

They served with distinction as well, inspecting and searching over 30,000 semi-trucks and designing all of the force protection plans for northern Kuwait. They were recognized for their service, earning 3 Bronze Stars, 12 Meritorious Service Medals, 142 Army commendations and more than 200 Army Achievement Medals over the course of their deployment.

I was honored to be invited to their welcome home celebration at Camp Shelby in Mississippi this past October. I was humbled to spend time with them and, as I told the National Guardsmen at Camp Shelby, "You can't support the troops unless you respect them. I humbly respect you because you have done your job as you were charged to do so, and as volunteers. You left your families and you went forth and accomplished what you were taught to do."

I truly believe that the importance of the National Guard to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor these citizen-soldiers. We must not, however, forget the families of these citizen-soldiers, who make their own sacrifice for our country and earn nothing but the thanks of the Republic.

And so I respectfully urge the House to pass this resolution, to thank those citizen-soldiers from Alaska and to thank their families. It is the greatness of these citizens from which America derives its own and we would all do well to remember that.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that cosponsored this resolution.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 961.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING MEMBERS OF AIR FORCE KILLED IN THE KHOBAR TOWERS TERRORIST BOMBING

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 32) honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 32

Whereas June 25, 2008, marks the 12th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996;

Whereas 19 members of the United States Air Force were killed, more than 500 other Americans were injured, and 297 innocent Saudi or Bangladeshi citizens were killed or injured in the terrorist attack;

Whereas the 19 airmen killed while serving their country were Captain Christopher J. Adams, Staff Sergeant Daniel B. Cafourek, Sergeant Millard D. Campbell, Senior Airman Earl F. Cartrette, Jr., Technical Sergeant Patrick P. Fennig, Captain Leland T. Haun, Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser, Staff Sergeant Kevin J. Johnson, Staff Sergeant Ronald L. King, Master Sergeant Kendall K. Kitson, Jr., Airman First Class Christopher B. Lester, Airman First Class Brent E. Marthaler, Airman First Class Brian W. McVeigh, Airman First Class Peter J. Morgera, Technical Sergeant Thanh V. Nguyen, Airman First Class Joseph E. Rimkus, Senior Airman Jeremy A. Taylor, Airman First Class Justin R. Wood, and Airman First Class Joshua E. Woody;

Whereas the families of these brave airmen still mourn their loss;

Whereas three months after that terrorist bombing, on September 24, 1996, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 200 of the 104th Congress, honoring the victims of that terrorist bombing;

Whereas on the fifth anniversary of that terrorist bombing, on June 25, 2001, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 161 of the 107th Congress, which was concurred in by the Senate on July 12, 2002, further honoring the victims of that bombing;

Whereas on June 27, 2005, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 188 of the 109th Congress, further honoring the victims of that terrorist bombing;

Whereas those guilty of carrying out the attack have yet to be brought to justice; and Whereas terrorism remains a constant and ever-present threat around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Congress—

(1) recognizes the service and sacrifice of the 19 members of the United States Air Force who died in that attack;

(2) calls upon every American to pause and pay tribute to those brave airmen;

(3) extends its continued sympathies to the families of those who died; and

(4) assures the members of the Armed Forces serving anywhere in the world that their well-being and interests will at all times be given the highest priority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I stand before you and my colleagues today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 32, honoring members of the United States Air Force who were wounded and killed in the June 25, 1996 terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The June blast took the lives of 19 airmen from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and destroyed the entire front of Dhahran's Khobar Towers housing compound. More than 500 U.S. Air Force troops were wounded, and 297 Middle Eastern citizens were killed or injured as a result of the bombing. Five thousand pounds of plastic explosives disguised in a water tanker truck claimed the lives of servicemembers whose families were left grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Life, our most treasured asset, is too often taken unexpectedly. It was the sworn duty of our airmen to protect and serve this country by all means, and in our commitment to them and others who have given their lives in defense of our great Nation, we honor their selfless sacrifice and take a moment to reflect upon their contribution that provides us the freedoms we enjoy today.

House Concurrent Resolution 32 extends our sympathies to the families of loved ones whose perpetrators have yet been brought to justice.

Although this tragedy acknowledges the cost we pay in our fight against terrorism, we remain proud of our courageous and steadfast troops who are no doubt the best in the world. We call upon every American today to pause and pay tribute to the brave airmen who died, and to take a moment to thank our members of the Armed Forces currently serving around the world and express our appreciation for their duty and honor to protect America's interests around the world.

This resolution recognizes the service and sacrifice of those airmen whose lives were lost on that fateful day. I strongly urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 32 in remembrance of the 19 fallen heroes on the 12th anniversary of the Dhahran terrorist bombing.

I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for bringing forward this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 32, honoring the 19 members of the United States Air Force who were killed, and more than 500 other Americans injured in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, by a terrorist truck bomb in June, 1996.

I want to commend my colleague on the House Armed Services Committee, Representative JEFF MILLER of Florida, for sponsoring this resolution. This is the fourth time that the House of Representatives has honored on this

floor the sacrifice of those who died or were injured that day. Previous resolutions were passed in 1996, 2001 and 2005.

