

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, February is African American History Month, and I rise to pay tribute to some of the outstanding individuals in the community that I live and represent for the tremendous services that they have provided.

□ 1945

I take a great deal of pride in the fact that I represent what I like to call 11 of the most activated communities in America. As a matter of fact, I have 35 advisory groups who advise me on everything that there is pretty much to be advised on.

But two of the chairs I'd like to point out are the education chair, Dr. Lurrerta Hurt, who developed an extensive community education program and approach; and, of course, she put on a great black history program at the Greater Gallery Baptist Church 2 weeks ago. I also would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of Ms. Anetta Wilson, who chaired our Child Welfare Advisory Group. And she and her organization just opened last week an intergenerational living facility that will house 54 families of grandparents, grandchildren, young children, older adult, where grandparents and grandchildren can live in the same environment and interact with each other.

I also want to commend Reverend Walter Bauldrich, and the Coppin A.M.E. Church because on the other side of my district in what we call the south side—I mean, we divide Chicago up into sides and areas. Anetta Wilson opened hers on the west side. But the other part of my district, which happens to be one of the most diverse in America, is on the south side. And Coppin A.M.E. Church opened a 74-unit development for the same purpose, intergenerational living.

So when I talk about the high level of activism, and especially in the last few weeks around just the whole question of the celebration of African American history, I was fortunate to spend part of yesterday at the Ascension Catholic Church in Oak Park, Illinois, for their African American history celebration; at the Herman Avenue Baptist Church in downtown Chicago yesterday afternoon for their African American history; then, of course, yesterday the Village of Bellwood had their large celebration that they do every year.

Much of the focus of some of these celebrations has been taking a look at the Reconstruction Period in history, which is a period that many people, quite frankly, don't know much about. For example, there are African Americans who don't know that there were 22 Members of Congress during the Reconstruction Period who were African American—that is before 1900. During the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s, there were 20 Members of the House. There were two Members of the Senate.

And of course, there was another Member from Louisiana who was elect-

ed to both the House and the Senate, P.B.S. Pinchback, but was never seated. As a matter of fact, Governor Pinchback was actually the Governor of Louisiana during this period. He didn't serve that long, but nevertheless, he was the governor.

So history becomes the melding together of many thoughts, ideas, actions not of one group of people but of all of the groupings of people who have come to this Nation seeking a better life, seeking something that they did not have. And the fact that America has become the most diverse country is a tribute to all of us.

So as we celebrate African American history, we celebrate the history of America.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MOVING FROM ENERGY INSECURITY TO ENERGY SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. ING-LIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, just before the President's Day recess, I stood on this floor and talked about the national security risk we're running with our energy insecurity. Tonight, I'd like to talk about the economic opportunity that's present in moving from energy insecurity to energy security.

You know, I'm on the Science Committee, and in the Science Committee, we get to see a lot of new technology. The question of the hour really is how to get that technology to the market, how to do for energy what Microsoft and Apple did for the PC and the Internet; how do we get from here, from ideas, to jobs.

Well, I happen to think that this is a place where folks on my side of the aisle, Republicans, can be particularly helpful because what we realize is some market distortions, and the impact of those market distortions, on bringing products to market.

So the market distortion I'm particularly interested in talking about tonight comes from the fact that certain negative costs associated with the incumbent technologies, especially petroleum, aren't attached to that product. As a result, we drive around in our cars unaware of the extra costs that are really associated, properly associated with a gallon of gas.

So, for example, it's a huge national security risk associated with buying gasoline. Gasoline right now in my district is costing about \$1.70 a gallon. But that doesn't factor in the cost of operations in places like Iraq. It doesn't factor in the risk of future operations in the Middle East. And, of course, it also doesn't factor in the environmental consequences of that \$1.70 worth of gasoline.

So what would happen if you had what economists call internalize the externals. What if you attached to the price of that gallon of gasoline those externalities, those costs that are cur-

rently unrecognized? Well, that's really the key to moving technology from the lab into the showroom. Because right now, it's there in the lab; we know a lot of things will work.

