

He did not always want to be in the United States Army. It was in River-view that he decided his career path in life, to become a chef. So, after high school, Bobb enrolled in the Orlando Culinary Academy. However, he quickly decided that this career choice was really not for him, and he decided that he wanted to belong in the United States Army. He knew the United States was at war in action and Iraq, but he enlisted in the Army because he knew it was his duty.

As private first class in the Army, Bobb became a military police officer in the 401st Military Police Company, 92nd Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas.

He enjoyed being a military police officer, maintaining law and order on the Army base. According to Private Bobb, he said, "As of now, being a military police officer is the best job in the world."

He was a man of many friends, especially among his brothers in arms in the United States Army. Those who knew him knew a young man that had an easy going personality and a positive outlook on life. He was always cheerful and was a soldier that others looked to for support and to lend a helping hand. He was always thinking of others, according to his friends.

He knew he was lucky in life, and he admitted on his personnel Myspace page that he hadn't always followed the straight and narrow path and had engaged in potentially dangerous activity growing up. But he was confident that that part of his life was behind him, and regardless of how tough he thought he was then, he knew in his heart that he was a real soldier in the Army.

Private First Class Bobb continued and said, The United States Army is where the real tough men are at, my drill sergeants, my battle buddies, my commanders, and first sergeants that stand ready to die for the rest of us every day.

Private First Class Bobb was deployed to Iraq in 2006 and was proud to go over to the vast desert sands of Iraq and defend freedom for the Iraqi people and represent the United States. He believed in his heart what he was doing was right.

But on July 17, a week ago, Private First Class Bobb was traveling in a military Humvee in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad when a bomb detonated near the vehicle. The bomb killed Pfc. Brandon Bobb and two of his fellow soldiers. He was 20 years old. He was due home from duty on July 26. That would have been tomorrow, one week after he gave his life for his country.

This is a recent photograph taken of Private First Class Bobb. This past Monday, this southeast Texas warrior, this son of Texas, came back to his beloved hometown. The citizens of Port Arthur turned out and honored him with a patriot's welcome. A water-made rainbow arch greeted the plane

that carried the fallen soldier as hundreds of individuals from the town waving American flags lined the streets to pay final respects. Mr. Speaker, that's what people do in southeast Texas when our heroes come home.

A lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, in a recent letter from Iraq, described what it meant to be an American warrior. He said, "Our highest calling: to defend our way of life and Western civilization; fight for the freedom of others; protect our family, friends, and country; and give hope to a people long without it."

Pfc. Brandon Bobb was that American warrior. He embodied what it meant to serve one's country with duty and honor, to put others above himself, and to defend the freedom of all Nations.

We are a grateful Nation for the sacrifice of Pfc. Brandon Bobb. Our hearts and prayers are with his family and his Army buddies.

Mr. Speaker, our young people who go to the valley of the gun and the desert of the sun are relentless, remarkable characters. They go where others fear to tread and where the faint-hearted are not found. These warriors represent the best of our Nation. They are the sons of liberty and the daughters of democracy. These few, these noble few are American warriors who take care of the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

IT'S UP TO CONGRESS TO TAKE THE WHEEL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the President is famous for saying that he is the decider, but earlier this week we found out that when it comes to Iraq the American people want Congress to be the decider.

A poll conducted by ABC News and the Washington Post found that 62 percent of the American people say that Congress, and not the White House, should have the final word as to when to bring our troops home. The poll also found that 78 percent of the American people believe that the President is not willing enough to change course in Iraq. Nearly 60 percent favor withdrawal of our troops, and nearly two-thirds believe that the troop surge will not make things better.

And perhaps the saddest thing of all about this, Mr. Speaker, is that the great majority of Americans who have served in Iraq, or who have had a close friend or relative serve there, disapprove of the way the occupation has been handled.

These findings represent a complete repudiation of the President's policies and leadership, but it also poses a great challenge to Members of Congress. The American people are looking for us to lead. But so far, we've let them down. We haven't done what the American

people sent here us here to do: end the occupation and bring the troops home.

Yes, it's true that this House voted earlier this month to begin withdrawing our troops within 120 days. That was an important step forward, but it doesn't force the President's hand because there aren't enough votes in this House, yet, to make the bill veto-proof.

I know that my colleagues across the aisle are waiting for General Petraeus to issue his report of the surge in September before they decide what to do about Iraq, but I don't know why we're waiting for a report when the report that really matters has already been issued, the National Intelligence Estimate, which we received last week.

It showed beyond a shadow of a doubt that al Qaeda is the greatest threat to America, and it is operating out of Pakistan, not Iraq. By getting caught in the crossfire of a civil war in Iraq, we have been fighting the wrong enemy in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But despite all logic, the administration keeps digging us in even deeper. The press is reporting today that the American command in Iraq has developed a new plan that will keep us fighting and dying there for years more, and at least 2 years more.

This is the worst possible action to take, Mr. Speaker, because it sends the message that our involvement is open-ended. It says to the Iraqi government, you don't have to lift a finger to take responsibility for your country's security because Americans will do the job for you.

Six-and-a-half years later, this administration has pursued an arrogant, go-it-alone foreign policy. It told our allies and the rest of the world to get lost. So it's not surprising that it wants Congress to get lost, too.

But we are a coequal branch. We have a clear mandate from the American people. The American people are telling us, the President is driving us over the cliff. So it's up to the Congress to take the wheel.

Our duty is clear, Mr. Speaker. We must act now to put our country and the world on a better and safer course. We must bring our troops home.

