

Nation harm? I didn't find a single individual who didn't think that was the right thing to do.

But this leadership, this Speaker, this Democrat leadership has allowed that act to expire. Why? Because they believe that trial lawyers ought to have the ability to represent foreign individuals in the same way that the United States Constitution protects Americans.

Mr. Speaker, that's wrong. Many in my district and I believe also that it's a dereliction of duty. It's an abrogation of duty. It's a violation of the oath that we take as Members of the House of Representatives to uphold the Constitution and to protect and defend the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this leadership, I call on this Speaker, to allow this House to vote on the Protect America Act, a bill, amendments that the Senate passed 68-29, in a bipartisan way; a bill that the majority of this House, the majority, Democrats and Republicans combined, have said they will support if allowed to vote on the floor. Mr. Speaker, this is essential to the protection of the United States of America and to reverse the unilateral disarmament that has come about because of the leadership of the majority party.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this leadership to bring this bill up as soon as we come back next week and do the people's business.

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

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

CONGRATULATING THE HOWARD PAYNE LADY JACKETS BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND PERFECT SEASON

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Howard Payne University Lady Jackets on their 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championship. In this, their fourth consecutive appearance in the tournament, the Lady Jackets defeated the Messiah University Falcons 68-54. Winning the National Championship was a fitting end to an unbelievable season for this rising basketball powerhouse. From day one the women of the Lady Jackets unwaveringly pursued excellence, and in the end they achieved perfection. The Lady Jackets finished with a record of 33-0, the only perfect record of any of the 3,823 men's and women's collegiate basketball teams in this country.

Located in Brownwood, Texas, Howard Payne University is a small school of 1,400 students that I am honored to represent. As Division III athletes, the members of the Lady Jackets team receive no scholarships or lucrative contracts for their collegiate exploits. Rather, these women play for the thrill of competition and the glory of their achievements. Every minute of every team practice, at every meeting, and every game is endured for the love of basketball.

I am proud to commend the Lady Jackets today, not only for their victories but also for their dedication to their sport and to each other in the drive to be the best. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to team members Tiffany Warner, Katy Sarem, Stephanie Brewer, Mionca Hall, Daphnie Pippins, Kimberly Hoffman, Makiesha Davis, Meia Daniels, Elaine Hobbs, Stacey Blalock, Hope Hohertz, Sarah Pfiester, and Sarah Jockers on their remarkable accomplishments.

I'd also like to congratulate coaches Mr. Chris Kielsmeier and Ms. Lindy Hatfield, who coached this year's team. This season belongs to them as well. While a coach's devotion to their team is often displayed simply in the wins column, this perfect season speaks volumes about Mr. Kielsmeier and Ms. Hatfield's ability to bring out the very best of their players and nurture the talents of their team.

Mr. Speaker, hallowed as these walls that we work in are, we rarely have an opportunity to witness perfection, that which cannot be improved upon. Lest we forget what such accomplishments look like, the women of the Lady Jackets have reminded us that there are rare moments in time when imperfect individuals can work together to achieve perfect results. I hope that by taking time to celebrate these small moments we can remind ourselves the importance of working together to achieve success.

And, again, Lady Jackets, congratulations on a very unforgettable season.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I joined a bipartisan group of Members of the House and Senate just a few short hours ago here in the Capitol where we were accompanied by Martin Luther

King III, and we gathered to remember a day that tens of millions of Americans will pause to remember tomorrow. That was the day that saw the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 40 years ago.

I rise today as someone who, as a 9-year-old boy, was deeply inspired by the example of Dr. King and as a 9-year-old boy who was shaped by those tragic events.

But I also rise today as a Hoosier and as a congressman representing Muncie, Indiana, because it may not be known to many, Mr. Speaker, but both Indiana, and Muncie, Indiana, in particular, played a small role in the unfolding drama of that day, April 4, 1968. And I will borrow generously from an article written by Nick Werner recently in the Muncie Star Press as I reflect on that connection.

Muncie helped shape history after the King assassination because it was in Muncie and at Ball State University where Senator Robert Kennedy was speaking. He was speaking at the men's gym, which is now Irving gym. He was running for President of the United States. And it was there after his speech, as he was moving through the crowd, that historians recall and record that he had first learned of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. And as he went to the Muncie Airport and traveled from the Muncie Airport to Indianapolis, Robert Kennedy would prepare what for all the world appeared to be an impromptu speech but one that perhaps he had been writing all of his life. A speech that he would deliver to a stunned crowd in Indianapolis that night, and it was a speech that I rise today to remember.

It was humbling to me, despite our differences on philosophy and politics, to sit today on the same row with Senator TED KENNEDY as we remembered the tragic events of that day.

Robert Kennedy stood before a largely black audience in an outside park in Indianapolis, and he spoke these words:

"I have some very sad news for all of you and I think sad news for all our fellow citizens and people who love peace all over the world, and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee." As Nick Werner wrote: "The crowd gasped and screamed, but they remained fixed on Kennedy as he continued speaking, words that condemned violence and lawlessness.

