

But this matter could have and should have been handled better.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution before us.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State University, Fresno as it celebrates its one hundred-year anniversary.

Beginning in 1911 as a small teachers college, Fresno State has built a reputation for its academic standards as well as its athletic achievements. Located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno State has played an important role in the history of the valley, including making it the most productive agricultural region in the world.

Fresno State is one of the few universities in the country to have an on-campus diversified farm of over 1,000 acres. The campus was also the first in the country fully licensed to produce, bottle, and sell wine.

Home to the largest library in the California State University System, Fresno State has educated innovative professionals in everything from winemaking to nursing to liberal arts. The extensive range of degrees offered by the college mirrors the diversity of the valley.

In addition to outstanding academic standards, Fresno State has gained a reputation for its championship-winning athletic program. This includes the Bulldogs baseball team winning the 2008 College World Series.

From its beginnings as the Fresno Normal School, Fresno State has become one of the leading academic institutions in the San Joaquin Valley. I am proud to have the Fresno State campus in my district and congratulate past and present students, teachers, and administrators for 100 years of success.

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS (DREAM) ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act.

This legislation provides minors who were brought to the U.S. as children a path to legal status, and eventually citizenship. To qualify for conditional status for five years, an individual must be 29 years old or younger, have lived in the U.S. for 5 years prior to enactment, graduate from an American high school, and meet numerous other requirements. After five years, an individual may apply for an additional five years of conditional status only if they have completed at least two years of post-secondary education or served two years

in the U.S. Armed Forces. Following this second five year period, a person that has continued to meet the conditions of this bill would be able to file for legal permanent status. Only, after three years in this status, 13 years total, would a person be eligible to apply for citizenship.

Contrary to the rhetoric on the other side, the DREAM Act is anything but amnesty. Instead, this bill is a bipartisan acknowledgement that a significant number of children currently live in this country with no legal status and no avenue to gain legal status. Without this legislation, we are essentially telling individuals who have grown up here, assimilated to our culture, and obtained a high school education that the only home for them is in another country. That is both wrong and counterproductive.

Those that would be eligible under this legislation are motivated, smart young people who want nothing more than to utilize their skills and education here in America by going to college or serving in the Armed Forces. Not only is the passage of this bill the right thing to do, but it would be foolish for a country whose economic prosperity depends upon an educated workforce to let these young people take their talents abroad.

The DREAM Act provides young people who have done nothing wrong the opportunity to come out of the shadows, build a life in America, and contribute to the prosperity of our nation.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, due to severe weather which delayed my return to Washington, D.C., I was unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall votes 628, 629 and 630. Had I been present I would have voted: yea on rollcall vote 628; nay on rollcall vote 629; and yea on rollcall vote 630.

GERRY HOUSE

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Gerry House on the occasion of his retirement from WSIX radio and the end of his famous radio show, Gerry House and the House Foundation. Mr. House is an award-winning American radio personality, talented songwriter, stand-up comic and an outstanding Tennessean.

The king of morning radio in Nashville, Gerry has kept listeners company in their cars, offices and homes for three decades. He will be the first-ever country music DJ to join other American radio and television luminaries in the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Gerry is truly engaged in all levels of the music industry. He has written songs for leg-

ends like George Strait, Reba McEntire, LeAnn Rimes, Brad Paisley, Randy Travis, and the Oak Ridge Boys. A savvy businessman, Mr. House also operates a music publishing company, House Notes, which owns the songs he has written.

The sustained excellence of Gerry House and the House Foundation has been recognized by virtually every respected country music and radio association in the United States. It has received three awards from the Country Music Association, seven from the Academy of Country Music, eight Billboard Awards, and nine R&B awards. Gerry is also the recipient of the NAB Marconi Radio Award for Large Market Air Personality of the Year.

Gerry cited his desire to devote more of his time to other projects as his reason for retiring. His loyal fans are eagerly waiting to see what these projects will turn out to be because we all want more of Gerry.

