

At Incirlik, we also had the opportunity to meet with some of our troops who are from our constituencies. These are the young men and women that make the United States safe and secure, whether serving here or in distant places. We should keep them in our thoughts as we appreciate the stability and security that we enjoy here in the United States.

By chance, we crossed paths at Incirlik with Gen. David Petraeus, who was at the base for a brief stay. He offered to meet with the delegation, and there was an interesting exchange of views on a range of strategic issues.

On May 31 we left Incirlik at an early hour for the flight to Kabul, where we spent the entire day. The stabilization of Afghanistan is NATO's principal mission. Many believe that NATO's credibility is on the line in Afghanistan because the allies have pledged to commit the resources to stabilize the country to prevent the reappearance of a failed state, a failed state that caused the tragedy of 9/11. There are clearly differences in the alliance over how to accomplish this objective. Some governments prefer to employ economic reconstruction assistance and avoid sending their troops into combat; these tend to be the governments that have the most restrictive caveats on their forces.

We met with the most senior U.S. officials in Kabul to discuss Afghanistan's path to stabilization. Our meetings were highly substantive, and we all gained valuable information on ISAF's effort and on U.S. perspectives and initiatives. We also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and had an extensive discussion of Afghanistan's problems and prospects.

In Afghanistan, there can be no reconstruction without security. The Taliban is not a strong force, but the Afghan state lacks strong, enduring institutions. There must be security therefore for the rebuilding effort to succeed. ISAF may need more forces in the coming year in order to secure territory cleared of the Taliban. A positive development is that approximately 25% of the combat missions are now led by the Afghan National Army (ANA), with strong backing from the U.S. and some other NATO militaries. During our meetings in Kabul, U.S. officials were upbeat on the progress of the ANA, but the task of securing Afghanistan is far from finished. The poppy crop continues to thrive in the south, some warlords maintain a sway over territory that has never been under the control of an Afghan government, and there are enduring tribal rivalries and distrust of Kabul.

Closely associated with the issue of engagement of the Taliban in combat is the need to establish a viable economy and justice system. The Soviet and Taliban eras decimated the educated elite. The number of persons trained as lawyers and judges is minimal. At the base of the justice system is the police. The EU has struggled to develop a program to train the police, so the U.S. military has stepped in. Gen. Cone is developing more professional police cohorts one region at a time, and backing them with the U.S. military until they establish their authority. This will be a long-term effort, and it is going to require patience on the part of NATO publics.

Members and staff also met with U.S. participants in ISAF's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), the leading edge of bringing reconstruction to Afghanistan through such efforts as road building, school and hospital con-

struction, and the development of local markets. A basic economy has begun to appear around some of the PRTs, but there remains much to accomplish.

There are three key needs for the PRTs. The first is the placement of agricultural specialists in each of the 26 ISAF PRTs. The United States only recently placed one agricultural specialist at each of its 13 PRTs; the need is great for agricultural specialists at other NATO PRTs, and in the local agricultural schools. Afghanistan is and will remain for the foreseeable future an agrarian economy, now dependent largely on poppies. This poppy culture must diminish over time, perhaps to be replaced by orchard crops and wheat. This effort will take time.

A second need for the PRTs is the hiring of local Afghans who can assist our own officials in understanding local practices and political authority, and who can serve as guides as we plan efforts to rebuild the country.

A third need for the PRTs is the availability of transport. Today, our civilians in the PRTs must rely heavily on the military to move them around the region where they live. But because security comes first, the civilian specialists must often wait lengthy periods of time to obtain the transport and accompanying security to accomplish their tasks.

Our trip to Afghanistan was highly informative and there remains much to digest about what we learned. This was a difficult, but valuable trip that provided insights into one of the United States' most difficult foreign policy problems.

As always we were extremely well-served by our accompanying military personnel. The 932nd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve now at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., provided exceptional professionalism in assisting us throughout our trip and ensuring our safety in moving throughout Europe and to Afghanistan. All worked long hours to ensure that our trip went smoothly. I thank them for their hard work and their dedication to duty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 9, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 388 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1225), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 389 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1243), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 390 (Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 127).

