

DR. JACK SMITH, A GREAT AMERICAN

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to recognize a great American, a constituent of mine from Bayonne, New Jersey, Dr. Jack Smith.

After seeing the second plane hit the World Trade Center on 9/11, Dr. Smith immediately left his Bayonne practice and went to help treat victims in Lower Manhattan. He said he felt the world had changed that day, and he decided to enlist in the Army Medical Reserve at the age of 49 years old.

Dr. Smith has since served two tours overseas. He was sent on his first tour to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan where he served in the 325th Combat Support Hospital Unit. His second tour was with the First Squadron of the 167th RSTA Cavalry Unit in Iraq. There he worked at the battalion aid station, the Air Force Theatre Hospital, and gave medical support for two intelligence gathering missions outside the wire.

When asked about managing his service, family, and practice, Dr. Smith says he's been blessed. I believe we are blessed to have individuals like Dr. Smith serving our country. His courage and service are an example to us all, and I want to thank him and his family for his service.

NEW EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last Thursday, I introduced the New Employee Verification Act; it's H.R. 5515. This proposal will achieve three important objectives: one, ensure a legal workforce; two, safeguard workers identity; and three, protect Social Security.

Effective work site enforcement is essential to securing our borders. Reforming work site enforcement will affect millions of workers, and it must be done immediately and done right. Having an effective safeguard in place will allow us to have a rational debate about the number of workers we need to legally enter our Nation.

My bill has a mandatory component that builds off of what we've learned from current E-Verify. I also have a component that helps prevent identity theft through the creation of a voluntary system to authenticate and safeguard workers' identities.

This bill has strong support in the employer community. I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle to see this bill signed into law.

IN HONOR OF MIKE DALY

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true humanitarian from my congressional district, Mike Daly. In 2007, Mike retired as principal of the Black Hawk Area Education Center in East Moline, Illinois, ending a remarkable 35-year career in special education and public service.

Throughout his career, Mike demonstrated tremendous passion and dedication. He successfully established partnerships between local businesses, service organizations, and the special needs community to provide opportunities for his students, such as competing in the Special Olympics, and always believing that communities should not have boundaries.

Mike's tireless efforts have touched the lives of thousands of people and their families, and I am proud to have the opportunity to represent him.

Mike, thank you for your work, your commitment to others, and your efforts to make your community a better place for everyone.

I wish you the best in your retirement, and may you continue to find fulfillment in helping others.

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PENTAGON TO KEEP 140,000 TROOPS IN IRAQ—STATUS QUO CONTINUES DESPITE NO POLITICAL PROGRESS

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, in case anyone was still under the impression that the President was serious about changing the dynamics on the ground in Iraq, they should put all those hopes aside. If the administration gets its way, this President will leave 8,000 more troops in Iraq when he leaves office than were there before the surge last year.

In 2006, before the President's troop escalation plan, there were 132,000 American troops in Iraq. This summer after five combat brigades come home, there still will be 140,000 troops on the ground.

There is not going to be a change. Last year the President moved ahead with this troop escalation plan, promising that it would give the Iraq Government the stability to make some of the tough political decisions. As the troop escalation comes to an end, the Iraq Government has failed to bring about any real political progress, and repeated deployments are severely straining our military readiness.

Madam Speaker, the status quo is not working. We will continue to fight to end this war and head our country in a new direction.

SUCCESS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last weekend I was honored to travel with a delegation to visit our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am grateful to report that I saw significant success while walking the market district of Haditha in Anbar province, Iraq, to driving across Asadabad, Afghanistan, to see a new bridge under construction.

Violence in Iraq has declined by over 60 percent since the beginning of the surge. In Afghanistan I appreciate the success of the 218th Brigade of the South Carolina Army National Guard, led by Brigadier General Bob Livingston, to train Afghani forces to secure their own homeland. The best way to protect American families at home is to stop terrorists overseas.

There are many challenges we face both in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the brave men and women fighting on the front lines have done everything we have asked of them. So let's do what they have asked of us. Let them complete the mission, protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN NEWMAN, WINNER OF THE 2008 DAYTONA 500

(Mr. DONNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the success and triumph of Ryan Newman, winner of the 2008 Daytona 500. Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Ryan serves as a shining example to young men and women who aspire to achieve great success after long hours of work and sacrifice.

Ryan's younger years were spent learning about cars at the elbow of his dad and developing the team spirit he's created to this day. He was an honors graduate of LaSalle High School and also a graduate of Purdue University.

Supported by his family, his community, nationwide fans, and a great team, Ryan won the 50th running of the Daytona 500, the Super Bowl of NASCAR. In a race with 16 different leaders and 42 lead changes, Ryan prevailed because of persistence and skill.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the many years of hard work and dedication that have paid off for Ryan Newman, a model Hoosier. The Second District is proud of his success and of one of its hardest-working sons, a man who serves as a role model for youth throughout the country.