And so, Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Gerry's leadership and accomplishments. The people of Nashville and Middle Tennessee are grateful for Gerry waking us up in the morning in such an enjoyable way. It's hard to make a long commute fun, but Gerry House did it for 30 years.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL REPEAL ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy.

Enacted in 1993, DADT was billed as a compromise that would allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country in the Armed Forces without harming military effectiveness or violating privacy rights. After over 15 years of experience, it is clear this policy is a failure.

Over 14,000 service members have been discharged under DADT, including more than 800 mission-critical troops and dozens of Arabic and Farsi linguists. A Government Accountability Office report and independent studies have estimated the cost of this policy, in lost recruitment and training costs, at over \$350 million. Yet, from 2003–2007, the military lowered medical, conduct, and education standards significantly in order to meet recruitment goals. Serious misdemeanors and felony conviction waivers increased from 5,000 to over 10,000, including 3 soldiers who had been convicted of manslaughter, 11 convicted of arson, 142 convicted of burglary, and 7 convicted of rape or sexual assault. Discharging qualified gay soldiers while simultaneously lowering the enlistment standards for others weakens our military.

DADT also offends the values of our country, discriminating against some individuals based upon an innate characteristic that has no bearing on the ability to serve honorably in the military. Currently, 24 other nations allow openly gay service, including Australia, Israel, Great Britain and Canada. Numerous studies have found no adverse effect on enrollment or retention in any of these countries. On the

other hand, nations like Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran all ban gay service. I believe the interests of the U.S. are best served by following the lead of other democratic nations, our allies, rather than the policies of the most oppressive regimes in the world.

Study after study has shown that open service does not affect military readiness or unit cohesion. In the recently released Department of Defense review, 70 percent of service members responded that repeal would not have a negative effect on the military. Of those who had actually served alongside someone who they thought to be gay, 92 percent of respondents said that it did not have an impact on unit cohesion. Repeal is also strongly supported by the American public, with a recent Washington Post poll showing 77 percent of the public supports open military service. It is clear our Nation and our military is ready for this change.

The most urgent reason for repeal, however, is that DADT places honorable young men and women in the decidedly dishonorable position of lying about who they are in order to serve. It is unconscionable that we would continue to make the lives of soldiers, many of whom face daily threats to their lives, more difficult by placing upon them the burden of lying about their sexual orientation.

Earlier this year, I read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an email from a current service member who happens to be gay. He shared how he and his partner of 10 years managed the stress and hardship that comes with 3 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite their shared sacrifices, his partner receives no official support from the military, would not be the first to be informed of his death, and cannot make emergency decisions. While serving in active duty, he was aware of several other soldiers who were gay. In one case, he didn't know a friend was gay until after he died of wounds from an IED and received a letter from the deceased soldier's partner expressing how much he had loved the Army and the sense of family he felt among his fellow soldiers. These are the real victims of DADT.

No one should have to lie in order to serve, but that is what current policy requires for the estimated 65,000 gay and lesbian Americans currently in the military. The time for debate, and procrastination, and procedural stalling tactics is over. The choice today is clear: continue to stand beside a harmful and discriminatory policy that the American public and our Nation's military leaders do not support or vote to repeal it.

I encourage my colleagues to do the right thing—support this legislation, and finally put an end to the era of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

STANDING WITH OUR ALLY SOUTH KOREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened and outraged by North Korea's recent attack on Yeonpyeong island which killed four South Koreans and wounded 20. Officials estimated that the North had fired roughly 200 artillery shells onto Yeonpyeong. The Novem-

ber 23 attack was the first on civilian-populated areas since the Korean War.

This is just the latest provocation on the part of Pyongyang—a regime infamous for its deplorable human rights record and Soviet style gulags.

