

These soldiers and their families have shown us the sense of duty, the sense of honor, and the sacrifice that we all aspire to and admire. Many of them know the pain of losing someone, a soldier, a fellow warrior, giving everything to defend the freedoms that we cherish in this country each and every day. And all of them know the perils of deployment, time away from their families, their children, their community, and possibly the ultimate sacrifice, their life.

This government comes here and performs its work each and every day. We can debate the issues each day because of the dedication of these soldiers and their families. And today, though it's not enough, we say thank you.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 50th anniversary as a congregation during the month of October.

As the first Greek Orthodox Church in southern Nevada, St. John has welcomed new Americans of Greek descent to Las Vegas and helped them feel at home in the community. St. John has educated thousands of children in the rituals and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church, ensuring the strength and vitality of the doctrine. Over the past 50 years, the church has expanded from a small group of patrons to a large community meeting in a beautiful church in the Third District.

Today, the church has a vibrant membership and is host to a community center and educational facility. The church is active in social justice projects that benefit children, seniors, the sick, and the poor. The church hosts regular events celebrating Greek heritage such as folk dancing and Easter egg hunts. And there's an annual Greek food festival in Las Vegas which is famous throughout the valley for its wonderful music, camaraderie, and the best food outside of Athens.

I again congratulate St. John the Baptist Church and the Greek Orthodox community for their 50 years of success, and I wish them 50 more.

NET NEUTRALITY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to point out a timely editorial on net neutrality that ran recently in *The Washington Post*, and I'll submit it for the RECORD, "The FCC's Heavy Hand," that ran on Monday, September 28, 2009. This editorial

makes good points, but the bottom line is one I have been making since this issue came up so many years ago. The broadband marketplace has been, is, and will remain one of the most competitive areas in our economy.

Today, if you don't like your cable Internet, you switch to your phone company service. If you need mobility you can't get from your wire-line phone company, you purchase a wireless broadband plan. If you don't like one wireless provider's broadband plan, you ask the guy sitting next to you surfing the Web in the park who he uses for their wireless broadband, and you switch to that company.

Why do we have options? Because broadband companies have invested billions of dollars to build the best networks they can to attract as many customers as they can. Why would they block applications or content when they know the customer they're interfering with could just switch to another provider? They won't, as long as that customer isn't harming the network.

Mr. Speaker, the contrast is here. We should look at why the government needs to do such as addressing health care, and prices are spiraling out of control. Tens of millions of Americans have no choice on health care and having insurance, whereas, in the broadband market, there is plenty of competition and companies are competing. There could not be a more stark contrast for where government must act, and where competition in the marketplace is benefiting consumers, driving investment, and creating jobs. Further regulation is not the answer to keeping the Internet open; fostering competition and investment in broadband infrastructure is.

PRESIDENTS REAGAN AND OBAMA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I've listened to 1 minutes here, and some of my Republican colleagues have made comments I listened to. And one who I respect tremendously talked about President Reagan and President Obama, and certainly they have a lot in common. They're both dynamic speakers and great communicators. Both of them have had high unemployment rates during their first year in office.

But the commonality is that those high unemployment rates were caused by their predecessors. And the press properly pointed out that Jimmy Carter's failed policies in the late 1970s and George Bush's failed policy at the beginning of this century were the cause of the economic malaise that each of these great communicators, Presidents Reagan and Obama, found themselves with.

Each will find that the economies will improve. Reagan did, and Obama will, and this Congress is helping to improve this economy.

Another gentleman talked about health care and said we should pray. I'm Jewish, and at our Yom Kippur holiday it's said that we should pray for national leaders that have a government that is compassionate and just. I believe that compassion and justice dictates that we have a health care plan and take care of everybody. I think it's the basis of the Judeo-Christian philosophy.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 846. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 1510. An act to transfer statutory entitlements to pay and hours of work authorized by the District of Columbia Code for current members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division from the District of Columbia Code to the United States Code.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 1016) "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276n of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One hundred Eleventh Congress:

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY).

