

TOM is famously quoted as saying that he was an "American by choice." And how only in this country, could "a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground . . . have received an education, raised a family and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a member of Congress." As a naturalized U.S. citizen myself, I hope to give back to this Nation as much as TOM did in his many years of public service.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to TOM's beloved wife, Annette Tillemann Lantos, his daughters Annette Tillemann-Dick and Katrina Swett, his 18 grandchildren, and his 2 great-grandchildren. Thank you for sharing TOM with us and with the world. His example of courage and integrity will continue to inspire us.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday morning a friend and colleague, Representative TOM LANTOS, passed away.

Throughout his life, Congressman LANTOS fought for liberty. As a young man in Hungary during World War II, he opposed the spread of Nazi fascism and survived the Holocaust. During his 27 years in Congress, Congressman LANTOS earned a reputation as a leader for human rights and democracy around the world—in particular as the Ranking Member and the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I had the privilege of working with Chairman LANTOS as a fellow member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Together, we were able to strengthen the partnerships between the United States and nations throughout the world. Chairman LANTOS brought an unmovable optimism to both his life and his career that served himself and his adopted nation of America well.

TOM LANTOS was a beloved and respected member of the House of Representatives, and he will be dearly missed. During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Annette, their two daughters, and his entire family and friends.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and thank my colleagues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3521, PUBLIC HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules (during consideration of H. Res. 975), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-524) on the resolution (H. Res. 974) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3521) to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5349, PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007 EXTENSION

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules (during consideration of H. Res. 975), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-525) on the resolution (H. Res. 976) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5349) to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 21 days, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

IRAN STILL LIVES IN THE STONE AGE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Iranian Government still lives in the Stone Age. Two Iranian sisters will be stoned to death after a court convicted them of adultery. One sister's husband was upset that he and his wife didn't get along, so he planted a video camera in their home while he was away. A videotape showed the two sisters in the company of other men, but did not show either woman engaged in a sexual act.

The husband turned the videotape over to the adultery police to prosecute the women. These two sisters were tried twice for this so-called crime. The first trial resulted in a conviction, and the women were convicted of illegal relations. Each sister received 99 lashes. But it gets worse: a second trial convicted the two sisters of adultery and they were sentenced to death.

Last year, Jafar Kiani was stoned to death for alleged adultery. Now these two sisters are next in line for the savage rock throwing. Doesn't anyone think lashing and stoning is a bit severe for adultery? I guess the Iranian Government has never heard of cruel and unusual punishment. And where is the outcry from the world of women's rights groups when they are needed to protest these acts from the Stone Age?

And that's just the way it is.

□ 2045

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTING AT KIRKWOOD CITY HALL

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight on a sad occasion in the loss of loved ones in the Kirkwood, Missouri, community, part of which I represent and part of which is represented by my colleague Representative AKIN of St. Louis County, and tonight we want to talk about that incident.

This close-knit community of Kirkwood, Missouri, struggles this week over the loss of loved ones. The wounded, especially Mayor Mike Swoboda, who remains hospitalized, and the chill to public servants and citizens from the violence in Kirkwood City Hall at the level of democratic government closest to the people.

I saw firsthand last Friday night at the Kirkwood community's candlelight vigil the way this community has come together through this tragedy, uplifted by ordinary people performing extraordinary acts of heroism, caring, and love. The hearts and prayers of all Missouri and the Nation go out to the families now grieving.

First, our obligation is to care for the wounded and honor the lost, who were lost while on duty in the high calling of public service. We lost two city council members, Councilwoman Connie Karr and Councilman Michael Lynch; two police officers, Officer Tom Ballman and Officer William Biggs; and Public Works Director Kenneth Yost.

We search our hearts and minds to understand what went wrong that terrible day this past week, to honor their public service, and to learn from this breakdown in the public square. Rightly, we come together to let them know they are not alone in their suffering. We know each and every one of them found purpose in life helping others and as public servants in the public good. One person, Dick Reeves, posted a comment on the St. Louis Post Dispatch site that impressed me and it summed up how to deal with this tragedy. He said, "If something positive comes out of this horrific tragedy, please let it be that in the memory of these good people, each and every one of us dedicates ourselves to treating our elected officials and each other at home, work, school, play, and while driving with respect, decency, and kindness. We can do it. Let our actions be their monument."

And I would like to yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great tragedy that occurred in Kirkwood, Missouri, in my

district this last Thursday. On what seemed to be a typical night in what has long been considered an almost idyllic community, Charles Lee Thornton shot and killed Police Sergeant William Biggs outside of the Kirkwood City Hall.

