

title 10, United States Code, to remove a restriction on the use of the Presidential Selected Reserve call up authority in chapter 15 or natural disaster situations. The House bill contained no similar provision. The House recedes with an amendment that would modify the conforming amendment to section 12304(c) to provide that the Presidential Selected Reserve call up authority could be used in situations arising under chapter 15 and section 12406 of title 10, United States Code, as well as in situations set out in subsection (b) of section 12304.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT TIMOTHY WEINER, SENIOR AIRMAN DANIEL MILLER AND SENIOR AIRMAN ELIZABETH LONCKI

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to three members of Hill Air Force Base's 75th Air Base Wing who, together, lost their lives in Iraq in performance of their duties. Tsgt Timothy Weiner of Tamarack, FL, SrA Daniel Miller of Galesburg, IL, and SrA Elizabeth Loncki of New Castle, DE, were killed while disarming an explosive device.

One of the core values of the Air Force is "Service Before Self." These airmen met this standard every day while disarming improvised explosive devices and destroying munitions to protect their fellow servicemen and the people of Iraq. All three knew the risks inherent in their assignment, but still chose to volunteer so that others may be safe.

Technical Sergeant Weiner was the youngest of four sons of Ken Weiner, a Korean war veteran, and Marcia Fenster. It should be noted that all the sons of the Weiner family have worn the uniform of their Nation. Technical Sergeant Weiner's mother said, "he was an unbelievable father and husband who could do a job that was rough and so demanding but was also a man who could show love and was not afraid to."

This was Sergeant Weiner's second tour in Iraq. His professionalism is best exemplified by the fact that, in a previous assignment, he was part of explosive ordnance disposal team that provided protection for the President. He is survived by his wife Debbie and son Jonathan. The technical sergeant had planned to retire within a couple of years and work with computers. Now our prayers go with his wife and son.

SrA Airman Daniel Miller was the oldest of six children of Daniel B. Miller and Robin Mahnesmith. He is remembered by his family and friends as a happy person, who loved football, enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a silent leader. His girlfriend Dana Sopher stated "the love he had for his family was just amazing." Senior Airman Miller knew of the risk of his job but still believed that you "just have to live life." Senior Airman Miller had hoped to work for a metropolitan bomb squad after he had completed his service with the Air Force. I know I join with all of my colleagues in praying for his family during these difficult times.

SrA Elizabeth Loncki was also the oldest child of Stephen and stepmother

Christine Loncki, who still plans on sending cookies and baked goods to troops in Iraq. After learning of her death, one of her training instructors contacted Senior Airman Loncki's family and recounted that Elizabeth had excelled at her explosive ordnance disposal training class and was a valuable member of any team. Senior Airman Loncki planned on getting married after she returned from Iraq; her future fiancé was to visit her parents shortly and ask permission for the senior airman's hand in marriage. He has since accompanied her home to her family. Again our prayers go to her family.

All three of these airmen were heroes in the truest sense of the word. They volunteered for one of the most dangerous jobs in our Nation's military and risked their lives every day. Their sacrifice was not in vain, their bravery in the face of danger is an example to us all. They met and exceeded the Air Force principle of "Service Before Self."

CAPTAIN BRIAN S. FREEMAN

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the loss of CPT Brian S. Freeman whose mother, Kathleen Snyder, is a resident of Utah.

Captain Freeman died while performing his duties in Karbala, Iraq, where he was assigned to the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Whitehall, OH.

Captain Freeman resided in Temecula, CA, with his wife Charlotte, a 3-year-old son, Gunnar, and a 3-month-old daughter, Ingrid. The captain had just returned to Iraq after a 2-week Christmas leave. Charlotte Freeman commented about that time, "We did all the family things packed into two weeks. It was wonderful. We had a picture perfect family and the two weeks were perfect."

The captain was a 1999 West Point graduate who, after returning home, planned to attend graduate school. He had already received an important letter of recommendation from the Governor of Karbala who wrote: "Freeman has assisted in forming a warmer relationship with the Army . . . I think Capt. Freeman genuinely cares about what happens to Karbala and its people."

