

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution that would require the President to precipitously withdraw American troops from Afghanistan by December 31, 2010. While I welcome today's robust debate on such a critical issue, there can be no doubt that abandoning Afghanistan and the region in this moment is against America's national interests.

I have supported America's engagement in Afghanistan since my vote in 2001 to authorize military action against those responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11th. After years of inattentiveness by the Bush Administration, President Obama inherited a deteriorated security environment in Afghanistan. General Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, completed a review in August 2009 that confirmed conditions to be rapidly declining, with the Taliban insurgency gaining ground and the allied NATO effort losing the support of the Afghan people.

Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan directly impacts the safety of our citizens, and violent extremism poses a real and significant threat to global security. For this very reason, our efforts in Afghanistan have received overwhelming international support, with over 40 nations—NATO and non-NATO alike—contributing troops.

I support President Obama's strategy to provide our service men and women with the resources they need for success, to increase the commitment of our NATO allies through renewed engagement, and to build up the Afghan security forces so that our troops can come home. This work will not be quick, nor will it be easy. Still, one thing is clear: Afghanistan cannot be allowed to once again become a sanctuary for terror and extremism.

HONORING MR. JOHN FULLER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Fuller of Long Branch, New Jersey. Mr. Fuller will be honored as the 2010 Hibernian of the Year by the Monmouth County, New Jersey Division (2nd Division) of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the organization's continued efforts to preserve Irish culture in the United States, and its efforts to provide a continuing bridge with Ireland for those individuals of Irish origin who are generations removed from their ancestral homeland.

Mr. Fuller, a first generation Irish-American, has been a dedicated member of the Monmouth County Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Div. 2) since 2003. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Commodore John Barry Committee of the AOH State Board. Furthermore, he is one of the founding

members, and a current organizer, of the Annual Sea Girt Irish Festival. This festival has grown into one of the largest Irish cultural events in the State of New Jersey. With fellow AOH members, Mr. Fuller has been actively involved with St. Ann Church in Keansburg, New Jersey. As a career public servant, Mr. Fuller has worked tirelessly for Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and other public servants across New Jersey on State and Federal issues that are important to the Irish-American community. His active participation with the Ancient Order of Hibernians—Division 2 serves to further preserve the Irish heritage in our culturally diverse State and Nation.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Assistant Commissioner Fuller for his reception of the 2010 Hibernian of the Year recognition, and also for his leadership and service to the Irish-American community.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, The Afghanistan War Powers Resolution. This resolution calls for a premature withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan, putting our service men and women and our Nation at risk. Make no mistake, we are in the midst of a very important war. We did not seek the Global War on Terror, but it is one we cannot abandon.

On September 11, 2001, we were attacked in the most horrifying way. 2,973 innocent people were killed. Nine buildings were destroyed. The Pentagon was hit and but for the bravery of the passengers of United Flight #93, our Capitol would have been destroyed as well.

This war, however, did not begin or end on that fateful day. Muslim extremists have been at war with America for years, but few people took notice until 2001.

In 1983, terrorists launched a suicide truck-bomb attack against the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 242 Americans.

In 1993, Islamic terrorists attacked the World Trade Center building in New York City, killing six people and injuring 1,000 more.

In 1998, Al-Qaeda bombed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, leaving 300 dead and injuring over 5,000 people.

In 2000, the U.S. Navy Destroyer USS *Cole* was attacked by followers of Usama bin Laden, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39.

In May 2001, just over three months before the attacks of September 11, the Muslim terrorist group Abu Sayyaf kidnapped 16 people including Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham. While some escaped, four hostages were killed including Martin. Fortunately, Gracia survived this terrifying ordeal and is now living in Rose Hill, Kansas.

On September 11, Americans awoke to the reality that we could no longer ignore the growing threat of Muslim extremists. We had a choice: either wait for the next attack, or take the fight to the terrorists. The American

people and Congress were unified in answering that we would fight terrorists before they reach American soil.

Today, the United States remains engaged in a global war against Muslim extremists. In order to protect our country, we must ensure that terrorists are not given safe haven in any nation. Most of the planning of training for the September 11, 2001 attacks took place in Afghanistan and terrorists continue to exploit vulnerabilities in Afghanistan today. Our troops have made tremendous progress in securing Afghanistan, but there is much more to do. Afghanistan needs our help to root out terrorists and ensure that terrorists no longer use their country to launch terrorist attacks around the world.

We are not naïve as to the cost of this war. Over 1,000 brave Americans have been killed in Afghanistan over the past eight years, and we mourn each one. Billions of dollars have been spent on this protracted effort. This has been a long and costly war, but it is not in vain.

The cost of this war does not negate the importance of this war. Afghanistan is the central front in the war against terror. Walking away from Afghanistan will not bring peace and security to our people. We have seen firsthand what happens when Afghanistan is a safe haven for terrorists. The consequences are too great for us to simply wait for the enemy to strike.

The question is not does this war exist? Though some are in denial, we are at war even if we do not want to be. Rather, the question is where will the battle be fought? In opposing this resolution, I vote to have that battle where every American carries a gun and wears body armor, not on the streets of Wichita.

We can not leave Afghanistan until the job is done. We owe it to the Marines killed in Lebanon, the sailors of the USS *Cole*, those murdered at the east African embassies, Martin and Gracia Burnham, all those who lost their lives on September 11, and to the troops who have died defending our freedom and security on the battlefields of the Global War on Terror. We must stay strong and finish the task at hand.