HONORING DR. I.C. TURNLEY, JR.,
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
LASALLE PARISH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., who for

the last 50 years has faithfully served the people of Jena, LA, and LaSalle Parish through his medical practice, which he first opened on July 1, 1958.

While enrolled as a pre-med student at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA, Dr. Turnley answered the call a great many in his generation answered. He put his education on hold and enrolled in the U.S. military to serve his country in World War II and was awarded commendation for his work at the U.S. Navy Hospital in San Diego. After his service, he returned home to Louisiana to complete his undergrad studies at Louisiana Tech and later earn his medical degree from Louisiana State University in 1956.

In addition to his private practice in Jena, Dr. Turnley served on staff at the Jena Hospital and later the LaSalle General Hospital when it was opened in the early 1970s. He also bears a unique distinction in the State of Louisiana as the longest serving elected official, having served as the parish coroner for the past 48 years.

Beyond his work as a physician, Dr. Turnley has been active in Masonic work in Jena and was elected as Grand Master of the Freemasons for the State of Louisiana in 1996.

The "Dr. Turnleys of the world" are the very ones who built up our Nation following World War II; they are the ones who are respected and admired in their communities, the ones who have dedicated not only their talents and abilities but their time and their compassion in an effort to help their fellow citizens. Yet, while many small communities may boast men and women like Dr. Turnley, to Jena, there is no other quite like him.

To honor him, Murphy McMillin, mayor of Jena, has declared Friday, June 20, 2008, as "Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr. Day."

Madam Speaker, Americans such as Dr. I.C. Turnley, Jr., deserve recognition from the United States Congress as well. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Turnley for all he has done for his community and his country.

CELEBRATING SYLVANIA OHIO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone anniversary for the City of Sylvania in my district. This month, Sylvania celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding.

Founded in 1833 by General David White and Judge William Wilson at the junction of Ten Mile and Ottawa Creeks near the present day border of Ohio and Michigan, the area was originally the campgrounds of Erie, Chippewa and Wyandot tribes. First settlers' names continue through generations, including Lathrop, Pease, Printup, Rice, Green and Cosgrove. They established the first Sylvania school and church early on: both the Stone Academy and First Presbyterian Church were established in 1834.

In 1876, the town was formally incorporated. Truly a sylvan glade with more than one thousand trees, Sylvania took its name from the

Latin "sylvan" meaning "the woods." It remains a city of trees today, including 27 varieties of maple, with the maple leaf as the city's symbol.

In the decades which followed through the nineteenth, twentieth, and now the twenty-first century, Sylvania has prospered. It is a caring community with fine schools and first rate services for young and old and families. Sylvania remains a bucolic community reminiscent of its wooded early history, yet offers a bustling suburban economy of thriving businesses. Its Main Street retains charm from its past, but Sylvania at 150 years is a city moving forward. I am pleased to offer the congratulations of our entire region during this sesquicentennial celebration.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this week, CORA—Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse—celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of comprehensive domestic violence support in San Mateo County.

Three decades ago, a victim of domestic violence on the San Francisco peninsula had no resources outside of hospitals and the police. Then in 1978, La Casa de San Mateo opened its doors to become the county's first and only emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors and their children. La Casa later changed its name to the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention and in 2003, partnered with Sor Juana Ines, the first toll-free domestic violence hotline in the county, to become CORA.

CORA's mission is to end domestic violence and abuse through intervention and prevention. The dedicated staff and volunteers respond to thousands of calls on the CORA hotline, and answer an equal number of requests for legal assistance each year. They serve more than 6,000 clients annually, providing legal, medical and mental health services, as well as counseling and safety in the county's only shelter for abuse victims and their children. This operation is overseen by the CORA governing board and a diverse staff of 35 who represent the vibrant cross-section of the county and region. Besides English and Spanish, CORA staff-members speak Tagalog, French, Mandarin, Italian, Korean, Hindi, and Farsi.

