

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a spiritual warrior for her constituents and those who could not fight for themselves, JULIA CARSON. She served 6 years in Congress, but her experience here far outweighed her time here. She always remembered where she was from and how she got there.

This was a tough lady. She spent her initial swearing in in the hospital recovering from double bypass surgery. She was a wonderful personal friend who I enjoyed spending time with.

I have my JULIA CARSON story. I remember a few years ago, we were going to an event at the Army-Navy Golf Club. We were going to a program, a celebration, and our driver got lost and made a wrong turn. We ended up on the seventh fairway. We were going up the hill, and the car couldn't go up and it couldn't go back. I panicked, but she was calm during this entire process. We eventually were rescued by the Capitol Hill Police. I will never forget that experience.

JULIA CARSON was a classy lady, very classy. And I loved the way she dressed and the way she held herself. Like Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, she fought the good fight and she finished the course. But most important, she kept the faith. JULIA, I will miss you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HON. JULIA CARSON

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, tonight, as I stand to pay respects and honor to JULIA CARSON, I don't believe I will take 5 minutes, but I will say that as a freshman Member, I really can't recall some of the great stories that I've heard my friends tell about the great JULIA CARSON, but I do have my own recollections of her.

The most important thing I want to share with people tonight is that, when I just started here and I started getting on my feet and figuring out where the bathrooms were and how to get around the House a little bit, JULIA CARSON took a moment, JULIA CARSON had time, JULIA CARSON and I sat in the chairs of this gallery and talked. And she told me about the struggles that she had to overcome. And she also told me, when I had my first bill, "if you don't put me on that bill right now, boy, I don't know what I'm going to do." And I had to laugh, because the spirit that she had was remarkable, given some of the health problems she was facing.

The health problems she was facing may have been a burden, but they were not too great for her to show kindness to a new freshman here in Congress. And so I will always remember JULIA CARSON, very fond memories of her, and I will always be inspired by the great example that she gave us.

Mr. SHAYS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. Certainly.

Mr. SHAYS. I have a request for 5 minutes, so I can't use the time twice.

But I just want to say, on behalf of the Republican side of the aisle, I don't know a Member who didn't appreciate JULIA CARSON's fine work, who didn't enjoy talking with her. She always had a great response to anything you had to say. She was insightful, she was right to the point, and had a tremendous sense of humor. And it's hard to think that she will not be with us because she was a presence here. JULIA often sat on this side of the aisle, so a lot of us got to know her, not just speaking on the floor, but talking with her personally, and to love her a great deal.

I thank the gentleman for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. ELLISON. It is certainly my honor. Many, many people loved JULIA CARSON, and I want to thank the Congressman from Connecticut for sharing his sentiments as well.

CODEL TO TURKEY

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

Mr. SHAYS. Earlier this month, I returned from a congressional delegation trip to Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait. As part of that trip, my staff member, a retired colonel in the Army, Dr. Nick Palarino, and I spent 4 days in Turkey traveling to the southeastern region, not a place Members of Congress usually go.

I would like to share my impressions with my colleagues about our strong ally in the Middle East, Turkey.

My staff and I pursued a different itinerary than other codels in Turkey. First, we visited Ankara and met with the U.S. Ambassador and the Country Team, members of Parliament, and Turkish military officials to get a better understanding of the problems faced by Turkey battling the terrorist group, the Kurdistan Worker's Party, known as the PKK.

We then traveled to Diyarbakur, a city and region where a large number of Turkish citizens of Kurdish descent reside, and met with the governor of the province and local officials, many of them Kurds.

We also traveled to Habur Gate on the border with Iraq and met with the commercial truck drivers who wait in line for days, often more than a week, trying to get their products into Iraq. We even had the opportunity to cross the bridge into Iraq and meet with U.S. forces, members of the 571st Movement Control Team and Logistical Task Force Bravo, who escort commercial trucks into Iraq.

□ 2015

Before going to Istanbul, we met with the chamber of commerce representatives and stopped overnight in Mardin and met with the governor and

local Kurdish officials. In Istanbul we met with businessmen doing work in Iraq and a very precious family that lost their son, brother to their PKK terrorists. This is just one of thousands and thousands of families that have lost loved ones to the PKK.

After traveling the length of Turkey from Istanbul to the border with Iraq and meeting with U.S. and Turkish officials, these are my general impressions:

Turkey is a Muslim country with an active and vibrant democracy. Although the southeastern region of Turkey has a great deal of unemployment, the majority of the Turkish economy is growing, and people feel optimistic about their future. The current leadership and ruling party in Turkey, the AKP, is attempting to address the unemployment issue by helping to develop the southeast region. There is enormous potential for development throughout Turkey.

Turkey wants to be a partner in the European Union, and we should continue to strongly advocate its admittance. Turkey has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the long Cold War against Communism, and we should never forget that. Turkey is now standing with us shoulder to shoulder in our fight in the global war against terrorism. It is providing bases for U.S. military forces, troops and nonmilitary assistance in the global war on terrorism.

We are right in standing shoulder to shoulder with Turkey in its fight against the PKK. The PKK is a terrorist organization that has killed thousands of Turkish soldiers and citizens. The PKK is an enemy of Turkey. It is an enemy of the United States, and it is an enemy of Iraq. We should do all we can to assist Turkey eliminate this threat from its border and continue the strong alliance our countries have built over the years, and I think we are.

The recent action Turkey has taken to confront the PKK in Iraq is long in coming and more than justified. Turkey has been patient and understanding in the challenges the Iraqi Government faces and has acted in a strong, but measured, way. It is essential that we appreciate the friendship we have with this great country and do everything we can to strengthen this relationship.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO YOUTH WITH A MISSION

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Youth With a Mission, or YWAM, and the rest of the Nation grieved over the tragic Colorado shootings that resulted in the death and injuries of YWAM's staff and former students. Our deepest sympathy goes out

to the family and friends affected by this terrible tragedy. I rise to honor and encourage YWAM as an international ministry whose largest North American training facility is located in my district at Garden Valley, Texas, where I visited numerous times.