I look forward to the day when our troops come home in victory, and when our people can live in peace and security—free from the fear of a terrorist attack. But today is not that day. Today we must redouble our efforts to bring security to Afghanistan, which, in turn, will bring us one step closer to that day. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JUSTICE PETER KELLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Justice Peter Kelly, High Court Justice of Ireland, upon the occasion of his arrival to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2010.

During his studies at University College in Dublin, Ireland, Justice Peter Kelly became a member of the prestigious Honorable Society of the King's Inn. He was called to the Irish

Bar in 1973, the Bar of England and Wales in 1981, the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1983, and the Inner Bar of Ireland in 1986. Justice Kelly was appointed Judge of the High Court in 1996 and has led the Commercial Division of the High Court since its inception in 2004.

In addition to conducting a successful legal career, Justice Kelly is active in the community. He volunteers for several organizations and is a leader on numerous boards. He is the Director of the Dublin Choral Foundation and serves as Chair of the Commercial Law Centre in Dublin.

Justice Kelly comes to Cleveland on the occasion of our annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration. For thirty-one years, attorneys Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon have organized Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Party and Parade. This joyous event promotes and preserves the rich traditions of the Irish homeland. On March 17, our downtown streets will spring to life as a sea of green and the spirited sound of drums and bagpipes wind their way along Euclid Avenue.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Justice Peter Kelly as we welcome him to Cleveland on St. Patrick's Day. Please also join me in recognition of Tim Collins and Thomas Scanlon for organizing the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

"Ni dheanfaidh smaoineamh an treabhadh duit—You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind"—Old Irish Proverb.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN MAUDLIN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, John Maudlin, on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

The Circle of Excellence, which is awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards, market representation, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company. Under John's leadership, Maudlin International Trucks has grown into one of the preeminent truck dealerships in the Southeast and the entire nation, with 153 employees and five dealer locations in Orlando, Ocala, Jacksonville, Daytona Beach and Palm Bay. In 2007, the dealership also opened two parts and service locations. With this most recent award, Maudlin International has now received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of nine times.

John has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He serves the International dealer network as a member of its Sales, Marketing and Finance Dealer Advisory Board. He is a strong supporter of the Metro Orlando economy through not only his International dealership, but also his successful truck leasing business, Ideal Lease of Orlando. That leasing

business is a multi-year winner of the Ideal Gold Award for Excellence. Maudlin International Trucks is also very active in service to the community, staging the holiday party for the kids at the Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital, and engaging in annual adopt-a-family programs with the Orlando Rescue Mission and the Seminole Party Fire Department. John is also a strong supporter of the First Presbyterian Church of Orlando—as well as a die-hard University of Alabama football fan.

Through his commitment to hard work and outstanding customer service, he has built an economically vital business of which he can be justly proud. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating John Maudlin for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, State and Nation.

HONORING MR. RON STARK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ron Stark of Middletown, New Jersey. Mr. Stark will be honored as the "2010 Irishman of the Year" by the Monmouth County, New Jersey Division, 2nd Division, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the organization's continued efforts to preserve Irish culture in the United States. The Ancient Order of Hibernians works tirelessly to connect those individuals of Irish origin who are generations removed from their ancestral homeland to Ireland.

As a member of Division 2 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the past twenty years, Mr. Stark has been actively involved in preserving Irish music through his participation in various bagpiping competitions. Mr. Stark began playing the bagpipe in 1997 and has competed as a Grade 4 Senior Soloist, and with a Grade 5 band which won 4th place in a 2001 competition. This achievement helped the band receive a Grade 4 upgrade from the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. Mr. Stark has piped with fellow AOH members at various Hibernian functions over the years, and is now involved with a group of dedicated AOH members who are looking to form a Division 2 Bagpipe band. His achievements as a successful bagpiper serve to further preserve the Irish heritage in our culturally diverse state and nation.

Mr. Stark has also made great strides in bringing our Irish-American citizens closer to their ancestral homeland. During a 2004 trip to Ireland, he played the bagpipe during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Galway City with his sons, Daniel and Liam, and met with extended family members who still live on the same land where his grandfather was born. His attempts to remain connected to his ancestral homeland help to foster American-Irish cooperation, and will help preserve the presence of Irish culture in the United States, which is important to millions of Irish-American citizens.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Stark for his reception of the "2010 Irishman of the Year" recognition, and also for his lead-

ership and service to the Irish-American community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 1145, H. Res. 1170, H. Res. 1163 and H. Res. 67. I was speaking at Mahomet-Seymour High School Bulldog Pride Night at Mahomet-Seymour High School and I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on Roll Call #112 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1145, Recognizing the University of Arizona's 125 years of dedication to excellence in higher education, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on Roll Call #113 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1170, Congratulating the winners of the Voice of Democracy national scholarship program, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on Roll Call #114 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1163, Recognizing Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on Roll Call #115 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 267, Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE SCULPTURE OF HUNGARIAN STATESMAN LAJOS KOSSUTH, IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the ceremonial placing of the sculpture of Hungarian Statesman Lajos Kossuth, which occurred on March 15, 1990, in the United States Capitol Rotunda.

Lajos Kossuth is known as the Father of Hungarian Democracy. A lawyer and political columnist who was popular for his criticism of the government, he was imprisoned for his writings between 1837 and 1840. After his release, he worked to empower citizens and was a key leader during the 1848 Hungarian Revolution. Mr. Kossuth's activism on behalf of the people of Hungary resulted in the passage of the 'March Laws' that eradicated the privileges of nobles, freed the peasants, and established a legislature.

The 1990 dedication was made possible by legislation sponsored by my dear friend and colleague, the late Congressman Tom Lantos