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

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

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CHAMP ACT AND DENTAL HEALTH

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Children's Health Medicare Protection Act, entitled CHAMP, of 2007,

which makes great strides in improving our Nation's health care system.

It chills the conscience to think that approximately 9 million children are currently without health insurance. An estimated 18,000 Americans died last year because they did not have access to health care, many of them sadly were children.

There can be no justice until all of our children, our most valuable resource, are granted access to the most technologically advanced system in the world.

Individuals travel from every corner of the globe to access our high-quality health care. Yet, we cannot seem to provide care to the individuals in our own backyard.

The CHAMP Act would begin to begin to change that injustice, committing \$50 billion to reauthorize and improve the State Children's Health Insurance Program, our Nation's health care safety net for low-income, uninsured children.

The Act does not expand the SCHIP benefit to wealthy children or adults, as some would argue. It merely provides benefits to the same low-income children who we originally intended to cover.

Most of the 9 million children who are currently uninsured are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP, but do not receive the benefits because of enrollment barriers and underfunding.

The CHAMP Act will lift the barriers and raise the funding so we can get our children the care they so desperately need.

It is with great enthusiasm that I support this landmark legislation. I am pleased that my colleagues have been able to rise above the political rhetoric to develop legislation that will have a significant impact for our Nation's most vulnerable children. I am also pleased that my chairman shares my commitment to improving children's access to dental care. The chairman recognizes, as I do, that oral health is an overall component of overall health, and we cannot afford to ignore the dental health needs of our children.

I applaud efforts to include a dental benefits package and dental quality assurance methods in the CHAMP Act. I also want to thank the chairman and of my fellow colleagues from Maryland, including Congressman Albert Wynn, for their support of two initiatives that I had promoted to increase children's access to dental care under this legislation.

The first would allow federally qualified health centers to contract with private-practice dentists, significantly enhancing our Nation's dental safety net. The second one requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide educational materials to new mothers on the importance of oral health and the services available to their children, with the goal of stopping dental disease before it even starts. Both initiatives will cost little or nothing, while yielding excellent results for our children.

Congressman WYNN and I know the importance of protecting our children from dental disease. It was a short 5 months ago that a 12-year-old Maryland boy died when an untreated tooth infection spread to his brain. Forty dollars worth of dental care might have saved his life, but he never got that opportunity.

As I have said before, Deamonte Driver's case was rare and extreme, but he was by no means alone in his suffering. Dental disease is the single most common chronic disease in this country, and it is preventable.

Finally, all it takes on our part is the will to protect our children. I am pleased that so many Members of Congress have demonstrated this will, and I encourage all my colleagues to support the vitally important CHAMP Act.

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

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

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

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

FIGHTING CRIME AND HELPING WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-Lee of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we have had under consideration the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations legislation, which has a far-reaching impact on a number of issues that America and Americans are facing today. All over America we have seen statistics for crime going up, major cities being impacted, and particularly seeing the numbers of law enforcement officers stretched to the ultimate. In fact, in my own City of Houston, big billboards say, Dallas, bonus for police officers who will relocate to Dallas.

At the same time, Houston is seeing a sizeable drop in the law enforcement officers that are able to patrol the street, losing almost 1,000 to 1,200. More funding is needed. That is why I applaud today the increased funding and the refunding for Community Oriented Policing Services, \$725 million, \$693 million over the President's request and \$183 million above 2007.

Frankly, we had eliminated, under this administration and the past Congress, the Community Oriented Policing process. I know it firsthand, be-

cause our former chief of police and former mayor of the City of Houston could be considered the father of community-oriented policing; that is chief, former mayor, Lee P. Brown. We saw the results of such a program when police persons knew the neighborhood; they knew the good guys and the bad guys.

It was a mistake, a wrong-headed mistake, for this administration to drastically cut the cops-on-the-beat program. It works. It works for hamlets in rural areas. It works for big cities and middle-sized cities and small cities. I am glad this bill focuses on restoring to the American public the law enforcement it needs. I hope as we move to the other body and build this bill, that the President will sign increased funding for more officers who know the community and can enforce the law.

We need to bring the crime statistics down and help to save lives. Hijacking and carjacking of cars, busting into homes, drug running is taking over our communities because of the lack of law enforcement that know the community and are able to be trusted by the community.

Let me also note the fact that we have funded, in addition to the amendments passed today, the Women Against Violence Act and the Office of Violence Against Women Act. I was very pleased, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, to be one of those who helped reauthorize the VAWA Act, which now is being funded over these years.

It is crucial that, in addition to providing for a Violence Against Women program to the United States, that we also include protecting immigrant women who sometimes are left destitute because their immigrant husband is abusing them, and they then become unstatus because the husband has left them. This is a very important program as well.

Let me cite the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, \$400 million, \$62 million above 2007. It speaks to some of the crises that we are facing in the juvenile justice system. It is a wrong-headed system, more incarceration than rehabilitation. We need to direct these funds to do more rehabilitation and to be able to steer our children in the right direction.

It is more than important as well, as we fund the Federal Bureau of Prisons, that we study the question of the early release program for nonviolent prisoners. I hope to offer such an amendment. Our prisons are overcrowded. We have the largest number of incarcerated persons, but it is well known that because of the mandatory sentencing, we have individuals who are, in fact, incarcerated who can be released. Let us find a pathway to studying the early release of prisoners in the Federal system, and I am looking forward to putting such an amendment forward.

As a strong proponent of the National Foundation for Science, science