

been waging wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, at the very time that we have been under serious and sustained threats from global terror networks, the United States military has discharged more than 800 soldiers in mission-critical positions, including Arabic and Farsi linguists. Why? Are they bad translators or poor soldiers, marines, or airmen? No, they were discharged for only one reason, because they were gay or lesbian.

They were discharged despite the fact they made valuable contributions to our intelligence community. They were discharged despite the fact we have an alarming shortage of translators. So this policy is not only an affront to civil liberties; but at a time when we are fighting two wars, it is idiotic.

But it is important to repeal this policy for a third reason. It is dishonorable. Gays and lesbians are serving in our Nation's Armed Forces with great distinction. They always have. The only question is whether our government must continue to ask them to lie about their sexual orientation in order to do so. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy is the only law in the country that requires people to be dishonest about their personal lives or face the possibility of being fired.

Our own Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen, recently said, "No matter how I look at this issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. No one should have to lie to perform any job, but especially not those sworn to protect our Nation. I think it is only fitting that this amendment was offered by the first Iraq war veteran to serve in Congress, Representative PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Congressman MURPHY served in Bosnia and in the famed 82nd Airborne in Iraq. So when he brought his amendment before this House, he did so with deep love for his country and with our military's best interests at heart.

The policy Congressman MURPHY crafted, in cooperation with our Commander in Chief and Pentagon leaders, is a responsible one. It merely unties the hands of leaders at the Pentagon by removing the outdated Don't Ask, Don't Tell statute, while ensuring that the transition to a new personnel policy takes place without disruption to our fighting force.

□ 1630

In the spirit of equality and a more perfect Union, with the confidence we are making our Nation more secure, and with pride that we are ending a policy of dishonor, we uphold our American values by repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

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

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

HALT PAY RAISES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today this Congress had a chance to save our American taxpayers \$2 billion next year by halting another scheduled pay raise for Federal employees, but this Chamber refused once again to listen to the cries of the American people.

Today, we know that our budget deficits are clearly unsustainable. They are falling off the cliff, dropping off the cliff of financial sanity, and we simply can't afford anymore to continue the out-of-control spending policies that have marked both Republican and Democrat leadership here in Washington, DC.

I thank my colleague, Representative ERIC CANTOR, for spearheading the new program called YouCut, where we reach out to the American people and ask them to tell us what they would like us to cut here in Washington from the Federal budget.

Clearly, the government doesn't create the wealth or the jobs in this country. It's the private sector that does that. And when the government taxes and spends the way it has been the last several years, then innovators and entrepreneurs are stripped of the flexibility that they need to create jobs by excessive taxes and burdensome regulations.

We're now at the point, Mr. Speaker, where we have over \$13 trillion in debt. Who ran the debt up? This is under Democrat leadership, but this is under Republican leadership. Both parties have been at fault with increasing the debt that the next generation has to pay. It isn't a Republican or Democrat issue. And the American people are outraged by all of the out-of-control spending that's been going on in this city by both political parties.

Under President Bush, the Federal employees received across-the-board raises of 3 percent in January of 2008 and 3.9 percent in January of 2009. The same thing happened under President Obama. He recommended increases in pay for Federal employees in each of the years he's been in office. In fact, since the year 2000, Federal workers have received annual pay raises of 3.6 percent a year. But we could have, today, eliminated the latest Federal employee pay raise and also put the kibosh on the pay raises for Members of Congress, but that was voted down, unfortunately, primarily by the Democrat majority of this body.

According to the newspaper USA Today this week, they reported the

typical Federal worker is paid 20 percent more than a private-sector worker in the same occupation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 83 percent of all job categories between the government worker and the private worker, 83 percent of the time Federal employees are paid more, in fact, substantially more, than their private counterparts. This doesn't include the value of benefits like health care and retirement. When you take them into account, this graph shows Federal employees are making double what people in the private sector are making.

In fact, the numbers, Mr. Speaker, show the average wage and benefit package for a government employee today in America is almost \$120,000. For their counterpart in the private sector, their average wage and benefit package is just under \$60,000 a year. Double is what people who are government workers are making over those in the private sector.

This Chamber today couldn't even bring themselves to freeze the pay increases of these government workers that are making double what people in the private sector are making today.

Here's one example. Federal employees making over \$100,000. When the recession started 18 months ago, 14 percent of Federal employees made over \$100,000. The recession has been very kind to government workers. Now it's 19 percent of government workers make over \$100,000 a year.

Here's an even more specific example. In the Department of Transportation, only one government worker made over \$170,000 a year. Eighteen months of the recession and we have 1,690 employees now making over \$170,000 a year in the Department of Transportation. That's even before you consider overtime and bonuses.

The recession has been very kind to the government worker, not so much for those in the private sector.