But it doesn't really compete with the incumbent technology because the incumbent technology—gasoline in this case, talking about transportation fuels—it gets a big freebie or two. It gets us subsidizing their business in the form of national security expenditures, and it gets us winking and disregarding the environmental consequences associated with that gallon of gasoline.

If those externalities were internalized to that price of gasoline, of course the price of gas would rise; but the other technologies that are out there that are ready to take out that incumbent technology and reduce our national security risk and to create these new jobs would become viable.

And, of course, in this economic downturn, we're looking for all of the ideas we can find about how to re-employ Americans, how to get our economy going. And what I'm hoping, Mr. Speaker, is that we see a tremendous opportunity in energy.

Our insecurity in energy can become energy security when we internalize the externals associated with the incumbent technologies and make it so the market doesn't have this distortion any longer. This is a strength that I think that people who understand markets can deliver to this process. I hope the Obama administration is going to listen to those ideas because together, we can solve this problem and we can reach an American solution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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.)

THE FALLEN HERO COMMEMORATION ACT

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. Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of our Nation, members of the United States Armed Forces have given their lives to secure and protect the freedoms America enjoys today. Today U.S. servicemembers are serving our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and many other parts of the world. Without a loved one serving in our military, it is all too possible for Americans to overlook the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made by the men and women of the armed services.

It is for this reason that I have introduced H.R. 269, the Fallen Hero Commemoration Act. This legislation

would require the Department of Defense to permit media coverage when the remains of troops who had died in active duty arrive at military installations in the United States.

Currently, the Department of Defense does not, does not permit arrival ceremonies for or media coverage of deceased military personnel returning or departing from United States military installations. This ban on media coverage has been in place since the Persian Gulf War in 1991. However, earlier this month President Obama announced that he had ordered a review of this policy, and the Pentagon is expected to complete its review soon.

While I welcome a decision by the current administration to repeal this ban on media coverage, enacting the Fallen Hero Commemoration Act would ensure by statute that our Nation properly commemorates the service of our fallen heroes now and in the years to come.

If this legislation is enacted, the privacy of military families would be protected. Private memorial services would remain private and only credentialed media, as approved by the Department of Defense, would be permitted to cover the arrival of fallen heroes at U.S. military installations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record two letters I have received in support of the Fallen Hero Commemoration Act.

One letter is an endorsement from the American Society of News Editors, and the other is from the National Press Photographers Association.

As Mickey Osterreicher, father of a newly commissioned Air Force second lieutenant and general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association, wrote in a letter that is submitted—and I would like to read just a paragraph. “It is one thing for a family to request that we not cover a private event it is another for the military to impose a total ban.”

This legislation would not only honor those who have given their lives in defense of our Nation, but also uphold the freedoms for which they gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I hope that my colleagues here on the House floor will look seriously at H.R. 269 so that we may properly commemorate the sacrifices made by the United States servicemembers. And, Mr. Speaker, I have signed well over 8,000 letters to families and extended families who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq.

So I want to close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform; ask God to please bless the families who have given a loved one in Afghanistan and Iraq; and I ask God to please, three times, God please continue to bless America; please, God, continue to bless America; please, God, continue to bless America.

NATIONAL PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS
ASSOCIATION, INC., THE SOCIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTO-
JOURNALISTS,

Durham, NC, January 12, 2009.

Hon. WALTER JONES,
*Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: As general counsel for the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) I would like to thank you for your introduction of H.R. 269, the “Fallen Hero Commemoration Act.” It is my understanding that this legislation would direct the “Secretary of Defense to grant access to accredited members of the media when the remains of members of the Armed Forces arrive at military installations in the United States.”

The NPPA represents almost 10,000 still and video photojournalists throughout the United States. As such we are very aware that the Department of Defense currently prohibits media coverage of these solemn ceremonies. Throughout our history photojournalists have documented every aspect of human endeavor from triumphs to tragedies. It is unfortunate that war often times creates the most compelling images. From Matthew Brady’s graphic photos of Civil War battlefields to Joe Rosenthal’s raising of the American Flag on Iwo Jima news photographers have risked (and all too often lost) their lives to capture these moments so that the public may be informed of these newsworthy events. A free, robust and unfettered press is as much a part of our history and culture as is the Constitution and the three branches of government.