Recently North Korea showed Dr. Siegfried Hecker, the former head of the U.S. Los Alamos National Laboratory, a new modern uranium enrichment facility with 2,000 centrifuges. The North Koreans claimed it is producing low enriched uranium destined for fuel for a new light-water nuclear reactor. According to the Congressional Research Service, "Although Dr. Hecker has said that the centrifuge plant and the new reactor appear to be designed primarily for civilian nuclear power, the uranium facilities could also be used to produce fissile material suitable for nuclear weapons."

These are deeply troubling developments. During this time of heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula we must actively work with our long-term ally South Korea to ensure a lasting peace in the region and continue to expose the true nature of the North Korea regime which the international community can no longer deny.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1765, a resolution supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and condemning unilateral declarations of a Palestinian state.

As a co-chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman HOWARD BERMAN, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

I have been to Israel and the West Bank on numerous occasions. I can personally vouch for the yearning of the people of Israel and the Palestinian territories to come to a peaceful settlement that will end decades of discord and violence.

A negotiated two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians is the underpinning of the peace process. It is the official policy of the U.S. Government, the Israeli Government and of the Palestinian Authority.

Only through direct negotiations can difficult compromises be reached on core issues like borders, water, refugees, the status of Jerusalem, and security.

Unfortunately, Palestinian leaders are pursuing a coordinated strategy to bypass the negotiations process to seek recognition of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state by the United Nations and other international forums.

Recently, the governments of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay unilaterally recognized the State of Palestine upon request from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Unilateral declarations of statehood will not eliminate the sources of the conflict. Rather, they undermine the peace process and endanger the safety and security of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

This country and this Congress remain the largest grantor of assistance to help the Pales-

tinian Authority build the political, economic and social infrastructure to support a future state. The unilateral statehood effort will undermine the ability of the United States to continue playing a constructive role.

I call upon my colleagues to vote in support of the peace process, of a secure Israel and viable, democratic Palestinian state and in favor of this resolution.

BROTHER . . . BROTHER . . . COMBAT MEDIC SPC JEROD HEALTH OSBORNE, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American family, and a fallen hero and his brother. On July 5, 2010, Combat Medic SPC Jerod Heath Osborne of Royce, Texas of the 4/73 82nd Airborne, died during an IED explosion in Afghanistan. In his short life he was a combat medic, an Angel on the Battlefield, the ones who rush in while all around the face of hell is going on. The lives that he has saved in his brief but great life will be measured in the future, with children and heroes that he has saved. His brother, a SSG in the 22nd Infantry, on September 21 of that same year almost died in a mortar attack and is currently fighting to save his leg. This family, throughout the generations, has served our nation in the Armed Forces. The very bed of our Nation's freedom is built upon selfless families, our prayers and thoughts go out to them. SSG Grillet has said that his brother Jerod always wanted to be just like him, but now he wants to be like his brother.

Brother . . . Brother . . .

Brother . . . Brother . . .

My . . .

My Brother's Gift . . .

So very precious, as was this . . .

My Brother's Faith, shall forever so wave

My Brothers life, one of such so sure selfless sacrifice . . .

All in his amazing grace . . .

My Brothers life, so very short . . . yet shines so bright!

Moments, are all we have!

To grab hearts, To Make A Difference . . . to Heaven rise!

As an Angel on The Battlefield . . .

As into the face of death Jerod, you so ran . . . and not to yield. . . .

To but so save sacred life, as was your mission . . . as was his most divine light! From dusk to dawn, as a battlefield combat medic your courage worn!

As all around you Jerod, the face of death so swarmed!

And what child may be born?

All from your love Jerod, upon battlefields of honor adorned!

That might so save the world, who now lives

on . . .

And all those lives you saved, just moments from the grave . . .

And what children, all on this morning will awake?

With but the greatest gift of all, in their hearts to take!

With a Mother or Father, a Sister or Brother whose fine lives you saved . . .

Brother . . . Brother, oh how it's for you I cry!