My proposal today would have prevented Members of Congress from getting pay increases. Unfortunately, the majority party did not want to prevent their own pay increases. We would have kept in place the pay increases for our military. Why? Because they deserve it. At 1.4 percent increase during a time of war, we should not ask our military to make that sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the Chair regarding the votes that I missed on the following dates:

May 12, due to the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson, I missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote No. 259, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 260, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 261, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 262, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote No. 263, I would have voted no;

Rollcall vote 264, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 265, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 266, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 259–266 on Wednesday, May 12, 2010.

I was not able to cast my votes during roll call 259–266 because I was in bereavement of the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson. Had I been present, for rollcall vote 259, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1344, "Providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010," I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall vote 260, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 5014, "To clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage," I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall vote 261, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended, H. Con. Res. 268, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week, and for other purposes," I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall vote 262, on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 5116, "Gordon Amendment No. 1," I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall vote 263, on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 5116, "Hall of Texas Amendment No. 6," I would have voted "no"; for rollcall vote 264, on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 5116, "Markey of Massachusetts Amendment No. 10," I would have voted "aye"; for rollcall vote 265, on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 5116, "George Miller of California, Amendment No. 12," I would have voted "aye"; for roll call vote 266, on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 5116, "Reyes of Texas Amendment No. 13," I would have voted "aye";

Tuesday, May 18, due similarly to the passing of my mother:

Rollcall votes 273 to 275, motion to suspend the rules, rollcall vote 273, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 274, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 275, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 273–275 on Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 273–275 because I was in bereavement of the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson. I would like to state for the record how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 273, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 2288, "Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act of 2009," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 274, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 4614, "Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act of 2010," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 275, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, H. Res. 1327, "Honoring the life achievements, and contributions of Floyd Dominy," I would have voted "aye."

On the 20th of May, due to the passing of my mother, I missed the following votes:

Rollcall vote 284, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 285, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 286, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 287, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 288, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 289, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 290, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 284–290 on Thursday, May 20, 2010.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 284–290 because I was in bereavement of the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 284, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 5327, "To authorize assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system," I would have voted "aye".

For rollcall vote 285, on motion to suspend the rules agree to, H. Res. 1256, "Congratulating Phil Mickelson on winning the 2010 Masters golf tournament," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 286, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to, H. Res. 1336, "Congratulating the University of Texas men's swimming and diving team for winning the NCAA Division I national championship," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 287, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 1361, "Recognizing North Carolina Central on its 100th anniversary," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 288, on ordering the previous question, H. Res. 1363, "Granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into underground coal mining safety," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 289, on agreeing to resolution, H. Res. 163, "Granting the authority provided under clause 4(c)(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the Committee on Education and Labor for purposes of its investigation into underground coal mining safety," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 290, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 5128, "To designate the Department of the Interior Building in Washington, District of Columbia, as the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building," I would have voted "aye";

Accordingly, I continued to miss time on the passing of my mother on May 24, and I missed rollcall votes 291 to 293.

I would have voted, on rollcall vote 291, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 292, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 293, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 291–293 on Monday, May 24, 2010.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 291–293 because I was in bereavement of the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 291, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 278, "Expressing the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th Anniversary that is being held on Fathers Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 292, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 1017, "Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act," I would have voted "aye";

For rollcall vote 293, on motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, H.R. 5330, "To amend the Anti-trust Penalty Enhancement and Reform Act of 2004 to extend the operation of such Act for a 5-year period ending June 22, 2015, and for other purposes," I would have voted "aye".

On Tuesday, May 25, accordingly, I missed the following votes pursuant to the earlier statement:

Rollcall vote 294, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 295, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 296, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 297, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 298, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 299, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 300, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 301, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 294–301 on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall 294–301 because I was in bereavement of the passing of my mother, Ivalita Jackson. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted had I been present.

For rollcall vote 294, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5145, "Assuring Quality Care for Veterans Act," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 295, on motion to suspend the rule and agree to H. Res. 437, "Expressing support for designation of May 2010 as Mental Health Month," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 296, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1382, "Expressing sympathy to the families of those killed by North Korea in the sinking of the Republic of Korea Ship Cheonan, and solidarity with the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of this tragic incident," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 297, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 584, "Recognizing the importance of manufactured and modular housing in the United States," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 298, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 3885, "Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 299, on motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2711, "Special Agent Samuel Hicks Families of Fallen Heroes Act," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 300, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res.

1189, "Commending Lance Mackey on winning a record 4th straight Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 301, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1172, "Recognizing the life and achievements of Will Keith Kellogg," I would have voted "aye."

May 26, I was unavoidably detained on official business. I missed rollcall vote 302. I would have voted aye;

Rollcall vote 303, I would have voted "aye";

Rollcall vote 304, I would have voted "aye"; and

Rollcall vote 305, I would have voted "aye".

I rise to address the Chair regarding my absence from rollcall votes 302–305 on Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I was not able to cast my votes during rollcall on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, because I was away from the office on official business. I would like to state for the RECORD how I would have voted, had I been present.