For a member of a civil affairs unit, whose responsibility it is to assist the local population while developing and maintaining close relationships with indigenous government officials, I cannot think of any higher praise. Not surprisingly, Captain Freeman had been decorated with two Army commendation medals, two Army achievement medals, a national defense service medal and a global war on terrorism service medal. I also understand that he was a member of the Army's bobsledding team.

America has lost another decorated hero. Captain Freeman had hope to make a difference during his time in Iraq. I believe that anyone who looks at the life and actions of Captain Free-

man will see that he more than achieved that goal.

Captain Freeman and his family will always be in my prayers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE L'AMBIANCE PLAZA COLLAPSE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of a dark day in my State's history: the day the L'Ambiance Plaza towers collapsed in Bridgeport and took with them the lives of 28 Connecticut construction workers.

For millions of people in Connecticut, that day's images are still fresh; time can blunt their pain, but it can never erase them. We remember the shock: 16 stories of new apartments reduced with a roar, within seconds, to ruined concrete and steel. We remember the hundreds of volunteers who combed the wrecked piles for their friends. This is how one newspaper reported their remarkable endurance: "Physically and emotionally drained by a nightmarish task of seeking and sometimes finding the bodies of friends and loved ones, some of the volunteers have pushed themselves to exhaustion, working around the clock and then begging to go on working." We remember their frantic search for survivors, and the slow-dawning truth that there were none.

But above all, we remember 28 men who died too soon. They were union men from Bridgeport and Waterbury who poured concrete, laid pipe, and fixed steel. Not a single one of them went to work that morning expecting to die; but each knew the high risks of his trade, and willingly took them on to make a good living for his family.

We can clear rubble and rebuild towers, but not a single life can be replaced. If this tragedy can give us anything to be thankful for, it is the end of the dangerous lift-slab construction method that led to the collapse. We can and must demand the safest conditions for all workers, and do everything it takes to protect them. But try as we might, we will never be able to outlaw collapse, or regulate accidents, or legislate against tragedy.

We can only send our thanks to the men and women who risk themselves so we can lie down and wake up in safety and comfort. For those who died 20 years ago, we can pledge to keep their memories fresh. And today, we can repeat their names:

Michael Addona
Augustus Alman
Glenn Canning
Mario Colello
William Daddona
Francesco D'Addona
Donald Emanuel
Vincent Figliomeni
Herbert Goeldner
Terrance Gruber
John Hughes
Joseph Lowe
John Magnoli
Rocco Mancini
Richard McGill

Mario Musso
 Nicholas Nardella
 John Page
 Guiseppe Paternostro
 Antonio Perrugini
 John Puskar Jr.
 Anthony Rinaldi
 Albert Ritz
 Michael Russillo
 Reginald Siewert
 William Varga
 Frank Visconti
 Scott Ward

DARFUR

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about the ongoing genocide in Darfur, and this administration's inexcusable failure to do all it can to stop the violence there. We all understand the monumental challenge we face in ending the violence in Darfur, but this administration's behavior and recent statements on this issue suggest that it simply does not know when to stop talking and when to start acting. And all the while innocent people continue to needlessly die under our watch.

Last fall, the President's Special Envoy for Darfur, Andrew Natsios, announced that if the Sudanese Government did not accept a U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force by January 1, the administration would implement punitive measures as part of its Plan B.

Well here we are today. Over 100 days have passed since January 1. And what do we have to show for it? No U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force on the ground in Sudan. And no Plan B.

Meanwhile the death toll has risen. Over the course of the conflict, 200,000 people have been killed; 2.5 million displaced. Families and villages have been decimated; women and girls have been raped.

Fighting has infected Sudan's neighbors, leaving scores dead along the Sudan-Chad border. One U.N. official recently described the scene of dead bodies in the area as "shocking and apocalyptic."

So much death and destruction, 2½ years after this administration stated that genocide was indeed occurring in Darfur. More than 100 days after Mr. Natsios's deadline, the killings continue.

Earlier this month, Mr. Natsios testified before the Foreign Relations Committee on Darfur and Plan B. His testimony only deepened my concerns about the administration's Darfur paralysis.

When asked repeatedly by Senator MENENDEZ to answer yes or no as to whether genocide was occurring in Darfur, he did not answer yes. Instead his response was that the violence has abated in Darfur and that the rebel groups were also engaging in killings. His answer was incredibly disturbing to me and to other members of the committee.