Madam Speaker, domestic violence is a silent epidemic. Every nine seconds, a woman in our country is abused by someone she knows. Millions of children witness acts of violence involving one or more parents every year. And one in five female high school students reports being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Domestic violence impacts all of us. It is a significant drain on police and emergency resources and costs the national economy eight to ten billion dollars annually in medical bills, community support and lost wages and productivity. It is also a leading cause of homelessness and often leads to depression, substance abuse and—most troubling—an increased likelihood that victims and young wit-

nesses will go on to become abusers themselves.

Madam Speaker, thanks to increased public awareness, domestic abuse is emerging from the shadows of shame and ignorance. Still, there are far too many instances of cruel and dehumanizing behavior within what should be the security of the family home. Because of this, society will always need an organization like CORA. My sincere hope is that, someday, we will need them less.

SUPPORTING OUR MEN AND
WOMEN SERVING IN THE MILITARY
AND URGING CONGRESS
TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS
RESEARCH PROGRAM
(ALSRP) AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for our men and women serving in the military and to urge Congress to continue funding for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research Program (ALSRP) at the Department of Defense.

Studies conducted by the DOD and Veterans Administration have found that those who served in the 1991 Gulf War are approximately twice as likely to die from ALS, the deadly disease that took the life of baseball legend Lou Gehrig, as those who did not serve in the Gulf. In addition, current research suggests that ALS is occurring at greater rates in those who are serving in the current conflict in Iraq. Tragically, there is no effective treatment for ALS and it is fatal in just two to five years after diagnosis.

The ALSRP is an innovative program that has the potential not only to develop new treatments for ALS that benefit our soldiers and veterans but also to determine why they are at greater risk and enable us to take action to protect them. I therefore urge the Appropriations Committee to include \$5 million for the ALSRP in the FY 2009 DOD Appropriations bill.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KENNEDY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following passage on Senator TED KENNEDY written by Albert Carey Caswell.

A LION IN WINTER

A Lion in Winter . . .
Facing The Storm, with The Heart of A
Champion . . . so very warm . . .
Where courage lives, to help you move on!

An American Tale, as a nation so stands behind you Ted . . . with all of our prayers, so now!

Take this to your heart Ted, take this to your soul . . . as you move out so to behold!

In this your battle to be won . . .

In this your war to be waged, in this but another chapter Ted . . . in your life's most heroic page . . . of all ones!

As you face this new morning, as you face this dark sun!

Standing Tall, to do what must so be done!

To Fight That Good Fight, To Wage That Great War, our Lion In Winter . . . Our Precious American Son sure!

From deep down inside, that great Irish Heart . . . win this Great Battle, This Great War begun . . .

For A Lion In Winter . . .

With the Heart of A Champ, against all odds . . . we can hear your roar, can victory so command!

For no man known's more, what a heart can so endure . . . and can so stand!

Ted it's the bottom of the 9th, with two outs! Like the Teddy before you of The Sox's, we know you too can pull this one out!

Go with God My Son, as you have always done . . . we know you will be rounding the bases, no doubt!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in three votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on June 9, 2008. I was absent due to illness.

As noted, I was not present for three votes:

The first vote was H. Res. 1225, Expressing support for designation of June 2008 as "National Safety Month." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The second vote was H. Res. 1243, Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

The third vote was H. Res. 127, Recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska in the Union as the 49th State. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

IN HONOR OF THE GRAND OPENING OF GREENHUNTER ENERGY'S RENEWABLE FUELS CAMPUS IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the grand opening of GreenHunter Energy's Renewable Fuels Campus located in my congressional district in Houston, Texas.

GreenHunter Energy's renewable fuels campus—a converted waste oil refinery—is the largest and most versatile biodiesel refinery in the U.S. to date. The campus includes a 105 million gallon per year biodiesel refinery, a 700,000 barrel bulk liquid terminal operation, a