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order 12131, renewed by Executive Order 13446, the Chair reappoints and appoints the following Members to the President's Export Council:

Reappointment:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Appointment:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) vice the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS PLAY IN SUPPORTING SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 408) recognizing the vital role family readiness volunteers play in supporting servicemembers and their families.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 408

Whereas since 2001, nearly 2,000,000 active duty and reserve sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel have deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the more than 1,800,000 family members of regular component members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1,100,000 family members of reserve component members make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States in support of their loved ones deployed overseas;

Whereas the readiness of the United States Armed Forces is predicated on the ability of each member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to focus on their mission during deployments;

Whereas the military necessity of long and often unpredictable deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families;

Whereas, in response to these sacrifices and challenges, family readiness volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide critical support during deployments to service members and their families;

Whereas the family readiness volunteer programs in each service help commanding officers have a better understanding of the welfare of the families within his or her command during a deployment and allow families to be informed about the status of their loved ones' unit overseas;

Whereas family readiness volunteers consist of Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Coast Guard Ombudsmen, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and Marine Corps Key Volunteers;

Whereas the thousands of family readiness volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces who provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life;

Whereas these volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations;

Whereas family readiness volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources for military families;

Whereas family readiness volunteers provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families; and

Whereas the outstanding performance of our service members is a testament to the great success of family readiness volunteers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the family readiness volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, energy, and resources in service to the

United States and commends family readiness volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) 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 within 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 might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 408. I introduced this resolution to honor the work of the Army's Family Readiness Volunteers, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Marine Corps Key Volunteers and Coast Guard Ombudsmen. Each day, thousands of these men and women volunteer their time to help improve the quality of life for military families by serving as a channel between deployed units and their loved ones at home. Most of these important volunteers are military spouses, frequently with a loved one deployed overseas.

I also introduced this measure to bring their efforts to the attention of all Americans. As chairwoman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, I know that today's all-volunteer force is, in many ways, less integrated into the society that they are sworn to protect. My hope is that this resolution will help shed light on a group of dedicated volunteers that the average American may know little about but who are a crucial component of military readiness. I firmly believe that the outstanding performance of our servicemembers is directly connected to their efforts, and with today's high operational tempo, their services are as important as ever.

Family Readiness volunteers and ombudsmen help our military families solve a variety of problems and meet the challenges servicemembers and their families face before, during, and after deployments. As Admiral Mullen wrote when he was Chief of Naval Operations, "A strong command Ombudsman Program, both ashore and afloat, will help ensure that families have the information necessary to meet the challenges of a military lifestyle."

Across each service, these volunteers also assist newly enlisted servicemembers and spouses and their families with a wide range of issues, from understanding their health and retirement benefits to serving as a conduit of information to the command.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to be able to meet with Navy ombuds-

men in my district several times a year to discuss the issues that military families care most about, from everyday issues like day care to uniquely military issues such as coping with the deployment.

And, in fact, when I first came to Congress, it was a Navy ombudsman in San Diego who helped me understand the complex issues faced by our all-volunteer force. And just last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with over 100 Army Family Readiness Volunteers who traveled to Washington to learn how to improve their abilities to advocate on behalf of the families they help at home. I was inspired by the willingness of these women and men who traveled from across the United States for training that will ultimately help them support their soldiers.

When you meet with volunteers, you quickly realize that a key component to our overall military readiness is the readiness of our military families. In my view, and the view of our top military leaders, America's deployed men and women could not do their jobs abroad if they were constantly worried about their families back home. Simply put, Family Readiness volunteers and ombudsmen help reduce uncertainty and ease anxiety around deployments by keeping families involved so our servicemembers can stay focused on their mission.

Today, it would be really impossible for our military to mitigate some of the stresses of war if there was not the valuable and active family contact maintained by these individuals. With every year of war, these volunteers have taken on an increasing amount of responsibility, so much so that the services have even begun to compensate a small number of individuals for their efforts.

While volunteers help provide peace of mind for our deployed personnel, they also provide information about the status of a unit's deployment overseas.

I recall the role that the Navy ombudsmen played when the USS *New Orleans* and the USS *Hartford* collided in the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year. For the families of the sailors and marines aboard both ships, the news was startling. Families were all wondering the same things: Was their loved one injured? Was the ship still able to sail? How would the incident impact the length of their deployment?

The ombudsman for the USS *New Orleans*, a ship stationed in my district, recounted to my office how within 10 minutes of the news breaking, he had over 20 calls from concerned family members. It was at that point that he e-mailed his families a simple message, with the subject line reading: "USS New Orleans Collision, Everyone is safe." His message at a time of need let the families know not to worry.

□ 1045

This ombudsman told my office, "The emails and phone calls that I