

REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF  
NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS  
AND IRANIAN SANCTIONS**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the grave threat posed to the stability of the Middle East if the Iranian regime were to acquire or develop nuclear weapons technology.

In June, CIA Director Leon Panetta speculated that Iran probably has enough low-enriched uranium for two nuclear weapons. The silver lining, if there is one, is that according to Panetta we likely have sometime before they would be able to build weapons with this material. I firmly support the Administration's effort to use this limited time to press Iran in every way available to deter them from attaining a nuclear capability. It is important that the President have strong tools to enforce this effort, which is why I co-sponsored the Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act, which was signed into law on July 1, 2010. These sanctions have also been backed by the European Union.

Last week, in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Stuart Levey, the Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, said U.S. and international sanctions are "dramatically isolating Iran financially and commercially." He was optimistic that this "can and will create leverage for our diplomacy." By targeting Iran's import of refined petroleum and its banking industries, these sanctions are putting a squeeze on the regime and hopefully will ultimately discourage any illicit activity.

As Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I know all too well the seriousness of the nuclear weapons business. While these weapons cannot be put "back in their bottle," responsible nations with this technology can work to stop those who seek to acquire them in order to hold the world and their neighbors hostage. I commend President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and my predecessor and friend Ellen Tauscher on making non-proliferation a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, and I hope the world community will join us in prioritizing non-proliferation and maintaining pressure on Iran as one critical step towards this goal.

NET ARMOR MADE IN FRANKLIN,  
MA SAVES LIVES IN AFGHANISTAN**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a message I received last week from Technology Solutions Group—LAST Armor, a manufacturing company in Franklin, Massachusetts, and a production facility of QinetiQ-NA (QNA). This company keeps good jobs in Franklin—but

more importantly, Mr. Speaker, they save lives in Afghanistan.

The Franklin facility produces what is called "net armor" to protect a wide range of vehicles that transport our soldiers on missions in Afghanistan. This net design was developed jointly by QNA, DARPA and ONR. Easy to use, these QNA nets provide many types of vehicles with 360-degree protection, including overhead, from rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). This ultra-lightweight, low-cost and easily adaptable protection will even defeat multiple RPG hits.

Earlier this year, I toured the Franklin facility. I had the opportunity to talk with the workers and plant managers, and I saw the net armor they were manufacturing. I heard the enthusiasm and pride they had in their work, and I tried to imagine how the light-weight nets that I held could possibly stop a rocket-launched grenade.

And then last Thursday, I received a note from the company. It was a story that appeared September 22nd in an online newsletter from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It's written by U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant R.J. Peek, who is with the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. His story is filed from Ghazni Province in Afghanistan, and he talks about how his platoon was ambushed and his truck, covered with the new net armor, had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and not one penetrated the truck. He finishes his story with the following quote, "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight" because the QNA nets did exactly what they were supposed to do.

Madam Speaker, I hope all the workers at the Franklin facility have seen this report from the field. We are proud of the courage and sacrifice of our uniformed men and women in Afghanistan. But we are equally as proud of the men and women in Franklin, Massachusetts whose labor helps save the lives of our troops each and every day.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD 1st Lieutenant Peek's story, so that all my colleagues can appreciate his candor and the description of what his platoon faces every day, and how the QNA nets are making a difference.

[From Clarksville Online, September 22, 2010]

(By U.S. Army 1st Lt. R.J. Peek, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division)

GHAZNI PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN.—When 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry began using new mine-resistant, ambush-protected all-terrain vehicles, they also made the switch from bar cage armor to net armor.

When the first few trucks moved into circulation with the net armor, many Soldiers were concerned about its effectiveness, but the nets were combat tested September 19th, and Soldiers approved.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew Ward from Herndon, VA, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, confessed he was skeptical about the nets. "I just didn't think the thin net would be able to safeguard the vehicle and the Soldiers from a rocket-propelled grenade."

While conducting a patrol along a highly traveled road in eastern Ghazni, insurgents initiated an ambush from close range. Less than 100 meters away, insurgents fired a volley of RPG rounds, followed by a series of machine gun fire and then another RPG.

