

the University of Miami; Care Resource; Pridelines; Jackson Hospital; and all who are in the fight against this global menace.

United, and through greater awareness, research, prevention, and treatment, we will save and improve countless lives and stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL DEVICES CENTER

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great example of the academic and business communities working together to create new lifesaving technologies.

The Medical Devices Center at the University of Minnesota is a shining example of what can happen when innovation is encouraged and sought out by an educational institution and aided by partnership.

Last week I visited the University's Medical Devices Center and learned about this unique program that focuses on development of devices that have the strongest lifesaving impacts, partnering with others to also bring these products to market in the fastest manner possible. And you know what? The results speak for themselves.

From just 1 year in the fellowship program, we've had 15 new provisional patents, 12 new available technologies, one licensing deal with a local business, and one new startup among the program's fellows.

The center's collaborative approach between academics and business makes this a valuable program as well as a model for both Minnesota and the entire Nation to follow.

THE PROTRACTED WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, as we await the President's speech regarding Afghanistan, there's a point that I wanted to make; and as is so often the case, that point is better made by somebody else. So I yield to Chinese General Sun Tzu, who wrote the following words 2,500 years ago:

"In war victory should be swift.

"If victory is slow, men tire, morale sags. Sieges exhaust strength; protracted campaigns strain the public treasury.

"If men are tired, morale low, strength exhausted, treasure spent, then the feudal lords will exploit the disarray and attack. This even the wisest will be powerless to mend.

"I have heard that in war, haste can be folly. But never have I seen a delay that was wise.

"No nation has ever benefited from a protracted war."

Mr. Speaker, that was true 2,500 years ago, and it's true today. We do not benefit from the protracted war in Afghanistan.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH REGARDING AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President is going to say in his speech, and I just got part of it, that his sending 30,000 American troops over there is a step in the right direction for stabilizing Afghanistan. But then he goes on and he says it will allow us to begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan in July of 2011.

The one thing that you should never do is telegraph your punch. I can't imagine why the President is saying in his speech tonight he's going to start withdrawing our troops in July of 2011. Even if he plans to do that, he shouldn't say it, because he's telling our enemies exactly what we're going to do, and it's just wrong. And every military officer I have ever met will tell you the same thing.

NATIONAL MEDAL AWARD FOR STARK COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the Stark County District Library, located in Canton, Ohio.

On October 6, 2009, the Institute of Museum and Library Science selected the Stark County District Library to receive the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This is the Nation's highest recognition for library excellence and service to the surrounding community.

The Stark County District Library has served our county for 125 years, and the staff there set a fine example of leadership throughout that time by responding to the changing needs of our community. I know firsthand the friendly faces that fill the library and the great lengths to which the staff goes to provide resources for our community.

Despite budget cuts and other economic hardships, the Stark County District Library maintains the highest quality of service, making sure our communities have access to materials they want and need. Through early literacy efforts for mothers and their children and theater programs for Stark County kids and employment assistance classes and job fairs, the district library is able to fulfill its mission of inspiring ideas, enriching lives, and creating a stronger community.

This national medal confirms the Stark County District Library's commitment to our community.

WORLD AIDS DAY AND AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge today, December 1, as World AIDS Day when all of us focus on that devastating disease. I'd like to pay a special tribute to the Thomas Street Clinic in Houston, Texas, that for decades has served the hopeless and sometimes the helpless. I am so very glad that they are giving people life and opportunity.

Thank you, Thomas Street Clinic. And I was delighted to introduce legislation in support of them.

Mr. Speaker, on another topic very quickly, let me suggest that the President has been deliberative and thoughtful. It is interesting that those who criticize created the devastation and the havoc that is going on now in Afghanistan by taking away from our focus on Afghanistan after 9/11 and focusing on Iraq, a distracting war. Yet we love those who served, and we mourn for those we have lost.

We now want not to mourn for more. We want to find a way that we can introduce diplomacy, democracy, and getting the Government in Afghanistan to take care of its own people.

This is a war of insurgents. This is a civil war. And, therefore, we must find a way to handle this in a manner that serves all.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATS OFFER A BETTER PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will talk to the American people about Afghanistan tonight. He is expected to announce a major new escalation of the conflict. I believe President Obama's apparent decision to send tens of thousands more troops to Afghanistan is a mistake, and I believe that because the past years have taught us that there is no military solution to Afghanistan. That's why I've urged the President to change our mission and to emphasize diplomacy, economic development and humanitarian aid as the best way to stop violent extremism in Afghanistan.

As a Californian, I'm proud to say that the California Democratic Party has passed a resolution that also urges President Obama to change course in Afghanistan. I want to recognize, and I want to thank my friends at the Progressive Democrats of America and the

State Party's Progressive Caucus for leading the effort to pass the resolution. The resolution states that "far from eradicating the Taliban and other insurgencies, the presence of foreign troops has instead strengthened them, creating greater insecurity, death and impoverishment of the Afghan people."