I note these milestones because they should remind us of important facts. One fact is that the global war on terrorism did not begin on September 11, 2001. It was well before that date that terrorists set out to kill and injure Americans on a large scale. We must never forget, and must be ever vigilant today against the continuing commitment of terrorists to seriously damage America and its interests whenever and wherever they can.

Another fact is that the 19 Air Force personnel who died at Khobar Towers in June, 1996, were defending our freedom and the national security interests of the United States. The resolution today honors them for that sacrifice.

The resolution also serves as a way to extend our continued sympathy to their families.

So, Mr. Speaker, I call upon all Americans to pause and honor the service and sacrifice of those not only 19 Americans who died in the Khobar Towers bombing, but also those who served and continue to serve in the defense of our Nation and its values. I urge my colleagues to support this most worthy resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) for that time which he might consume.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today in honor of H. Con. Res. 32, which does honor the members of the United States Air Force that were killed on the 25th of June, 1996 in the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

This is the 12th anniversary of the terrorist bombing which killed 19 members of the U.S. Air Force and injured over 300 Americans. On that day in 1996, a truck bomb exploded outside the fence around the Khobar Towers compound.

□ 1215

The bomb, estimated at more than 3,000 pounds, detonated about 85 feet from a residential housing unit where U.S. troops were, killing 19 United States Air Force servicemen and wounding hundreds of other Americans. The force of that explosion destroyed or damaged six high-rise apartment buildings and shattered windows throughout the entire residential compound.

Today we honor the 19 airmen who gave their lives in the service of this great Nation. This Congress joins me in paying tribute to those men, who are individually recognized in H. Con. Res. 32.

It's important to note that 12 of the 19 men killed in the attack were based at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida's First District. Several of the airmen, along with their families, were constituents. These brave men, like the men and women currently serving in

our military today, were on freedom's watch, prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation. As we approach Memorial Day, it's only fitting that we remember the 19 airmen killed at Khobar Towers as well as the many brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and our security. It's my sincere hope that all Americans will give pause and honor these heroes and others for their sacrifice.

As we look back to 12 years ago, we know that Khobar Towers and the bombing there was a precursor to the terrorist attacks on the USS *Cole*; the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center; and the current global war on terrorism that we fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. No matter where our troops are stationed, we recognize that they are prepared to defend our security, American values, and the American way of life. It's my hope that we can prevent future attacks like the one at Khobar Towers as we aggressively fight terrorism all around the globe.

I want to personally express my deepest appreciation to the families of these heroes who were killed at Khobar Towers. We can never undo the tragedy that they have lived. We can never ease the pain, and I know it's with each of them each and every day. But I hope, and I know that my colleagues join me in this hope, that with the adoption of this resolution, they will take from our actions some solace in the fact that we do not forget those contributions and those sacrifices of their loved ones. They were much more than airmen. They were sons, fathers, brothers, and they are loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, our action on this resolution sends a message to the families of those who died, to our Nation, and to the rest of the world, that we honor the sacrifices of these 19 airmen and the families they left behind. They served with the highest distinction and professionalism which is indicative of the United States military. No one could have served better or given more.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me and the 50 cosponsors in support of this resolution.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. MILLER for bringing this resolution forward in honoring the brave men killed in the Khobar Towers bombing.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 32 to honor the 19 airmen that were killed by a cowardly act of terrorism while serving our Nation on June 25, 1996, at Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

June 1996, Mr. Speaker. That is more than 5 years before many people believe the global war on terror began. But the terrible attack on our Nation on September 11, 2001, was by no means the first attack against Americans in the global war on terror. These 19 Americans

were killed, and 300 others injured, by a bomb created at the hands of vicious and deceitful extremists who oppose the principles that we all share and that these airmen were helping defend.

These American warriors were in Saudi Arabia to aid in preserving freedom for our friends in Kuwait. They were willing to risk their lives on the other side of the world, far away from their families, far from home, to support a mission to oppose tyranny. We must always remember the price these Americans paid. We must always honor their sacrifice for the freedom of others. Today, I pay tribute to these American airmen. They were brothers, fathers, and sons, and I know their families still mourn their loss. Nothing will ever replace the precious life of a lost loved one, but I offer their families my prayers and sympathy.

These 19 American airmen represent the essence of what makes our Nation great. Their selfless service and the sacrifice that they made in the name of liberty is one that we shall forever be in their debt. We should never let them be forgotten.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to state my strong support for this legislation. I am grateful to my colleague Representative JEFF MILLER for introducing this bill.

The terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in 1996 was a vicious attack upon the United States and our allies in Saudi Arabia. It took the lives of 19 brave U.S. servicemembers and hundreds of civilians were injured. This attack was and remains a clear example of the type of enemy we face in the Global War on Terrorism. And so, it is incumbent upon us all to honor the lives of those lost as we comfort the families that were forever changed by this horrible event.

As we pause to remember their lives and their sacrifice, we should recommit ourselves to doing all we can to protect Americans—those serving overseas and those here at home. We must be ever vigilant of the enemies we face and resolve to do all that is necessary to defeat terrorism wherever it may be.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 32, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SERVICES

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2790) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under