For rollcall vote, 302, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1347, "Honoring the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana, extending condolences to their families, and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the disaster site," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 303, on motion to suspend the rule and agree to H. Res. 1385, "recognizing and honoring the courage and sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 304, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1316, "Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month," I would have voted "aye."

For rollcall vote 305, on motion to suspend the rules and agree as amended to H. Res. 1169, "Honoring the 125th anniversary of Rollins College," I would have voted "aye."

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL: "IT COMES DOWN TO INTEGRITY"

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we heard all of the arguments before we had our votes yesterday on Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but in the past we heard very similar arguments. The Secretary of the Army said he was concerned about how the proposed change would affect the efficiency of the Army. A 5-star general warned of social experiments and worried that with reform in military personnel policy, we may have difficulty attaining high morale.

Those are not quotations from 2010, Mr. Speaker. Those are not quotations about the right of gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. They are from more than 60 years ago during the debate over racial integration of the Armed Forces. Does anyone believe they were right? If so, please speak up.

Is anyone prepared to argue that our military has suffered from the full participation of African Americans in its ranks? Thankfully, a majority in this body remembered this history lesson last night when we made history by voting to repeal the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, an embarrassment unworthy of a great country and a great military.

It has been responsible for the discharge of 13,000 honorable Americans, men and women who were told their services were dispensable not because of how they behaved, but because of who they are. It has done violence to cherished American values like equality, inclusion, and tolerance. And it has damaged our national security, too.

Given the military's recruitment challenges at a moment that we're still, unfortunately, fighting two wars, it is incomprehensible to me that we would reject any capable person who wishes to serve. It was particularly galling to watch as hundreds of language specialists who could speak Farsi and Arabic were dismissed just when they were needed the most, when our occupation of Iraq began.

The assertion that openly gay servicemembers would undermine unit cohesion is just bunk, Mr. Speaker. It is an argument based on fear, not fact. The research suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are comfortable serving side by side with fellow soldiers who happen to be gay or lesbian. To suggest otherwise is to insult our troops, as the author of the amendment, Mr. MURPHY, has pointed out, because it assumes our soldiers are so unprofessional, and even unpatriotic, that they would let another soldier's sexual orientation distract them from the mission.

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, may have said it best when he said, "I cannot escape being troubled by . . . a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me personally, it comes down to integrity—theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

And last night, Mr. Speaker, it came down to our integrity, the integrity of those of us who have the privilege to serve in the people's House. I can't remember too many prouder moments during my time here, because at least we have the integrity to do what's right—to support our troops and strengthen our military by repealing the cruel and un-American Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

HONORING CORPORAL JEFFREY W. JOHNSON

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, as we go back home to our districts to honor the

veterans on Memorial Day, today I rise to honor a true American hero, Corporal Jeffrey Johnson, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

Born January 27, 1989, in Charleston, South Carolina, Jeffrey joined the Marines in July of 2007. He was killed on May 11, 2010, in the Helmand province in Afghanistan, where we have seen some of the fiercest fighting in the war as the surge moves forward to victory. He was 3 weeks into his second deployment when he was killed by an IED while on patrol.

□ 1645

Corporal Johnson is a graduate of Waller High School and is now being touted in the media as a son of Tomball, Texas. Jeffrey loved Ford trucks and he loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Corporal Johnson joined the military to provide education and other options. He wanted to attend the University of Texas and become either a game warden or a State trooper.

Katy Anguish, his wife, wanted people to know that Jeffrey was a creative person. He loved to have fun. I spoke to the family the day Jeffrey was brought home to his final homecoming to offer my condolences on behalf of a grateful Nation and to give them flags flown over the United States Capitol in his honor.

To his wife, Katy Anguish; his father and stepmother, Jerry and Kelly Johnson; his mother, Dawn Hardwick; sisters Ashtian Bennett and Cassidy Johnson; his brother, Jason Martin; his grandparents, Delores Campbell, Glenda Schneider, John Farmer, and Jerry Tyner, it's hard to put in words how you must feel, but know that the United States Congress and the American people are so grateful for your son's service.

Unfortunately, I have attended too many military funerals, as many Members of Congress have, but I have never seen such an overwhelming support and love in the welcoming home of this fallen hero.

He arrived by airplane from Afghanistan in Tomball, Texas. He was greeted by the marines, who carried his casket to the hearse. It reminded me of the greatness of this country. It was so inspiring to me that at a time of great tragedy and sorrow that over 30,000 people in a small town showed up to pay their respects, to show their appreciation for a man who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, to signal to the rest of the Nation that patriotism and love of country are still alive and well in America, and it restored my faith in America.

The Tomball Fire Department hung a large U.S. flag from two extended ladder trucks as Corporal Johnson's body traveled by motorcade to the funeral home. Thousands of friends, veterans, school children, and ordinary citizens, showed their support and lined the streets waving American flags. This is what it's all about.