YWAM trains Christians of many denominations and ages with their express purpose being to know God and to make Him known in obedience to the Great Commission which says they are to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. YWAM currently operates in more than 1,000 locations in over 149 countries with a staff of nearly 16,000. I have also had the opportunity on multiple occasions to meet different YWAM staff and students when they have visited this beautiful city here in Washington, D.C., before embarking on short-term mission trips.

When I speak with these individuals, I am overwhelmed by their passion for their ministry and sincere love for people they have yet to meet. They truly strive to follow the example of Christ by offering themselves as selfless, humble, and loving servants.

The Declaration of Independence says that we are endowed by a Creator with certain inalienable rights. Our Creator endowed this Nation with these individuals who have now been killed. Each of these dear people were a gift to this Earth and to this country. And although we are very disappointed that we did not get to keep those gifts as long as we wished at their Earthly location, we can still thank God for each day that we had them.

We are not promised life without hardships. To the contrary, those who take up their individual crosses, especially for the sake of Christ, can expect to face greater trials and persecution. For this Nation's entire history, until now, Christians have had a place, a country, where they were not persecuted. But that unique time is changing. In this day of political correctness, often Christians are the only groups it is acceptable to verbally assault. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we should consider everything a loss, including our own lives, compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage the staff and students at YWAM during this difficult time.

C.S. Lewis had kept a journal of sorts after his precious wife, Joy, had died. In one entry, he said, in effect, that he missed her so much he wanted her back. But he realized how very selfish that was. His wife was in heaven. She was in paradise. It was not in her interest to return to a land of tears from a land where there is no sorrow. Lewis went on to say that we are told Stephen was the first martyr. But he said, as I think about it, didn't Lazarus get the far rawer deal? If you review the Bible looking for quotes from Lazarus after he was brought back from the dead, you will not find them. I will bet he was not a happy camper.

In any event, we can look forward to the day when we can be reunited with these friends from YWAM. But may those at YWAM find strength and encouragement from friends, from each other, and from these words: may God bless those at YWAM and may He continue to shine His face upon them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JULIA CARSON

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. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to pay tribute to our friend, our colleague, our beloved sister, JULIA CARSON. It is my belief that when the Almighty created this beautiful, charming woman, he threw away the mold.

Long before JULIA CARSON came here, she was a fighter, someone who stood up and spoke out for those that have been left out and left behind. She was a champion of ordinary people, a champion for justice, for civil rights, for human dignity. I want to thank her friend and our former colleague, Andy Jacob, whom I served with, for doing all he could do to have JULIA CARSON come to this place.

In this body, we are like a family, one family. We become like sisters and brothers. And I feel with the loss and passing of JULIA CARSON, we have lost a member of our family. The chain, the circle, has been broken.

I will never forget when I was much younger, on April, 4, 1968, almost 40 years ago, I was in her district. She was not representing the district then, but we were in the City of Indianapolis with Robert Kennedy when he announced to the crowd that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had been assassinated. When JULIA came here, she always said to me, JOHN, you must come back to Indianapolis and visit. And I have gone back there.

We will miss her. She has gone on to a better place. And we will never, ever see her likeness again.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE FRESHMEN REPUBLICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, tonight for the American public, we are going to hold the fourth quarterly report of the newly elected freshmen Republicans giving an update of what has gone on here on the floor. As the Sun begins to set on our first year in Congress, this is really the appropriate time to talk about it. This week we are bringing up what they call the omnibus bill, because we have 13 appropriation bills, but this Congress has only been able to get one through.

So what are they doing this week, at the last hour, at the last moments because Christmas is coming and people want to go home? They are throwing them all into one great big ball and putting them before the American people.

Now, when we flew back here, like we do each and every week, when I got here on Monday, I quickly found 34.4 pounds of pieces of paper of the omnibus bill and was told that in a few short hours we were going to go to a vote.

Well, tonight we want to tell the American people that we want to bring a little transparency to their government. We want to show them exactly what is going on here. And I will tell you this, the American people should know, Mr. Speaker, that this government is not small. This government is \$2.9 trillion. Now, just think for a moment. That is just the amount of money that this government spends. Now, if you compare that to economies, not just to what other countries spend in their government, but to their economy and what they produce, what their governments spend it on, ours would be the third largest in the world. Of course, the United States economy is the largest, and there would be Japan, but we would be larger than Germany. We would be larger than China with all the money they spend in government and all that they produce as you look at the different products that they make. We would be larger than the United Kingdom, larger than France, and larger than Italy.

When you think about that and you think about the deficit that we have, isn't there a place that we can find the fraud, the waste and the abuse and eliminate it? And that is what these 13 freshmen who have been newly elected a year ago have been about to do.

Now, tonight, we are going to start out talking with different members of the freshman class. It is an honor to look at the different members that we have. Our first individual that we have comes from the State of Minnesota, the Sixth District, Representative MICHELE BACHMANN from Stillwater, Minnesota.

I would like to yield time to MICHELE.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Representative. What an honor to be able to be here. What an illustrious class we have, and I appreciate the gentleman from California so much for his fine direction, for his leadership and for our class. He is doing a wonderful and able job. He is telling the story that the American people want to hear, and that is where we are in this particular quarter, what is happening with our finances, because that is what we do, after all, when we come here to the United States Congress. We come here for a very simple purpose. We have to deal with 11 spending bills covering various subjects, and we have to take care of those. We have to make sure that we fully fund the priorities that we believe in and make sure that we