

Mr. CANTOR. Well, I am told and hopeful as well there will be many more nuptials on your staff, I would say to the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 19, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

THIS YEAR'S DEFICIT SURPASSES \$1 TRILLION

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, the Federal deficit has topped \$1 trillion, and there are still 3 months remaining in the fiscal year. Spending is out of control, and the President and Democratic leadership have shown no sign of slowing down. Americans are still asking, Where are the jobs? Unemployment stands at near 10 percent nationally, and the administration's massive spending increases are harming the small businesses that are so crucial to our job creation. President Clinton's former chief of staff has said, "The debt is like a cancer . . . it is going to destroy the country from within."

Madam Speaker, we must reject Big Government and embrace fiscal responsibility and the pro-small business policies that have guided our Nation out of troubled times in the past.

PROTECTING FLOODWAY PROPERTIES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your leadership; and, as well, I appreciate very much the debate that this House had just a few minutes ago about H.R. 5114, the Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act of 2010. I rise to support that legislation and, specifically, to discuss an issue that really impacts all Americans.

An amendment that I crafted, a very effective amendment, would have prohibited States and local governments from misusing new Federal flood insurance program requirements to disadvantage businesses and homeowners in any way, meaning, to take their property away because they have misinterpreted the Federal laws as to whether or not your home is in a floodplain or in a floodway. Those of us from the gulf understand that very well.

Unfortunately, under Federal law, it is often misinterpreted by State and local officials, resulting in unintended consequences in many communities across this country. For example, in the White Oak community, 2,400 homes were being violated because a local government was misinterpreting whether or not these particular individuals could stay in their homes. Their values plummeted.

I am going to continue to work on this legislation going forward to ensure this language gets in the bill and that we fight to protect homeowners once and for all.

CELEBRATING HOWARD, PENNSYLVANIA'S BICENTENNIAL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a lifelong resident of Howard, Pennsylvania, to honor its bicentennial.

Howard, albeit a small community of almost 700, has an extensive history dating back to its settlers in the late 1700s. It was officially formed by the Centre County Court in 1810 and named after English philanthropist John Howard. Howard features several historical structures, such as its post office built in 1828, a Methodist church dating back to 1843, and houses from 1810.

In the 1820s, Howard experienced growth due to industrial interests, as companies such as the Howard Iron Works attracted settlers. The first store in Howard opened in 1829, and the town was also known for its Woolrich factory during the last century.

I recently participated in the celebratory parade, which was followed by evening fireworks. The sense of community is great in Howard. Seeing residents come out and celebrating our history truly is wonderful. Our small size fosters a rare connection among the residents, store owners, and all government levels, and we are proud of this friendship.

I hope to see Howard continue to prosper through another 200 years. It's a great town and a welcoming place to live.

Congratulations to Howard and its citizens on its 200th anniversary.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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.)

STAFF SERGEANT JESSE AINSWORTH—UNITED STATES ARMY

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. Madam Speaker, it's with great pride but a heavy heart that I honor a fallen son of Texas tonight, a United States Army soldier from my Second Congressional District.

Staff Sergeant Jesse Ainsworth gave his life fighting terrorists on a battlefield in a far, faraway, desolate land near Kandahar in Afghanistan on July 10, 2010. He died from injuries caused by an IED, the weapon of terrorists, those cowards that hide in their holes in the rugged deserts and come out like rats at night and plant roadside bombs to kill Americans, women, and children.

□ 1500

This is Jesse Ainsworth. He was 24 years of age. He was an American warrior, and he was born in Texas and Jesse was an all American boy. He loved to hunt and fish in the woods near his home in Dayton, Texas. And after attending Dayton High School, he joined the United States Army.

He was a team leader with the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division out of Ft. Drum. Jesse served two combat tours in Iraq before deploying to Afghanistan. And, Madam Speaker, he re-enlisted after his second tour of duty in Iraq and then that is why he went to Afghanistan.

Yesterday, I talked to Jesse's mother, Margeret Hutchins, and she said a lot about her son. They live in a little small community called Kenefic, just outside of Dayton.

Jesse was Margeret's only son. And Margeret said Jesse was her hero. She said she used to pick him up when he was a little kid from kindergarten, and every Friday they'd go to Wal-Mart and buy some toy for him. She said ever since Jesse was an itty bitty fellow he wanted to be a soldier in the United States Army.

And the last time she talked to him, Jesse said he was setting up camp out in the middle of no place in the middle of the desert. And he asked his mother to send him, in the next care package, a Big Red soft drink and some Copenhagen chewing tobacco in that care package. Jesse was all Texas.

Jesse loved the Army, he loved his country, and he loved being a soldier. He was doing what he wanted to do. He was an Army man.

All of the flags in the small town of Dayton, Texas, are flying at half mast this week. There are signs all over this town of just 5,000, handmade signs, electronic signs throughout the community honoring Jesse.

The services will be held on Saturday at the Dayton Community Center, and the whole town will turn out to honor their native son and honor his family.

Jesse is survived by his wife, Sarah; their 6-month old daughter, Lanna Rose; and his daughter, Lexie, who is three; Jesse's mother, Margeret; and stepfather, Wesley; and Jesse's two sisters, Rebecca and Shane.

Jesse will then be buried at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

All of his fellow soldiers gave some, Madam Speaker, but Jesse Ainsworth gave all in his defense for freedom.

