

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer: If it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide.”

The larger context of those words is as follows:

“In the great journal of things happening under the sun, we, the American people, find our account running, under date of the 19th century of the Christian era. We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the Earth as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves under the government of a system of political institutions, conducting more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty than any of which the history of former times tells us. We, when mounting the stage of existence, found ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them. They are a legacy bequeathed us by a once hardy, brave and patriotic but now lamented and departed race of ancestors. Theirs was the task, and nobly they performed it, to possess themselves and, through themselves, us, of this goodly land; and to uprear upon its hills and its valleys a political edifice of liberty and equal rights; 'tis ours only to transmit these—the former, unprofaned—by the foot of an invader; the latter, undecayed by the lapse of time and untorn by usurpation, to the latest generation that fate shall permit the world to know. This task of gratitude to our fathers, justice to ourselves, duty to posterity, and love for our species in general all imperatively require us faithfully to perform.

“How then shall we perform it? At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant to step the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the Earth, our own excepted, in their military chest, with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years.

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer: If it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide.”

□ 1745

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

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

SUPPORTING BETTER HOME CARE FOR OLDER AMERICANS

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, almost one in seven residents in my home State of Alabama is over the age of 65, a sector of the American population that is expected to grow dramatically over the next 2 decades. As our citizens age, many will develop costly and debilitating health conditions that will require additional care and additional expenditures for the Medicare system.

Advanced home health treatments are now targeting some of the most serious illnesses and have been successful in keeping more of the elderly out of the hospitals and reducing the cost to Medicare. There are numerous cases in Alabama where home health care has been instrumental in preventing emergency room visits and hospital readmissions and helping older residents to live more independently at home for as long as possible.

Our goal is to improve the care of Americans and control rising costs, especially in our Medicare population. Home health care is meeting these goals and has the potential to do even more.

Yet there are provisions in the House health reform legislation that would cut \$57 billion from the Medicare home health program over the next decade. If these reductions remain in the bill, they will surely have an adverse effect on the access to home care for our senior citizens.

The cuts in home health care services in the bill are significantly disproportionate to other provider sectors. The bill seeks 14 percent of all Medicare cuts from home health care, while home health makes up only 4 percent of the Medicare program currently. This disproportionate impact is further magnified by the fact that, unlike most other health care providers and insurers, expanding health insurance will have no meaningful increase in the home health care business.

Home health patients average nearly 80 years of age and are already insured by Medicare and Medicaid. This means that the Medicare cuts to home health agencies are not offset by new revenues from newly insured patients. Instead, the proposed cuts of over 14 percent of spending on home health services will be as can be.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to reject the proposed cuts to home health care and support better care at home for all older Americans.

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.)

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FURMAN BISHER

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of famed Atlanta sports reporter Furman Bisher upon his retirement from the Atlanta Journal Constitution after 59 years.

Furman Bisher was born on November 4, 1918, in Denton, North Carolina, and became the editor of the Charlotte News in 1940. During World War II, he honorably served our Nation from 1941 until 1945.

In 1950, Furman Bisher became a sports editor for the Atlanta Constitution, and in 1957 he became sports editor and columnist for the Atlanta Journal and the Sunday Journal-Constitution.

Furman Bisher's accomplishments are legendary. He was the president of the Football Writers Association of America in 1959 and 1960 and named one of the Nation's five best columnists by Time Magazine in 1961. Furman was president of the National Sportscasters and Sports Writers Association from 1974 to 1976, and he covered every Kentucky Derby since 1950. He also covered every National Football League Super Bowl, except the very first one played in 1967.

As an Atlanta Braves fan, I am particularly grateful for the crucial role Furman played in facilitating the arrival of the Braves baseball team to Atlanta, which was Atlanta's very first professional sports team.

Furman Bisher is a member of the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame, the International Golf Writers Hall of Fame and the National Sportscasters and Sports Writers Hall of Fame, and he was a recipient of Professional Golfers Association's Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award in 1996.

A testament to Furman's reputation from the very beginning can be traced to 1949, when he became the only person since 1919 to secure an interview with “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who had been banned from baseball.

Furman Bisher retired from the Atlanta Journal Constitution on October 10, 2009, after 59 years of service, typing his last column on the Royal typewriter that was the instrument of his first Constitution column back in 1950.

At age 90, Furman is still going strong, splitting his time between a homestead in Fayette County and a retreat on St. Simons Island with his wife of 21 years, Linda.

Furman Bisher's legacy is lasting. He wrote over 10,000 columns in the Atlanta Journal Constitution and hundreds more in newspapers in North Carolina dating back to 1938.

He forever impacted sports reporting and the Atlanta sports landscape with his actions and commentary. I know I, for one, like millions of others throughout the years, always enjoyed reading his column, and will deeply miss flipping to the sports section to find what he had to say about the sports news of the day, for it was in 1960 as a freshman at Georgia Tech that I first read his column and every Sunday morning watched his college football roundup in the TV lab at the Sigma Nu fraternity house.

I wish Furman and Linda Bisher all the best as they enjoy their retirement.

