

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

Jessica. The Jensens now have lots of beautiful grandchildren.

In 1983, First National Bank's President Bill Losner asked Bob to join the bank. Bill Losner knew Bob Jensen well. He picked out a career that perfectly suited Bob and that helped First National Bank excel in Community Outreach and Marketing.

As Vice President, Bob Jensen invested the bank's resources and began investing all his time to touch and nurture groups, organizations, and projects throughout Miami-Dade County. Everyone has told us, out of all of his volunteer and community work, Bob is proudest of his efforts to create better farm workforce housing.

Bob is also the former Chair and Commissioner with Homestead Housing and has served on the board for Centro Campesino. This outfit trains farm workers for better jobs, mostly in construction, and helps enable farm workers to build and purchase their own homes. These are wonderful legacies for Bob, his fellow board members, and those farm workers who have achieved the American dream of home ownership.

Did I mention Bob and Meda's work with the Pioneer Museum? Well, almost every Saturday of the year the Jensens and their trained docents give historical tours about our area at a restored railroad station house on Krome Avenue. He has also collected hundreds of historical photographs, on display at local shops, hotels, and other businesses in the Homestead area.

□ 1800

Bob is also a member of the Agri-Council, which educates south Floridians and visitors on the history of the agricultural sector of south Florida. Bob serves on the Military Affairs Committee of the Homestead and Florida City Chamber of Commerce, helping our active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel. And just 5 years ago, Bob created the Heritage Hall Museum at Homestead Air Reserve Base to record its history. He's called "Mr. Homestead," a term of affection from a grateful community.

Indeed, Bob Jensen is a man about town. He's helping save the meal program that provides breakfast and lunch to the vast majority of school children at Laura Saunders Elementary.

He's received numerous awards and honors: Leadership South Dade's Leader of the Year; Presidential Award from the Homestead Chamber; honors from the Boy Scouts of America, the Mexican American Council, the American Red Cross, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation.

Bob Jensen is a historian, a volunteer, a mentor, a leader, and a friend to all whom he touches. God has blessed our Nation and our community with a great man, Bob Jensen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). 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 New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of New York 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 North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY 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 Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, our House bill, 3962, will make health care affordable for middle class families, provide security for seniors, and guaranteed access to health insurance coverage for the uninsured.

I'd like to go through these charts to let the viewing audience, Americans, and particularly Californians, know what will be provided by the Affordable Health Care for America Act. And this is a blend of three different bills that came out of various committees in front of the public, voted out by the committee, amended, and now combined in one bill.

Our first interest is making health care affordable for the middle class

families. We want to guarantee security for our seniors. We want responsibility to our children, and it will not add a dime to the deficit.

The health insurance reform means ending discrimination for people who have preexisting medical conditions. You can never be denied coverage because you have a preexisting condition. No dropped coverage if you become sick. You know, so many people get into the health care system when they're acutely ill, and that means they cannot go to work. Then they find that they're having trouble paying their house note, paying their car note, even buying food. And we want them to know that there will be no dropped coverage if you become ill or you lose your job. No copays for preventative care. And we want Americans to go see their health care provider as often as they need to so they can stay healthy. We want to prevent conditions that require medical care. But if you should fall ill, you can be covered for your medical treatment.

Yearly caps on what you pay and no caps on what insurance companies pay. Reining in health costs for families is one of our major targets, reining in health care costs for businesses and for government.

You know, people talk about not wanting government in between their doctor and themselves. Well, just think about that statement. What is Medicare and Medicaid? What is Social Security? These are government programs. We call them the safety net so you will not fall through the cracks and into devastation. We want fiscal responsibility and we want to reduce the deficit. We want to eliminate from health care waste, fraud, and overpayments to private insurance companies. Why should health care of Americans be for profit? Health care ought to be guaranteed to every American. There's major emphasis on innovation, on keeping people well, and prevention.

Now, misinformation is out there galore. You need to understand this: If you have insurance, you like your insurance, you keep it. And if you have a doctor, you can keep that doctor. Certainly you can keep that plan. And, remember, this bill came about because there were 38 million people in America that were uncovered, and every American should have health coverage.

We want to emphasize for seniors we strengthen Medicare and we improve the benefits. There is one Member that is telling everyone that we're going to take away the benefits from our seniors. That is so untrue. We want to improve benefits, including closing the doughnut hole, and we will get into that a little later.

If you don't have or you lose your insurance, a new health insurance exchange. It's more like a one-stop-shopping marketplace, and it includes a public option. Now, what does "option" mean? It means a decision. It means a choice. It means you have the right to make your own choice. And a public