Now I understand Mr. Natsios's desire to convey the complexity of the situation and the complicity of various

parties on the ground, but the fact is that the primary party responsible for the killings is the Sudanese Government and its Janjaweed proxies. For Mr. Natsios to be unable to state that genocide is occurring in clear terms seems to me a classic example of missing the forest for the trees. It also raises a question of credibility. After all, how can this administration stop a genocide when its special envoy won't even fully acknowledge it?

Mr. Natsios also stated that although the President is supposedly angry about the situation in Darfur and has recently proposed certain sanctions, he has acceded to a request by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to delay any implementation of Plan B for another two to four weeks to give the Secretary-General time to convince the Sudanese Government to accept a peacekeeping force.

Now 2 to 4 weeks may seem like nothing in the context of protracted and complex diplomatic negotiations, but this is no treaty that is being negotiated. There are lives at stake every day here and we just cannot afford to take a "wait and see" approach.

Recent reports suggest that the Sudanese Government has agreed to a hybrid force but based on its previous track record, I will believe it when I see some additional boots on the ground. In the meantime, a pause on the administration's part is simply unacceptable.

And so I believe that even as the modalities of a peacekeeping force, that may or may not materialize, are worked out, the administration must begin implementing certain elements of Plan B immediately. Not 4 weeks from now. Not 2 weeks from now. Immediately.

Select punitive measures as described by Mr. Natsios at the hearing include imposing personal sanctions on certain members of the rebel groups and the Sudanese Government; curbing the Sudanese Government's access to oil revenues; and increasing penalties on companies operating in Sudan.

There is nothing revolutionary about these measures. They were leaked to the public and have been under discussion for some weeks. The question in my mind is not so much about whether we should implement them but why haven't we already implemented them.

As chairman of the Banking Committee and a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I am absolutely willing to work with the administration to put these measures into force and look forward to some clear answers from the administration on this.

Now let me be clear about what I mean in saying we should go ahead and implement elements of Plan B. I fully appreciate the sensitivities of our diplomatic efforts related to Darfur. I fully agree with the importance of working this issue through the U.N. in a multilateral manner. But if there are certain steps that the United States

can take on its own account and indeed was supposed to take over 100 days ago to pressure the Sudanese Government, then what are we waiting for?

The time has come to delink certain elements of Plan B from our broader multilateral strategy to pressure Khartoum. The time has come to act where and when we can. This administration has shown no compulsion in acting unilaterally in the past. It did so by invading Iraq with disastrous consequence. Why does it continue to keep one foot on the side lines 4 years into this genocide when it not only has the ability but also the moral responsibility to act?

Moreover, we must not stop at implementing long overdue sanctions whose credibility has been called into question because they have yet to be implemented. We must also consider a more robust role for NATO forces, including their deployment to Sudan if the Sudanese Government continues to obstruct a hybrid peacekeeping force.

Even if the Sudanese Government consents to the U.N.-AU force, the United Nations may fail to muster the requisite troops within an acceptable period of time. In such a scenario, we should consider the deployment of an interim NATO force with U.S. participation. At a minimum, NATO forces, which already provide logistical support to the African Union mission, should enforce a no-fly zone in Darfur pursuant to U.N. Resolution 1591 to prevent military flights over Darfur.

Naturally, special attention will have to be paid in any operation to the security of refugee camps and aid workers but to those who say that military action will make things worse, I have only one thing to say: we are already at rock bottom.

The authorization of force is one of the most critical decisions a member of Congress has to make, especially if it entails sending our brave men and women into harm's way on the ground. U.S. participation however in any such action, even in a limited capacity, is critical to showing the world that America is not just about fighting the war against terrorism but also is willing to fight against injustice and mass murder. That we are prepared to fight for the principles of respect for human dignity and life, and not just talk about them.

In advocating certain measures outside the framework of the United Nations, I do not intend to dismiss the critical role that the U.N. and other countries can play. The fact is that the U.S. has limited leverage over Sudan and we need all the help we can get. We must work within the U.N. system, and also press other key countries that deal with Sudan such as India and China to do their part. China in particular has a crucial role to play in changing Khartoum's behavior.

But even as we assess the role and responsibilities of others, we must never forget our own. We must lead by example. Over the past few years, I have