On October 7, just several days prior to the vote here in the House of Representatives, the President made a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio. That speech, in part, was in response to growing evidence that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. President Bush, like other members of his administration, Donald Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY, and others, used the phrase "mushroom cloud." He said, "You do not want the evidence of weapons of mass destruction to be in the form of a mushroom cloud." That, of course, was designed to create that image in the minds of the American people that we were confronting a nation that was likely to use nuclear weapons against our country and against others, all of which was completely false.

So we know now that all of the justification for that invasion was false, and this Congress now has the responsibility to engage in actions to correct it. We need to set a specific date for the withdrawal of our military forces from Iraq. We also need to take action for a specific provision which will deauthorize that invasion which was authorized

on October 10, 2002. We need to do that as soon as possible.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE INDIANS!

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud sports fan from the City of Cleveland, Ohio. Yes, I have said it. What about those Indians? It has been years since Clevelanders can stand up and say they are proud of their professional sports teams and can actually point to success. Yet just this year the Cavaliers made the NBA finals for the first time in franchise history and on the back of our young superstar, Lebron James. After a strong draft in the spring, the Cleveland Browns looked competitive for the first time since the franchise returned in 1999, save one season.

But the main reason I stand today is to congratulate the Cleveland Indians for their first trip to the ALCS since 1998. Cleveland fans have been through a lot of disappointment in our sports history. Two losses for the Browns in the 1980s in the AFC championship by a drive and a fluke fumble. Losses to Michael Jordan's Bulls by the Cavs in the Eastern Conference finals in the early 1990s, and most recently in a heart-breaking loss in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series in the 9th inning to the Florida Marlins.

As a lifelong Clevelander, it has been difficult to live through so many near misses, and it makes you yearn for the days of Jim Brown and Bob Feller. The Indians displayed such a consistent level, failures during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, that the movie "Major League" was made depicting a fictional Indians team that was supposed to be the worst ever in baseball. However, all this disappointment changed in the 1990s when the Indians moved to their current home, Jacobs Field.

It was not so long ago that the Indians were competing for the World Series every year. Throughout the 1990s, the Indians made the World Series twice, in 1995 and 1997, and made the playoffs 5 straight years from 1994 to 1999. After a few bad years, the Indians were rebuilding through the early part of the 2000s, and I must credit General Manager Mark Shapiro for putting together a young, talented team that looks poised to become the class of the AL Central for years to come.

This year, the Indians won the AL Central crown and tied for the best record in baseball with the Boston, what are they called? Boston Red Sox. I must say, this team is exciting to watch. We have a rising star in center fielder Grady Sizemore, the best one-two pitching punch in baseball with CC Sabathia and Fausto Carmona.

I want to give a special shout out to veteran outfielder Kenny Lofton. Kenny is the only player on the roster who played with the Indians during