The Soldiers of 2nd Plt., B Co. returned fire and moved their trucks forward out of the ambush. From their new position, the Soldiers continued to fire, forcing the enemy to break off the attack and flee. What amazed the Soldiers, and the leaders, was the trucks had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and none had penetrated the trucks.

"The worst effect of the insurgents' RPG fire was that I got my bell rung a bit," said U.S. Army Pfc. Joseph Sweat from Smithville, Tennessee. Sweat was driving one of the trucks that was hit. "The RPGs detonated at the nets, failing to penetrate the vehicle's armor," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cameron Erisman from Hiram, GA.

"It turns out, the nets did exactly as advertised they would do," added Ward. "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight."

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAM VET-  
ERANS OF AMERICA—READING,  
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2010*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on September 24th, 2010, in Reading, Pennsylvania, a ceremony marked the 22nd anniversary of that proud community's Vietnam Memorial. It is my personal honor to join the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Reading, PA Chapter in celebrating that event. The author Myra MacPherson wrote that "above all, Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America." When called, many young Americans went abroad to fight for our Nation—just as their fathers did before them. Sadly, the sacrifices they made in Southeast Asia were not reciprocated by our government or the American public. They returned to a nation wracked by recession and without the medical care, counseling, educational opportunities or public support they deserved.

That outrageous neglect persisted for over thirty years as a grossly underfunded Department of Veterans Affairs was unable to meet their needs. As a result, courageous men and women suffered alone for years with the debilitating illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other physical and emotional maladies unique to that war. The fight to right those wrongs was led by the VVA, and as the senior most veteran ever elected to the House of Representatives, it has been my solemn duty in Congress to see that our Vietnam veterans receive the recognition and resources that belatedly fulfill our obligation to them and their families for their service to a now grateful Nation.

The 110th and 111th Congresses have worked very hard in that regard but more needs to be done. Madam Speaker, I ask that this chamber pause to acknowledge the patriotism, courage, and fraternity of the VVA and salute every veteran of the Vietnam War. With our nation again at war, let us continue our work to finally, fully support veterans of all conflicts. And let us pledge to never again abandon a generation of brave American warriors.

IN GRATITUDE TO CHRISTIAN  
SHREWSBURY

## HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a brave young boy in my district, Christian Shrewsbury.

At just one year old, Christian is battling Spinal Muscular Atrophy II, a motor neuron disease, which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control and swallowing. It is a relatively common "rare disorder": approximately one in 6,000 babies born are affected, and about one in 40 people are genetic carriers.

Though there is currently no cure or treatment for SMA, I am profoundly inspired by the courage exhibited by Christian and his family each day.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend our sincerest gratitude to Christian, for his spirit and the encouragement he provides to other young children and for the joy he brings to all around him.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE  
WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE  
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3619, COAST  
GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF  
2010

SPEECH OF

## HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1665, which provides for concurrence by the House in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3619, with amendments.

The Coast Guard reauthorization before us is the product of four years of work. I commend Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership and Ranking Members MICA and LOBIONDO on the Transportation Committee for working so closely with us.

I also thank Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING of the Homeland Security Committee—and I thank all of our Senate counterparts for their commitment to completing this authorization.

I have often described the Coast Guard as our "thin blue line" at sea. That line has rarely been stretched as thin as it was this past year as the service responded to the Gulf oil spill and the earthquake in Haiti while carrying out its other daily missions.

H.R. 3619 authorizes \$10.2 billion in fiscal year 2011 for the Coast Guard and increases the authorized end-strength for military personnel by 1,500 members to 47,000 total personnel.

This is a small down-payment on what we owe our Coast Guardsmen and women—and it is long overdue.

This legislation also includes a number of finely tuned provisions strengthening the Coast Guard's implementation and management of its many missions.

Title IV of this legislation, which includes provisions I authored and that previously passed the House as H.R. 1665, will modernize the Coast Guard's management of its billion dollar annual acquisition program by imposing requirements that complement reforms the Coast Guard has already enacted and ensure full accountability for taxpayer funds.

