

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.

As a Member of Congress, the hardest thing we have to do is to comfort families when they have lost a loved one in a time of war. My heart goes out to the family.

But Jeffrey did not die in vain. He was part of something greater than himself. He was on a mission for freedom and liberty, on a mission to liberate the world from the scourge of terrorism.

My father, a World War II veteran, was part of what we now call the Greatest Generation. Jeffrey is now part of a new great generation of heroes.

His life embodies what we see in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jeffrey, you are home now with God. Well done, good and faithful servant. May God bless you and may he hold you in the palm of his hand.

I would like to close with a quote from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, which I read to the family the day of the homecoming. His words are as timeless today and relevant as they were so many years ago, when he said, "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

God bless you, Jeffrey.

HONORING GARY WAYNE COLEMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned of the passing today of actor Gary Wayne Coleman. Although short in stature, Gary stole the hearts of American viewers with his humor and his infectious smile. He lived his life with a spunky sense of humor.

Coleman was born in Zion, Illinois. He was adopted by Edmonia Sue, a nurse practitioner, and W.G. Coleman, a forklift operator. He suffered from a congenital kidney disease which halted his growth at an early age, leading to his small stature.

Gary was best known for his role on "Diff'rent Strokes." He was cast in the role of Arnold Jackson, where he portrayed a child adopted by a wealthy widower. The show was broadcast from 1978 to 1986 and was a huge success.

At the height of his fame on "Diff'rent Strokes," he earned as much as \$100,000 per episode. Gary also appeared on "The Jeffersons" and on "Good Times." He also appeared in a 1978 pilot for a revival of "The Little Rascals," as Stymie.

His life was tough after he was off the small screen and the large screen. He struggled, but he won the attention of the world as an actor. I want to join with his family and the rest of his fans and those who admired and loved him and extend my condolences to his family, his friends, his fans and those that he worked with throughout his career.

We all mourn the passing of Gary Wayne Coleman.

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

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

AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this has been a whirlwind of a week, and I believe it is more than appropriate to summarize for the American people the real work that has been done, the triumphs, the challenges, but also the admitted courage of those who recognize that without heavy lifting, this country may not have been explored and stretched to the far reaches of the west coast, where many who traveled beyond the original settlements went West, young man, courage of Americans. This country would not have been great had Abraham Lincoln not stood up to a divided Nation, spoke against the evils of slavery, and unified this Nation.

Although we have traveled a rocky road in the 20th century, moving to ensure the equality of all persons through the civil rights movement and women's movement, there have been many women of courage who made America different and better. I am grateful today that we left this place having voted on the American jobs bill that will provide for small businesses, that will create summer jobs, that will stop the moving of jobs overseas, that provide for the closing of tax loopholes, that provide for the physicians who nurture us, provide for our families, and it will create jobs.

A position I have taken is on an amendment that I have written that would allow those unemployed to receive training and stipends without losing their unemployment insurance. Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, we have work to do. I ask the governors of our States to stand up and be heard and provide for the FMAC, the Medicaid that is so much needed. I will fight with you. Of course, we need to work on the COBRA.

But what we have done is to provide for jobs. Then we have said to the men and women of the United States military, we believe in you, providing for more benefits, more quality of life support for their family, more posttraumatic stress disorder counseling, providing for counseling of civilians that might have suffered a violent act on a military base such as those in Fort Hood—and an amendment that I offered will support it—provided opportunities for small businesses to do business with the Defense Department.

To stand up for justice, to stand up for a young man by the name of Ensign Provo who lost his life because of his sexual orientation and the ugliness of hate, I believe we did the right thing in eliminating Don't Ask, Don't Tell, because the men and women in the United States military are well aware of what justice is all about. They are well aware of what political grandstanding is all about. They are well aware that this amendment will only move forward after we have scrutinized your opinion.

Thank you to the men and women who are courageous enough to send us home, along with my own vote, to say to those who are an American in need that we believe in you and have fought for you.

I close by thanking my beloved mom and acknowledging that her teaching gave me the grounding to be able to say that all men and women are created equal. She is no longer here, but I truly believe teachings of our mothers and fathers have always brought us to the higher calling of being able to help all people.

On behalf of myself, my brother and our extended family, we are grateful to all who expressed their concerns. I just believe, with all seriousness, that what we must do is continue to help people to make their lives better and to change America for the best.

I think we have got the best constitutional institution of democracy the world has ever seen, and that is the United States Congress. As we disagree, we still uphold this flag and the Constitution of the United States of America. We have now been sent home with a great amount of bounty for the American people and those who are in need, and we have gone home to say thank you to the men and women in the United States military and to acknowledge and to appreciate and to honor those who have fallen in battle.

May God bless you as God blesses America.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)