

to speak. Now the Taliban is back, with a campaign of violence and intimidation, planting bombs, attacking marines, and terrorizing the population. As one report in The Washington Post put it, "They still own the night."

General McChrystal promised to have a ready-made so-called "government in a box" prepared to take over in Marja, but inside that box was a district governor considered hapless by most, who has been outfitted by the marines with a fancily furnished tent, who seems more fond of afternoon naps than in doing the hard work of governing.

And the national government that is supposed to be our partner, the repository of our hopes and confidence, the leader of the regime that is supposed to pick up where U.S. troops leave off in providing stability and security, well, his heart doesn't seem to be in the mission. Just a few weeks after being wine and dined by his American hosts during a state visit, President Karzai is wondering aloud whether the United States and NATO can get the job done.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, is that with each setback and each delay pressure will build to extend the timetable for troop deployment, our troops getting out of Afghanistan. This would be the wrong lesson to learn. What's needed is not more time, but a different policy. Every day that we continue this military campaign will contribute to the chaos in Afghanistan. More time and more troops can only exacerbate the problem. They cannot solve it.

I don't think I can describe the war any better than did New York Times columnist Bob Herbert. He said: "It's just a mind-numbing, soul-chilling, body-destroying slog, month after month, and year after pointless year."

Mr. Speaker, it's time to end the slog. It's time to end the longest war in American history. It's past time to bring our troops home.

DISMAY WITH DOD GENERAL COUNSEL REGARDING RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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 rise tonight to express my sincere dismay with the letter from Jeh Johnson, general counsel of the Department of Defense, to Senator CARL LEVIN, declaring the DOD opposition to Senate bill 504, legislation to rename the Department of the Navy as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. In his letter Mr. Johnson states: "The renaming of the Department is unnecessary and would incur additional expense of several hundred thousand dollars a year over the next several years."

In response to my letter, the CBO report actually states that "the bill would have very little effect on most U.S. Naval or Marine Corps installations. The cost of implementing this

bill would be less than \$500,000 a year over the next several years from appropriated funds. And enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues." So therefore it would not have an impact, Mr. Speaker.

With that said, I would like to ask Mr. Johnson, Do you think that our men and women of the United States Marine Corps are worth this small monetary amount? Have they not earned the right to be recognized and respected?

Mr. Speaker, it is a joke for DOD to be concerned about such a small monetary amount considering the money that has been and is continuing to be wasted by the Department of Defense. An audit conducted by the Department of Defense IG revealed that the Federal Government failed to substantiate the disbursements of at least \$7.8 billion of \$8.2 billion spent for goods and services in Iraq. I would think Mr. Johnson should be more focused on serious money issues such as these instead of focusing his efforts on opposing the recognition that our marines truly deserve.

Our marines have fought alongside the Navy for many years, and if they are truly viewed as one fighting team, they should receive equal recognition. This bill is not meant to take anything away from the Navy. It does not demand any special concessions for the Marine Corps. It simply adds three words to the name. I am baffled as to why Mr. Johnson felt the need to interject into this matter now, when it has been ongoing for the past 10 years. We have the support of a record 425 Members of the House of Representatives and 80 Members of the Senate. The numbers alone should speak volumes.

And, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want people to see this young marine who gave his life for this country. The family received posthumously the Silver Star medal that he earned by giving his life for this country. This is an official copy. And it says the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag. That's all it has at the heading, Mr. Speaker. Nothing about the Marine Corps in the heading, but Navy.

If this bill should become law, what it would say is what you see now, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Navy flag, Marine flag, present the Silver Star posthumously to this man's family.

Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to close as I always do, because our men and women, as Ms. WOOLSEY said, they are over there fighting, giving their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I would ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless their families, and, God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do right in the eyes of God.

And, dear God, I ask three times, please God, continue to bless this country. And, God, please always remember that we care that you look after us so that we will do what's right for your people. God, continue to bless America.

RESPONSE TO LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have a huge problem in our country that we haven't come to terms with, long-term unemployment. The number of Americans who have been jobless for over 6 months has hit the highest level ever recorded. I recently read an article that highlighted one of the long-term unemployed Americans. Her name is Cindy Paoletti. For 23 years she worked in the corporate accounting division of J.P. Morgan Chase in upstate New York. In December 2007, Ms. Paoletti was let go in a wave of layoffs that eventually shuttered the entire Syracuse operations center. Her job went to India.

She started collecting unemployment benefits and severance while searching for a job. In her own words, Cindy says, "I apply for everything out there." Now that she's about to run out of benefits, she has started taking money out of her IRA. She doesn't have health insurance, and she faces the daily fear of losing her home. I hear similar stories from all over the country. Jobless Americans are desperately looking for work, but there just aren't enough jobs to go around yet.

Last week, I conducted a hearing in my subcommittee to discuss long-term unemployment problems. Here are a few of the facts highlighted at the hearing: nearly 50 percent of the unemployed haven't been able to find a job for more than 6 months, the highest number ever recorded, which goes back to 1948. More than 10 million jobs must be created to restore the labor market to its pre-recession level.