After entering City Hall, Mr. Thornton then shot and killed four dedicated civil servants and severely wounded the mayor before he himself was shot and killed by responding Kirkwood police officers.

Today, Kirkwood Mayor Mike Swoboda continues to struggle for his life.

Those killed in the City Hall were Police Officer Tom Ballman, Councilwoman Connie Karr, Councilman Mike Lynch, and Public Works Director Kenneth Yost. Kenneth Yost had served in that position for 35 years.

As Kirkwood and surrounding communities lay to rest officers and public servants, one cannot help but be moved by the deep sense of faith expressed by the family and friends they have left behind. What has also become so clear is the deep commitment that these individuals had for their community.

With that service in mind, I would like to refer to Matthew 20:28, which states: "Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing servant of all, like the Son of Man; He did not come to be served but to serve and to give up his life as a ransom for many."

OH WHERE, OH WHERE CAN THE PHANTOM AIR BASE BE?

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

Mr. POE. Oh where, oh where has the American air base gone? Oh where or where can it be? With its 6,000 phantom troops and 32 million missing dollars, oh where, oh where can it be?

Madam Speaker, let me explain. Corruption has struck again, and just like times in the past, it's at the taxpayers' expense.

Government investigators recently uncovered the newest scam in contracting. This time it's a phantom air base in Iraq, purchased by the U.S. taxpayers at the tune of \$32 million.

Madam Speaker, here it is, or here it's supposed to be. This is a photograph of the location in Iraq where the air base is, or where it was supposed to be built. But you can see that there is nothing to see because it was never built.

Last month the Inspector General at the Defense Department released a report about money spent to help train and equip Iraqi military and police forces. The contracting project in question was awarded to Ellis Environmental Group, a U.S. company based out of Florida, in 2006. The U.S. Air Force paid the company \$32 million for this project, this air base in Iraq. The

construction contract would have involved the creation of barracks and offices for 6,000 Iraqi troops in Ramadi, the capital of the Anbar province.

But the project had to be abandoned before anything was ever built when the Iraqi Defense Ministry failed to obtain this desert land for the base.

So what happened to the \$32 million the Air Force doled out to Ellis Environmental? The alarming answer is no one knows. And the company won't say.

An Air Force spokesman says the contractor set up a camp for construction workers and began design work for the headquarters before the project was halted. But nothing was ever built. All we know now is that none of the \$32 million the U.S. paid out to these contractors was returned to U.S. taxpayers. The Air Force is set to begin an audit of the project, but no one knows how long that's going to take.

The Inspector General report documents more abuses. And USA Today Matt Keller, reporter, said the findings show "the military didn't keep adequate records of equipment for the Iraqis ranging from generators and garage trucks to thousands of guns and grenade launchers. Separately, the United States has launched a criminal investigation into allegations that weapons it bought for the Iraqi soldiers ended up in the hands of insurgent and terrorist groups."

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be.

In the meantime, Ellis Environmental Group has changed its name.

If a crime has been committed, these outlaws responsible need to be held accountable. Madam Speaker, war profiteers that make money off of war by building "phantom" military bases like this one should be prosecuted. This type of conduct fits the definition of war crimes. Maybe we should build a real prison for war criminals out in this desert in the sands of Iraq to house thieves that steal American money.

So, Madam Speaker, oh where, oh where has the American base gone? Oh where, oh where can it be? With its 6,000 phantom troops and 32 million missing dollars, it's where, oh where no one can see.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Mr. YARMUTH 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS 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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

FISA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Well, here we go again, Mr. Speaker. As Yogi Berra once put it, "This is like deja vu all over again."

When the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral McConnell, came to the Congress for help, he was only given a 180-day authority to conduct surveillance which he described at the time as necessary to close our "critical intelligence gaps." Of course, that authority expired on February 1, and the 2-week extension of the Protect America Act expires this Friday. Now, while the Democratic majority's so-called RESTORE Act passed by this body recognized the need to defend our Nation beyond 180 days, it would also have repealed core provisions requested by Admiral McConnell, and it also contained a sunset date approximately 2 years from now. While the other body has just passed this evening a 6-year extension of the new FISA bill, it remains to be seen how this will be reconciled with the RESTORE Act passed by this body.

It is certainly my hope that this body will affirm the bipartisan agreement reached by the Senate this evening. It is in concert with the outline of a bill supported by 21 Members of the majority side in a letter they sent to the Speaker just several weeks ago. In my estimation, there is no issue of greater importance to our Nation at