He said, and I add, "For those of you who are black, considering the evidence evidently that there were white people who were responsible, you can be filled with bitterness, with hatred, and a desire for revenge. But," he added, "what we need in the United States is not division. What we need in the United States is not hatred. What we need is not violence and lawlessness, but love and wisdom, compassion toward one another. He asked those gathered to "return home tonight to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King. Yeah, that's true, but

more importantly, say a prayer for our country, which all of us love; a prayer for understanding and the compassion of which I spoke."

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After he spoke those words, rioting would break out in more than 100 cities across the United States. But Indianapolis was peaceful. Robert Kennedy would go on to a tragic end of his own.

But I rise today as an American shaped by the courage in the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and I will remember tomorrow with gratitude his example. I will also say very humbly that the words of Robert Kennedy are as true today as ever, and that Muncie, Indiana, and the State of Indiana, will always be proud of the small role we played as a backdrop to those historic and tragic events.

May the words of Robert Kennedy, may the example of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., continue to inspire our Nation to aspire to a more perfect union.

UNITY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). 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, before I discuss the topic upon which I arise to speak, I do want to join my colleagues in celebrating the reauthorization of the United States Fire Administration Act. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee since its origin after 2001, I am a direct witness of the work of our first responders around the Nation. It is important that we recognize the elements of this bill and the funding that is necessary to ensure a system of first responders that works.

Yesterday, I met with the chiefs of the fire departments of departments in my State of Texas. I salute them. Through their efforts, we were able to pass this bill. I congratulate the sponsor, and I believe that the National Fire Incident Reporting System improvements that will come about are important; the fire technology assistance and dissemination will be important that is reauthorized; the encouraging of the adoption of standards for firefighter health and safety, one of the ills that we are still dealing with after 9/11, people who have gotten sick after 9/11 and still not addressed; and the coordination on fire service-based emergency medical services is important; and as well, the funding that will come about, upwards of \$100 million.

Certainly, I encourage them to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the work that we can do together. Congratulations on the reauthorization of this bill. I stand as a strong supporter.

I rise today, as my colleagues have done, to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King.

That will be tomorrow. I head to Memphis to commemorate that. I just got through speaking to a number of constituents from Texas Southern University and from Prairie View A&M. I asked them about presidential politics. They were thoughtful and discussed with me the balance that they saw in the candidates that happened to be running in the Democratic primary.

What I have seen as we watched this debate is really a call on the sensitivities of America, race and gender, and we have seen the tensions and the divisiveness; rather than focus on the message and mission of an American hero like Dr. King, who talked about unity and talked about, as was said by his son today, the horrible evil of racism and poverty and militarism. But even in that voice, he spoke of unity.

Today, I rise to call upon the candidates themselves, that whoever will run to the mike first and call upon unity in America may find a surprising response from all the voters, wherever they might be. For Americans are good people. They extend themselves to the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq so that others might have freedom and democracy.

I might imagine that our soldiers would look back on this divisiveness and the name calling and someone castigating one person because they are for one candidate over another, and ask whether or not we truly understand freedom and democracy. It is choice, it is the ability to make your choice. Yet, it is the ability to come together and unify around the goodness of America.

I was glad to hear Majority Whip CLYBURN say today that, "time is neutral." As Martin Luther King said, "It is neutral because it says nothing. It is what you do with it." What he reminded us is that people of ill will seem to use time more effectively than people of good will.

I truly believe that we have outstanding Americans running for this office. I will be pushing for the one that happens to be in my party, strongly and enthusiastically. But what I will come to this floor and this Congress for is to join me in putting together a reconciliation commission in America. Not just because of the candidacy and the campaigns that we have seen, but because Americans are still sensitive about race and about gender, two groups of people that have been disenfranchised in our history. Yet, we are blessed to be in America, recognizing that many of us have made strides. I am proud to stand here as an African American woman. Some might say I have double issues. But I have double benefits, double celebration.

Yet, there are those who I believe would benefit from having this broad discussion, this reconciliation in America about women who were disenfranchised until 1920, woman who suffer from the lack of pay equity, and those who live under a minority umbrella, who themselves still remain discriminated against in schools and jobs and in corporate America.

Mr. Speaker, we can benefit from this wonderful debate and discourse between someone who's an African American male with the potential of being the President of the United States and a woman who has the potential of being President of the United States. Why don't we celebrate in that difference and diversity? Why don't we call for unity, because America is greater than our individual differences. As Martin Luther King said, "It can be the promised land. Why don't we attempt to go there together."

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

(Mr. DREIER 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 gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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 gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you so very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor to come before the House once again. I can share with you, as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE just finished speaking about, the wonderful ceremony that we had today, but sad ceremony, reflecting on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King some 40 years later. To see Democrats and Republicans standing side by side, to have reflection from those that worked beside Dr. King, like our very own JOHN LEWIS and Majority Whip CLYBURN, who talked about his experience and first meeting that he met with him in 1960 in Morehouse University, to Majority Leader REID reflecting on, the Senate reflecting on how he worked here in the Capitol at that time as a part of the crowd outside; and others that shared stories of their time when Dr. King walked the Earth; his son, Martin Luther King, III, who reflected on his father's death and his memory and charged the House and the Senate to carry out efforts against poverty, also to deal with the issue of war and conflict, and also looking at the very issue of making sure that we