

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
AND MARINE CORPS

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, I want to thank 370 Members of the House of Representatives for joining me in an effort to rename the Department of Navy to be the Navy and Marine Corps.

I would also like to share with the House that last Thursday was a very exciting day for this effort, the reason being that Mike Blum, a Marine Corps League executive director, was the MC at a news conference that was attended.

One of the speakers was United States Marine General Tony Zinni.

Senator PAT ROBERTS, from the Senate, introduced an identical bill to the bill H.R. 24, which 370 Members cosponsored.

Also in attendance to speak was General Al Gray, a former commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

There was a very impressive young man from Texas, Sergeant Eddie Wright, a marine veteran and Bronze Star recipient, who lost both hands in combat in Iraq in 2004. Despite his injuries, he became a Marine Corps hand-to-hand combat instructor. He later retired and is now a defense contractor. Sergeant Wright explained the importance of teamwork between the Navy and Marine Corps because he said at the news conference, if he had not had the Navy corpsman there, he would not have been living today to appear at the news conference, calling for this relationship to be publicly respected—the Navy and Marine Corps.

There also was a father, Dick Linn, whose son, Karl, was killed in Iraq in 2005.

Tracy Della Vecchia, the MarineParents.com founder and executive director, was there. Her Web site has over 130,000-plus members. It provides support for parents of marines. She also spoke on behalf of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this news conference was to announce the national spokesman. The national spokesman was also in attendance, and he spoke as well—Lee Ermey, known as the “Gunny,” a Golden Globe-nominated actor and marine veteran. Ermey is host of the History Channel’s “Mail Call” and “Lock N’ Load with R. Lee Ermey.” He is a star of major films, including “Full Metal Jacket,” “Dead Man Walking,” and “Toy Story.” Lee Ermey has become the national spokesman, and he intends to help us try to convince the Senate to accept three words: “and Marine Corps.”

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD letters from IKE SKELTON, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and also from Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED
SERVICES,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2010.

Hon. WALTER JONES,
House of Representatives, 2333 Rayburn House
Office Building, Washington DC.

DEAR WALTER: I wanted to take this opportunity to commend you on your continuing campaign to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the “Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.” Since 2001, you have worked tirelessly to bring about this change, and I am proud that, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have included it in the Chairman’s mark of the National Defense Authorization Acts of Fiscal Years 2008, 2009 and 2010. I regret, however, that the Senate has not been as receptive to your effort, and so far, we have been unable to carry this provision into a Conference Report, and then into law.

Walter, your dedication to this matter has been steadfast, and I commend your sincere desire to recognize the men and women of the United States Marine Corps in this way. Hopefully, 2010 will be different. With over 360 co-sponsors of your bill H.R. 24, this effort has real momentum behind it, and I will be pleased to support its consideration on the House Floor and, of course, again carry it as part of the Chairman’s mark of the national defense authorization bill for Fiscal Year 2011.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED
SERVICES,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2010.

Hon. WALTER B. JONES,
2333 Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN JONES: It is with great pleasure that I join you and Chairman Ike Skelton in the effort to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. For the past eight years, I have worked with you to see this become a reality. Now is the time to move forward. Through blood and sacrifice, the United States Marine Corps deserves such recognition and I hope that this year it becomes a reality.

As you are aware, the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has carried this language since 2001. However, the Senate has yet to agree to our position in order for this change to take effect. Today, more than 360 members of the House have agreed with us that this change is necessary to reflect the true role of the Marine Corps within the Department of Defense, as a coequal with the Navy. I look forward to pushing this effort with you when it reaches the House Floor in the spring as a stand-alone measure and will continue to support the language in the FY11 NDAA.

Thank you for your steadfast dedication to this effort.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON,
Ranking Member.

In the letters from the chairman and ranking member, they state that they will bring this bill to the floor sometime in April as a suspension bill, will pass it on the floor, and will send it to the Senate. Then it will be up to the Senate to do what they will. Hopefully, they will understand what Senator ROBERTS said. All we are asking for are three words: “and Marine Corps.”

Mr. Speaker, before I close, Dick Linn, who lost his son in Iraq in 2005, received condolence letters. He brought

this up. I happen to have these three posters of fallen heroes from Camp Lejeune. They are marines who have died. Mr. Linn said that he was so disappointed and that, when he received these condolence letters, he was so proud of his son, who was a marine. I’ll show you what he received.

Mr. Speaker, you can see on this letter—it’s a blowup—the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., Navy flag. Nothing. There is absolutely nothing about the Marine Corps. Yet, the young man who died and many others who have died who were also marines received the same kind of letter, and there was nothing about the Marine Corps except in the body of the letter.

If this should become law—and I hope that the Senate will see the need for this, the need to recognize the Marine Corps and to say, Thank you, Marine Corps. You are one part of the fighting team, the Navy and Marine Corps. This is what it would have said:

The Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag and the Marine flag. That’s what it should be. I want to say before I close, Mr. Speaker, that the Navy and Marine Corps are one fighting team. They should be represented in name as one fighting team, Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close, but as I always do close with my heart aching for all who have given their lives for this country in Afghanistan and in Iraq, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and for God to please bless their families.

God, please, in your loving arms, hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless this House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God.

I ask God to please bless the President. Give him wisdom and strength to do what is right for this country.

Three times, I will ask God: God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

SHAMELESS EXPLOITATIONS OF
THE FILIBUSTER

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am saddened as I rise in support and on behalf of the American people who do not believe that the fate of the Nation should be subject to the whims of just one single individual Senator.