To deny media coverage of the return of our fallen heroes is a brazen attempt by the military to deny history. While our government tries to bring liberty and democracy to all corners of the world it lately seems to have forgotten that those freedoms are no less important at home. As a former photojournalist for over thirty years and the father of a newly commissioned 2nd Lt. in the USAF training to one day fly A-10’s I can state unequivocally that my colleagues mean no disrespect to the uniform or the families when we cover these moving events. Quite the opposite is true—as photojournalists try to honestly and accurately depict these moments for all to see. It is one thing for a family to request that we not cover a private event it is another for the military to impose a total ban.

We agree that by once again permitting access to accredited members of the media at the arrival of the remains of fallen service members at U.S. military installations, this legislation would not only honor those who have given their lives in defense of our Nation but also uphold the freedoms for which they gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Please feel free to contact me should you need anything further. In the past members of NPPA have testified at hearings on a number of issues related to photojournalism and we would be more than happy to do so again should the need arise.

Very truly yours,

MICKEY H. OSTERREICHER,
General Counsel.

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
NEWSPAPER EDITORS,
Reston, VA, January 13, 2009.

Hon. WALTER JONES,
*House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. JONES: The American Society of Newspaper Editors thanks you for reintroducing the Fallen Hero Commemoration Act as HR 269. This legislation addresses an important issue in a manner that protects constitutional ideals that have been neglected

far too often in recent years. We hope that this early introduction will allow us to get a fast start on moving this legislation toward eventual enactment.

ASNE is a professional organization of directing editors of daily newspaper in the Americas. The purposes of the Society include assisting journalists and providing an unfettered and effective press in the service of the American people. H.R. 269 is an example of legislation that advances our organization’s goals, and we are happy to endorse this legislation and offer any support and assistance you may need in obtaining its passage.

The issue of photographing military repatriation ceremonies is clearly a controversial one. We agree that the families who must sadly endure the repatriation and burial of a loved one have a right to their privacy and that these ceremonies and those they honor demand the utmost dignity and solemnity. But banning accredited media from these events dishonors the sacrifices these valiant men and women have made for their country and the ideals they swore to uphold.

The First Amendment demands that the government refrain from abridging freedom of the press in even the most controversial of debates. The “Findings” portion of H.R. 269 demonstrates how the Department of Defense has lost sight of this fundamental freedom by bending rules regarding press coverage to serve its own purposes, allowing access when publicity serves the government’s needs while disallowing access—even if the family itself expresses a willingness or desire for media coverage—when it believes that photography or other coverage would highlight the negative aspects of war.

This bill strongly supports freedom of speech and of the press. It will replace the censorship and staged media events that disrespect the freedom our fallen soldiers defended with the editorial independence necessary in a democracy. Openness is the best way to honor those who serve our country and their families. ASNE members understand that editorial independence is worthy only if practiced responsibly and respectfully. Newspaper editors and those they oversee are people first and have shown time and again sensitivity to grieving families. This bill will not change that mindset, though we do hope you reconsider the decision to remove access to commemoration ceremonies and memorial services from the bill. Press access to these events is necessary to provide the public with the complete story about a soldier’s commitment to defend his or his country; we maintain that coverage will not detract from the solemnity of the proceedings or unduly invade the privacy of the families involved.

We again thank you for reintroducing the Fallen Hero Commemoration Act. We hope that this issue receives full consideration by the 111th Congress including, specifically, early hearings in the Committee on Armed Services, as which point the need for access to commemoration ceremonies and memorial services, in addition to repatriation ceremonies, can be discussed in full. We look forward to participating in that process.

Sincerely,

CHARLOTTE HALL, *President, ASNE,
Senior Vice President/Editor,
The Orlando Sentinel.*

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

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