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.)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, on the 7th of October of 2001, when we invaded Afghanistan, a soldier's then 10-year-old child in 5th grade is now 18, and either out of the house, off to college, or starting a young adulthood of his or her own, having grown up virtually without the benefit of military parents, some of whom today face their fifth deployment.

Today marks the 2,950th day of combat in the war in Afghanistan; 2,950 days, without asking for a concurrent sacrifice from the American people. It is only the uniformed forces and their families upon whom we have placed the burden of these 2,950 days of war.

The Congressional Research Service estimates that we have now spent or committed \$300 billion, and that is only the money for which we can account. Some will say it is twice that, for this war, like the war in Iraq, was funded off-budget with no transparency. \$300 billion. That is about \$101 million per day for 2,950 days. Or, to put out another average, that is \$3,947 per family of four that every American family has paid to date.

Tragically, that is the good news, because the irrevocable loss is comprised of 911 American combatants killed and 4,198 seriously wounded, and we do not have the ability to estimate the long-term wounds that we cannot see or quantify that will be carried by the soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines of this conflict for the rest of their lives.

We have now been in Afghanistan for 2,950 days. We fought World War I for 584 days. We have been in Afghanistan five times longer than we fought the "war to end all wars." And we have

been in Afghanistan twice as long as the entire combined combatant days of World War II fought by the Greatest Generation.

Today is the 2,950th day of this war. It has cost us \$300 billion, \$3,947 per American family.

Enough is enough. It is time to bring our troops home.

More than any other issue that I have studied, sought counsel on, and drawn from my own life's experience for guidance since becoming a Member of the United States Congress, the expansion of the war in Afghanistan has drawn my late night focus. There, in the quiet of the office, I have arrived at the inevitable conclusion that the deployment of additional troops in Afghanistan and the continuation of this conflict is both not in the interest of our Nation, and, in fact, is on par with a potential error the size of our initial invasion in Iraq.

The recent election in Afghanistan has underscored the fact that we will never create a Jeffersonian democracy in that nation. After Hamid Karzai had about one-third of his ballots thrown out due to election fraud, his opponent withdrew from the coming election because he stated publicly there could not be a scenario under which he could trust the election process.

A continued escalation of this conflict to do things like secure elections and build an Afghan national identity is a false and foolish waste of American lives and treasure. Quite simply, we will never create a Jeffersonian democracy, and to continue to fight and die for what the people of Afghanistan will not fight and die for is simply wrong.

Our military should not be expended to secure elections, nor should we continue to engage in global nation building. To those who would say that we must win in Afghanistan, I simply ask after 24 years of service in the United States military and a degree from the United States War College, what does a victory look like and when can we obtain this indefinable goal?

Are we now to subordinate ourselves to an Afghan Government that has, at best, limited legitimacy in its own nation following a travesty of an election that only recently was determined to be the number one priority of our on-scene and on-the-ground commander?

When we first invaded Afghanistan, the mission was to identify, locate, capture and kill those who did or would do us harm. Al Qaeda terrorists and their camps were destroyed and the remaining elements of the organization are now in Pakistan. The regional Commander of U.S. military forces has clearly stated this reality.

Today, November 4, 2009, is the 2,950th day of the war in Afghanistan and I think that is long enough.

After these 8 years, it is clear that only the Afghan people themselves can determine their future. We built the army that destroyed Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in 3 years. We have now been fighting a war for the Afghan people for 8 years. Enough is enough. We have achieved our military goals, and our

forces have been militarily victorious. We are now fighting an enemy who is attacking us because we are in their country and are perceived as an occupying military police force. We are not, and it is time to come home.

To continue this war at its current level and to escalate it beyond its current scope is a trillion dollar question. Are those who would so cavalierly make this commitment willing to demand another \$3,947.36 from every American family of four to pay for it? Thousands have protested federal spending to rebuild America's schools, roads, bridges and critical infrastructure, but are they willing to do the same when their taxes are being spent to rebuild Kabul? At the end of the day, what will we have bought? What have we purchased for the \$300 billion we have already spent or committed to the war in Afghanistan and where will the next \$300 billion come from?

Should terrorist camps reemerge there, we must deal with that, but there is no evidence that any of the numerous tribal factions want this; in fact, it is clear that they do not. The "war of necessity" has been fought, our enemies killed or captured. We have won and it is our clear, patriotic duty to bring our military forces home to defend vital American interests; 2,950 days and \$300 billion is enough.

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.)

HONORING MR. ROBERT J. "BOB" JENSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the accomplishments and the ongoing work of one of South Florida's finest residents, Mr. Robert J. "Bob" Jensen of Homestead. Bob and his wonderful wife, Meda, are well-known for their caring and giving personalities and for their selfless work on behalf of our community.

Meda tells us that Bob's history began in a small town in Iowa where he was born and raised. He left Iowa in 1954 to serve in our U.S. Navy. He enlisted, excelled, and made Chief in 7 years. Three years later, Bob was selected for Officer Candidate School and was commissioned.

Commander Bob Jensen's specialty in the Navy was cryptology. I happen to know that his work is still classified, so please don't ask Bob. He still can't tell you about it.

The last place that Bob was stationed was our dear Homestead, Florida, and after 28 years in the United States Navy, Bob retired and chose to stay in Homestead with his wife Meda and family; Russell, Robert, Christian and