The Senate filibuster was first used in 1837, and for more than a century, it has been used very sparingly and as a last resort. Even as recently as the 1960s, when the filibuster was used to obstruct historic civil rights legislation, it was used to block legislation in less than 10 percent of major bills, but a rule change in the 1970s opened up

the floodgates for abuse. Suddenly, by simply threatening to filibuster, a single Senator could obstruct any bill that lacked 60 votes. Today, the filibuster is the last stand of special interests and is a platform for grandstanding by obstructionist Senators.

In 2009, the Party of No, the Senate Republicans, paralyzed the country, filibustering our political process—80 percent of major legislation filibustered.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Founders of our Nation intended for the Senate to be a moderating influence on the process of legislating. So they gave Senators 6-year terms of office. At the same time, they gave House Members 2-year terms of office so that they could be closest to the will of the people. The Senate was to be the deliberative body.

George Washington is said to have argued that the Senate would cool legislation as a saucer cools hot tea. In that same spirit, James Madison explained that the Senate would be a necessary fence against the fickleness and passion of American politics. Yet the Senate no longer cools the tea of legislation. It freezes it cold—solid. It is no longer a fence against fickle passions; it is an impenetrable wall which is obstructing progress.

The prerogative of a single Senator to single-handedly block any bill is an affront to democracy. It is clear that the minority party, utterly incapable of governing effectively while in power, has decided to obstruct those of us who are here to solve problems. The filibuster is their weapon of choice. This week, we are witnessing what must surely have been one of the most shameless exploitations of the filibuster in American history.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening after witnessing this shameless exploitation with sadness in my heart, with sadness at the absurd posturing of my friend, the retiring Senator from Kentucky, who has single-handedly blocked passage of highway jobs investment, unemployment insurance, and health coverage for Americans who have lost their jobs.

□ 1945

When this Senator and when the previous administration were running this country, they threw wild pitch after wild pitch—an unnecessary \$3 trillion war; runaway spending that turned a healthy surplus into a massive deficit; massive tax cuts for the rich that were not paid for; utter mismanagement of the economy; financial crisis and devastation to Main Street America—one wild pitch after another.

So the American people went to the bullpen. They put a pitcher with better stuff on the mound. He was a lefty, but he is throwing strikes straight down the middle with speed and accuracy.

But now the Senator is looking to get back into the game, and he has thrown a beanball straight down the

throats of the American people. This week, in the midst of a deep recession, thousands of jobs have been furloughed, millions of unemployed Americans have feared the loss of their lifelines, their unemployment benefits, and construction projects ground to a halt.

All because a single, lame-duck Senator—ostracized even within his own party—wants some attention.

Well tonight I have an urgent message for the American people.

Call him. Call Senator BUNNING. Tell him Americans are suffering. Tell him Americans have no patience for his shameless games. Tell him America will not be held hostage. Tell him to be part of the solution or to get out of the way.

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

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

INDIANA HELPS ACHIEVE STATEHOOD FOR TEXAS BY ONE VOTE

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. Mr. Speaker, one of the Members that I admire the most is my good friend from Texas, Mr. POE. He is a real patriotic guy, and tonight he made a great speech on the independence of Texas. One of the things I would like to talk about real briefly is how Indiana had a hand in Texas becoming a free State, a free country.

Back when Texas was debating whether or not they should become an independent country and ultimately a State of the Union, we had a real contested election in Scott County, Indiana. The guy that was running for State representative of Scott County went around door-to-door, and he knocked on this one door and a man was in bed, he was very ill and about to die.

When he asked for this man's vote, the man said, "How do you feel about Texas being admitted to the Union?" The fellow running for State representative said, "I am for Texas being admitted to the Union." And the guy said, "I am going to vote for you."

On election day, the man was on his deathbed, and he was literally carried to the polls and he voted for the gentleman who said he was going to vote for admission of Texas to the Union, and he was elected by one vote.

He went to the State legislature and there was a great debate over who was going to be the State senator from Indiana. In those days, the State legislature decided who was going to be the Senator. The debate raged on for a long time, and it was decided that the man who was running for senator who want-

ed to admit Texas to the Union was elected by the State legislature by one vote.

He went to the United States Senate and they debated the issue of Texas being admitted to the Union for a long time, and, as my colleague just said, Texas was admitted to the Union by one vote.

So when people tell you one vote doesn't matter, I hope they will remember that Texas was admitted to the Union by one vote, as Mr. POE just talked about a few minutes ago, and the man from Indiana who was the United States senator who was for Texas being admitted to the Union, he was elected to the U.S. Senate by the Indiana legislature by one vote, and the man who was a State representative who cast the vote that put him in the United States Senate was elected in Scott County, Indiana, by one vote.

Although I wouldn't want to take credit for Texas being a part of the Union because of Indiana, I did want to say to my good colleague from Texas tonight that Indiana did have a role in electing Texas to the United States of America. So I am very happy that tonight we celebrate the admission of Texas into the Union. And I must say to my colleague, don't ever forget that the United States of America got the great State of Texas because Indiana put a Senator there who voted for Texas by one vote.

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.)

COMMEMORATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of Louisiana State University and LSU Medical School, I am honored to stand before the House today to thank my colleagues for commemorating LSU's 150th anniversary.

Since its first session in 1860, LSU has become the flagship university for our State, with over 650 endowed chairs and professorships held by distinguished faculty in disciplines that support the culture, government, and economy of Louisiana.

With more than 300 student organizations on campus, LSU plays a major