This huge jobs hole, created by 8 years of gross economic mismanagement under the Bush administration, has left five unemployed workers competing for every available job. In responding to these record rates of long-term unemployment, our first priority must be to maintain the current emergency Federal unemployment programs that have lapsed 2 weeks ago. People have been waiting for 2 weeks.

The House passed an extension on these programs a long time ago, but the Senate has yet to clear the legislation. If the Senate fails to continue Federal unemployment program, 5 million long-term unemployed Americans will lose their extended benefits before the end of this year, with 1.2 million of them losing their benefits by the end of this month, June. We need to face the fact that even with an extension of these Federal unemployment programs, more than 3 million people are projected to exhaust all benefits available before the end of the year.

□ 2000

We need to provide more help for these long-term displaced workers, which could range from additional extended unemployment benefits in high unemployment States, to federally funded jobs programs, to better training employment services.

A few months of employment gains, as welcome as they have been recently, have not suddenly eliminated the problem of long-term unemployment. We simply cannot abandon millions of Americans who have worked hard, played by the rules, and now find themselves with no jobs, no savings, and no support. We cannot let a huge section of the middle class go with nothing but food stamps.

At the end of the article, I mentioned earlier Cindy Paoletti said, "Out of all the people I know that got laid off the same time as me, I think only three have found jobs. The rest . . . have exhausted unemployment or they're getting close to the end of it. Someone's got to do something."

The Congress is faced with this. The Senate is dawdling. It is time, Mr. Speaker, that they act and we then move on to the next level while we deal with long-term unemployment in this country. We cannot close our eyes and believe it's going to go away. It will not go away. We have to help the process.

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.)

CONGRATULATING THE CALHOUN YELLOW JACKETS

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Calhoun Yellow Jackets for defeating Cook County High by a score of 8-2 in the deciding game to win the 2010 AA Georgia State baseball tournament. The Yellow Jackets clinched the series in game three with excellent pitching and three home runs.

I would especially like to recognize Manager Chip Henderson and the Calhoun coaching staff for leading the Yellow Jackets to a remarkable 35-1 record this season. Calhoun, Georgia, truly had a remarkable season, Mr. Speaker, dominating their opponents by scoring, believe this, 376 runs in just 33 games this season. That's an average of over 10 runs per game, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely proud to represent Gordon County and Calhoun, Georgia, in the 11th Congressional District, and I couldn't be prouder of the Calhoun Yellow Jackets for capturing their fourth State championship title.

Congratulations, Calhoun. Best of luck to all of the seniors who are graduating this year.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks into the RECORD on this topic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to anchor this Special Order hour on health care for the Congressional Black Caucus. Currently, the Congressional Black Caucus is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California.

I would now yield to our chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. First, let me thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio, for anchoring tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order on the immediate benefits of health care reform. Also, let me just thank and salute Congresswoman FUDGE for her consistency and her commitment to hold these Special Orders so that we can bring attention to some of the most pressing issues confronting our country that often don't really make the headlines. So I would especially like to thank Congresswoman FUDGE for leading tonight's Special Order once again on the immediate benefits of health care reform and for continuing to keep our caucus focused on addressing the key issues facing our Nation. She has many, many of the same problems and issues in Ohio as I do in California, as all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus have, whether we come from rural districts or urban districts. I just

want to thank you very much for your leadership and for once again sounding the alarm.

As chair of the 42-member Congressional Black Caucus, I rise tonight to talk about the health care crisis in America and to inform the American people about our actions and agenda working with President Obama, Speaker PELOSI, Leader REID, and what we're doing to make us a healthier and stronger Nation.

Since Teddy Roosevelt almost a century ago, President after President has sought to deliver health care for the American people, but to no avail. This year, under the leadership of President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, the United States Congress took a major step toward delivering on the promise of health care for all Americans in a comprehensive and fiscally prudent way.

This is a very important investment in the health and wellness of all Americans. For too long, quality and affordable health care, which I believe is a fundamental human right, was way out of reach for far too many Americans and was really the province of the wealthy or those who were fortunate enough to have a job that provided health care benefits.

It was a very long and arduous struggle, but I am pleased that we continued to push to reform our health care system. It took clarity of purpose. It took moral authority. It took determination and commitment of President Obama, the brilliant and focused leadership of Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, and the will of the majority of my colleagues in the House and the Senate, but most importantly, the will of the American people to make this a reality. Together, we fought against the insurance industry to say that we will no longer, no longer mind you, be held hostage to the denial of benefits for those who continue to pay their premiums. We won't be held hostage any longer to escalating health care costs.

Just as Social Security was in the 1930s and with the passage of Medicare and, of course, the civil rights and the voting rights acts of the 1960s, the passage of health care reform is a defining moment of our era, and I am so pleased that this happened on our watch.

As I cast my vote, I was thinking of all the people that I see in the emergency rooms and in the hospitals when I'm there with my 86-year-old mother or with my sister who has multiple sclerosis. They have health care, but I worry so much about the people that I see who don't have health care and who are just struggling to survive and who land in the emergency room because they don't have primary care.

As I cast my vote, I was thinking of all of those who died, mind you, because they didn't have preventive care and they couldn't see a doctor and they died an early death.