The California Democratic Party's resolution expresses deep concern for the "honorable American young men and women who have been killed and wounded" and the terrible toll of the war on their families. It notes that our involvement in Afghanistan "continues to cost billions of dollars each month while the United States and particularly the State of California are in an economic crisis without money to fund domestic needs."

The resolution also calls attention to the plight of the Afghan women who have suffered greatly during the war, and it calls for an end to military action that causes civilian casualties. It urges President Obama to redirect America's "funding and resources to include an increase in humanitarian and developmental aid." It also asks the President to encourage "multiparty talks aimed at ensuring a Democratic and legitimate representation of the people of Afghanistan, as well as a multiparty regional diplomacy for the safety and stability of neighboring countries."

Mr. Speaker, the resolution was adopted after the members of the California Democratic Party heard the powerful testimony of Marine veteran Rick Reyes. He has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and he said, There is no military solution to Afghanistan. The problems in Afghanistan are social problems, problems that cannot be fixed militarily.

Mr. Speaker, instead of escalating the war and bringing more destruction to Afghanistan, we must devote our resources to improving the lives of the Afghan people. This change in strategy will achieve a number of very important goals. It will give the Afghan people hope for their future. It will give them a reason to reject violent extremism. It will save the lives of our troops, and it will save the lives of Afghan civilians. And it will save money, money that we need to invest in what will truly make our Nation stronger and safer, which includes energy independence, jobs, and reforming health care so that health care doesn't actually strangle our economy.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that we should be doing, and this is what the American people want the Obama administration to focus on. That's why I will join with millions of Americans in the days ahead to oppose the escalation of the war in Afghanistan, and to continue to urge our President to change course.

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NAVY SEALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy SEALs are the United States Navy's elite commandos. And last week we learned that they captured one of the most wanted terrorists in all of Iraq. Ahmed Hashim Abed was behind the murder and mutilation of four Blackwater USA security guards in Fallujah in the year 2004. This ring-leader of this ambush planned the murder of these four Americans in Fallujah. And these four Blackwater security guards, what they were doing was transporting supplies from one place to another.

So he had planned, Abed had planned an ambush against these individuals. They are ambushed. They are murdered. The bodies of these four murdered Americans were then dragged through the streets, burned and hung from a bridge in Fallujah. Mr. Speaker, I've been to that very bridge in the year 2005, and you still have an eerie feeling knowing that four Americans were hung there in public view. The U.S. military, by the way, has put a plaque on that bridge in honor of those security guards.

And so congratulations are in order to the Navy SEALs who captured the mastermind behind this ambush and the murder of these four Americans. We should be celebrating this achievement, and these Navy SEALs should be getting medals for their work doing what we've asked them to do. But that's not what is happening, Mr. Speaker. The military has decided to court-martial the Navy SEALs. It seems that this terrorist, Abed, claimed that he was punched in the mouth by the Navy SEALs, and he wants justice. He wants American justice.

You know, it's the same mouth that preaches hate in the name of religion, the same mouth that demands death to America, the same big mouth that ordered the murder of the four Americans. So the SEALs must answer to this accusation by a terrorist that they captured. After all, the terrorist must have some of that American justice. Next thing we know, we'll be giving these terrorists on the battlefield their Miranda warnings. Oh, we already do that.

Well, then after that, they're going to want to be tried in civilian courts in the United States. But we're already doing that as well. Have we gone a bit too far with the kid glove treatment that we treat these madmen, these terrorists, these people who kill Americans?

The nation is at war, Mr. Speaker. You know, punching occurs in war.

Shooting also occurs in war. Instead of a court-martial, the SEALs should be dispatched to go and capture another terrorist. But that's not happening. They are going to be court-martialed because some terrorist supposedly got a bruised mouth.

The SEALs in question are Matthew McCabe, he's a special operations petty officer second class; Petty Officer Jonathan Keefe; and Petty Officer Julio Huertas. They are going to be court-martialed because some terrorist alleges they got punched in the mouth.

It's ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the SEALs will be arraigned next Monday, December 7. December 7, everybody in the United States Navy remembers that day. See, it's been 68 years since the Navy and America was attacked on December the 7th at Pearl Harbor. And now these individuals, ironically, will be arraigned that day.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine someone in World War II, a soldier, a marine, somebody in the United States Navy, being tried for punching an enemy combatant in the mouth during World War II? You know, we should be commending the Navy SEALs for doing the job that we've asked them to do. They're the best that we have in this country. We've asked them to do tough assignments, and we should be supporting them. The terrorists ought to be on trial for murdering Americans. And the Navy SEALs ought to be getting medals for doing what we have asked them to do. And I say congratulations to the Navy SEALs for a job well done.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

TRANSPARENCY AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke does not want us to know any the details of the Fed's secret operations. This position is not surprising and has been typical of all central bank chairmen. Bernanke's stated goal is "to design a system of financial oversight that will provide a robust framework for preventing future crises."

During its 96 years of existence, the Federal Reserve has played havoc with