Our brave troopers go to war defending freedom and liberty in faraway lands. In the dark, cold desert night and the parched, insufferable desert heat, these brave warriors pay with their blood and sacrifice for freedom and liberty and for America.

They sanctify with their blood lands they have never seen, and they fight for people they do not know.

Madam Speaker, I have a recent photograph of Jesse. Here he is in Afghanistan with an Afghan farmer. You see, that's what our American troops are doing. They are the greatest ambassadors for freedom and liberty and the American way in the world. And here they are, here Jesse is with a person in Afghanistan, a nation that Jesse and his fellow troopers are liberating.

Patrick Henry once said, "The battle, sir, is not to the strong, it is to the vigilant, to the active, to the brave."

Madam Speaker, those words still ring true today, and our American soldiers carry those values into battle because they are "Army Strong." Jesse Ainsworth was such a soldier and a family man. He was that hero who has given his life to something bigger than himself.

So when we gather Saturday to honor this fallen American, Jesse's flag-draped coffin will be carried by the Honor Guard. The old war horses of the Patriot Guard, those motorcycle riders made primarily of Vietnam veterans, they will stand vigil over this beloved family and over their sacred fallen brother carrying American flags.

The rifles will fire the 21-gun salute, and the bugle will sound taps for the last time as the name of Staff Sergeant Jesse Ainsworth is placed forever on the hallowed roles of those who have given their lives defending American freedom and liberty. He will be surrounded by his family for the last time, and the war will be over for Staff Sergeant Jesse Ainsworth. But the war will never end for his family.

It has been said what we have done for ourselves dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.

Staff Sergeant Jesse Ainsworth is that rare breed, that American breed that lived and died for something bigger than himself. And today we honor his life and his sacrifice.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

NEW GENERAL, SAME WAR

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, after General Stanley McChrystal was relieved of his command last month and replaced by General David Petraeus, we read a lot of headlines that said things like this: "Generals Change, But Afghan Doesn't." "Afghan Policy Won't Change After Dismissal."

But that is precisely, Madam Speaker, the problem. All the chatter about General McChrystal's indiscretion and firing obscured the critical point. The problem isn't with the personnel or the leadership, but with the strategy and the policy. The problem isn't with the generals, but with the war itself.

There's a bit of a rearranging-of-the-deck-chairs-on-the-Titanic quality to all of this. No matter what the captains say and no matter who captains the ship, as long as we continue to prosecute this failed war, as long as we keep sending Americans to die on a mission that's doing nothing to defeat terrorists or stabilize Afghanistan, then we are headed straight for that iceberg.

The more troops we deploy, the more violent Afghanistan becomes and the more Taliban grows its ranks. Unless General Petraeus is prepared to change that, then this change at the top doesn't amount to very much.

If General Petraeus' appointment leads to any change at all, it may not be the kind of change we should be enthusiastic about. In his confirmation hearing, General Petraeus refused to take ownership of the July 2011 troop withdrawal deadline, stating very clearly that he did not recommend such a date to the President, nor did anyone else in uniform. And he once again equivocated about July 2011, calling it the beginning of a process, which sounds an awful lot like a diplomatic way to say he doesn't believe in it and will ask the President to extend it.

He also added in his testimony, and I quote him, he said, "The commitment to Afghanistan must be an enduring one." And on that point, Madam Speaker, I couldn't agree with the general more.

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But an enduring commitment doesn't have to be a military commitment. We need an enduring civilian commitment, a smart security approach that invests in Afghanistan infrastructure, bolsters Afghan education, fights Afghan poverty, invigorates Afghan democracy, and much more. But we can do it without combat troops occupying the country, without the military footprint that has earned us more enemies than friends.

Madam Speaker, eight Americans were killed during a 24-hour period in Afghanistan early this week. We've had 35 fatalities already in July, putting it on track to be the deadliest month of the entire war. We are losing our people, we are losing our money, we are losing our credibility without advancing our goals. That has to end. It's time to bring our troops home.

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.)

AKC PROJECT 7-4

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. Madam Speaker, on July 8, I had the privilege of visiting the American Kennel Club in Raleigh, North Carolina, where care packages were being prepared to be sent to our K-9 units overseas. The effort is called Project 7-4.

Project 7-4 is an effort to help the United States War Dog Association collect much-needed supplies for both dogs and their handlers to send over to our active duty dog teams in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was very touching for me to see all the boxes being prepared by people who care so much. I was absolutely amazed by everything I saw that day at the American Kennel Club in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Last year I had the great opportunity to watch some of these valuable dogs being trained at Lackland Air Force Base. Lackland is the center for all the training of all these dogs that help our men and women in uniform.

Through the years that I have been in Congress, I have had the pleasure and honor to talk to many military dog handlers, some that go back to the Vietnam War, some to Desert Storm, and certainly many who have been in Iraq and Afghanistan. These dogs are so valuable because they are trained to sniff out the IEDs that kill so many and maim so many of our wonderful men and women in uniform.

These dogs themselves many times are wounded, and many times killed. But as I had a soldier tell me one time, Yes, it breaks my heart. This has become my friend, this has become my buddy. But you know what? My buddy is willing to give his life for me so that I can continue to serve this Nation.

I bring that story forward, Madam Speaker, because these dogs are truly heroes, these dogs are truly valuable to the national security of our country. And I have beside me a poster that has the dog named Lex. Lex is looking at the headstone of his master, Marine Corporal Dustin Lee, who was killed by