Specifically, Title IV will require the appointment of a chief acquisition officer who can be a senior military officer or member of the senior executive service but who must be a trained acquisition professional with the highest available acquisition certification.

It will also eliminate the use of private sector lead systems integrators and require the Coast Guard to develop independent life-cycle cost estimates for its largest procurements.

Further, Title IV requires the Coast Guard to complete a thorough mission needs analysis and a preliminary affordability assessment before initiating a large acquisition; it requires the Coast Guard to consider trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance when establishing operational requirements; and it requires thorough testing of new assets.

Finally, this legislation applies strict cost and schedule breach standards to Coast Guard acquisitions so that Congress will be alerted when cost overruns or schedule delays occur.

H.R. 3619 will also reorganize the service's senior leadership, strengthen its marine safety program, establish safety equipment and construction standards for certain fishing vessels, and strengthen the service's homeland security missions.

I am disappointed that a number of provisions in the House-passed legislation were dropped in the final bill, including provisions I authored that would have created a student loan program for maritime workers and provisions strengthening diversity at the Coast Guard Academy.

I will continue to work on these critical issues, including working to move legislation that I believe addresses significant current challenges.

That said, H.R. 3619 is an urgently needed authorization for the Coast Guard and I urge its passage in the House today.

Finally, I also join Chairman OBERSTAR in commending the outstanding service of the Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, John Cullather.

John is one of the true professionals on the Hill—and he will be sorely missed.

His knowledge of maritime issues and of the history and missions of the Coast Guard is truly unparalleled—as is his knowledge of House procedures and his passion of service to those who work, travel, and recreate on our nation's waterways.

John is also an exceptional man—a profoundly generous and caring individual who has the respect of every single person on the Transportation Committee and of everyone throughout our maritime industry.

I wish John the very best as he begins his new adventures.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD GILDEA

## HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Harold Gildea, a World War II Army veteran from Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors our Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Harold Gildea was recognized on Tuesday, September 28. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: HAROLD GILDEA

(By: Greg Eckstrom)

Harold Gildea, a Luther native and World War II veteran, has had a varied military experience.

During his time in the service, he's escorted General George S. Patton, had a chance meeting with a prisoner of war overseas from Boxholm, saw the end of World War II and helped guard a boat full of beer.

Typical? Not really, but what was in World War II?

Gildea was born in Luther, a town his family had lived in for 150 years. After graduating from Luther High School, he signed up for the draft on Feb. 16, 1942 and was drafted after graduation. By September of 1942, he was processed at Camp Dodge and sent to Missouri to become a Military Policeman with the 211th Military Police in the Army.

"I don't know how come, but I was chosen to be in this military police company in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.," he said . . . a decision that he considered lucky, "in a way."

After training, Gildea was met with an assignment that was far from normal. He was sent to California at the end of May to help accompany Gen. Patton across the Mojave Desert. While the assignment was an honor, it was hot, to say the least.

"He'd run these tanks through an intersection, and our men would be there to direct him," Gildea said. "You could only stand out in the intersection about 30 minutes and your feet would start to scald. We'd have to have men in there to keep changing. Those tanks, the dust would be 8 to 10 inches deep, and that hot sun's over 120 degrees."

From California, he was sent to southern New Guinea to relieve MP's in the area. The fourth morning he was there, Gildea was at breakfast when he spotted a soldier that looked familiar.

"I don't know why I put it like I did, but I said, 'Would you know any of the McFarlands from Madrid?'" Gildea said. "He just sat there and stared at me. He said, 'I am one.'"

The chance encounter overseas with a fellow Boone County native was interesting—almost as interesting as Gildea's next assignment. He had been in southern New Guinea for only two weeks when he was put on guard duty . . . keeping watch over interesting cargo.

"We'd been there probably about two weeks and some ships come in, and they assigned us to guard this one ship," he said. "When we got down there it was loaded with beer. A whole ship loaded with beer. Well, [Gen. Douglas] McArthur wouldn't let them have it, so they assigned us as duty to guard that beer to make sure it stayed there."