

a rocket-propelled grenade in Iraq. He was a dog handler, and this was his friend, his dog Lex. Lex himself has shrapnel in the back. And the family, the Lee family, wanted so badly to have Lex, since they gave their son up for this country. And I want to thank Mike Regner, United States Marine Corps, for helping this become a reality. Madam Speaker, when Dustin was killed and Lex was wounded, the Marine Corps told me that they found Lex laying next to the body of his master.

War dogs have been used in every war throughout history. There are currently between 500 and 700 dog teams stationed in the Middle East. This is not a new concept, but it is time that these dogs and their handlers are acknowledged for their sacrifice to this country.

I would like to thank the United States War Dog Association for all they do and for helping the American Kennel Club with this tremendous effort. I also encourage anyone who would like to donate to this effort to contact the American Kennel Club or United States War Dog Association. Both dogs and handlers are in need of basic daily items that we all take for granted.

Madam Speaker, as I begin to close I would like to ask God, as I always do on this floor, to please bless our men and women in uniform, ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God, and ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for the American people.

And I will close by asking three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

DECLARE VICTORY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. As you can see, there are untold stories of valor on the front lines of war around the world. We can be very proud as Americans of the resilience of our men and women in the United States military and those valiant animals who stand by them and the support that families have given to them.

I stand here as a proud American not out of arrogance, but simply out of recognition that we are the front-liners for peace and democracy. I had the privilege of spending the last week in Afghanistan, not closed in in a small room, but traveling throughout the country, visiting with our commander on the ground, visiting with the inter-

national allied forces, being briefed and seeing in action the Afghan National Security Forces, meeting the leadership of the Afghan Government in Kabul, going down to Kandahar and being out on a command post and a check site that was engaged with Afghans on the highway. I got a sense of a country—of which I chair the Afghan Caucus in this Congress. And I want what is best for people who are striving for democracy and freedom.

I want to say to my colleagues that I stand here asking us to do what we did not do in Vietnam, which was to recognize the valiant and outstanding service of our men and women, and to understand victory had been achieved. Today we have two Vietnams side by side, North and South, exchanging and working. We may not agree with all that North Vietnam is doing, but they are living in peace. I would look for a better human rights record for North Vietnam, but they are living side by side because that was a civil war.

And because the leadership of this Nation did not listen to the mothers and fathers who bore the burden of 58,000 dead and did not declare victory, the mounting deaths, the violence continued going up and up. Rather than understanding the political nature of the war in Vietnam, we did not listen to those families. So we mourned. But I say today they were valiant heroes, proud of them, although fallen, and proud of those who lived.

As I look back on Afghanistan and the past week, I will say to you that it is time not out of defeat, but it is time in victory to return home. Our soldiers can come home in victory, for not one more treasure should be cast in this war that is a civil war. Al Qaeda is not present in Afghanistan. And we have the opportunity to cast over to the Afghan civilian government, which is now working to build up the Afghanistan National Security Forces, which we expect to be some 300,000 strong over the next couple of months, national police, and national army, trained by the brilliance of our young men and women.

We understand the military says the job is yet not done, conditions on the ground. Conditions are movable. They are always changing. What you have to look at is whether you have a government that has the resolve to lead itself. President Karzai must stand against corruption, he must fight to eradicate the poppy crop, he must stop the bribery so that farmers can get their products to market. That is a civilian challenge. That is a challenge of the Afghan people. He must get electricity with the money that has been given to him down in the south.

But to go into the NATO hospital, or to go into a hospital in Germany, to see the brutality of the IED injuries, to see the lost limbs—we have claimed victory. We have provided an opportunity for President Karzai to lead.

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And so I'm a proud American; again, not standing here in arrogance, but for the sacrifice of the reservists and others who have come and the full-time military willing to stay as long as the civilian leadership of this country demands that they stay.

And so I say to the moms and dads and families who've sacrificed their loved ones both in terms of those who now serve us and those who have fallen in battle, we cannot thank you enough. And none of us can mourn as you're mourning if you have lost a loved one. But we can say "thank you" by bringing our troops home with a hero's welcome, something we have not done probably since World War II.

It is time to bring our troops home, to declare victory, and to thank them for being heroes, not only of America but for this world, in the name of peace and freedom.

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.)

ARIZONA CRIME

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

Mr. POLIS. It should be common sense that with the limited dollars we have in law enforcement, diverting those law enforcement resources to hunt down immigrants detracts from our efforts to combat violent crime. However, believe it or not, some supporters of Arizona's new immigration law actually claim that it's a crime-fighting measure.

That overlooks a basic point: Crime rates have already been falling in Arizona for years despite, or perhaps in part because of, the presence of immigrants. This was once again proven by a recent study conducted by America's Voice, which documented the change in violent crime levels in various Arizona police jurisdictions from 2002 through 2009.

As you can see, crime is down in Arizona, the purple line. In fact, the only jurisdiction in the study where crime increased was in the part of Maricopa County under the jurisdiction of the incompetent sheriff Joe Arpaio, who's famously used anti-immigrant policies to advance his political agenda at the expense of keeping his communities safe.

From 2002 to 2009, the crime rate in Maricopa County increased 58 percent

while the State as a whole averaged a 12 percent decrease. Compare that 58 percent crime increase to other localities of Arizona that did not use the immigrant-bashing approach. In that same time period, Phoenix enjoyed a 14 percent decrease in crime; Tempe, a 26 percent decrease; and Mesa, a 31 percent decrease—communities dealing with the same types of immigration issues as Maricopa County and yet communities that, during the same period of Sheriff Arpaio's tenure, decreased their crime rate.

Why? In recent years, local law enforcement communities have increased, successfully, community policing efforts, which includes establishing relationships with immigrant communities to fight crime. These efforts are part of the reason why crime is dropping in Arizona. And Senate Bill 1070 threatens to undo that process. That's the reason the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police, the Yuma County Sheriff, Mesa Police Chief, and many other law enforcement officials nationally are opposed to the new Arizona law, Senate Bill 1070, which will stretch local police forces and hinder law enforcement's ability to obtain critical information on criminals.

Anti-immigrant laws like Senate Bill 1070 will lead to a crime wave across Arizona and across the Nation, and we see the evidence right here in Sheriff Arpaio's own district.

In my home district of Colorado, the chief of police of Boulder County, Chief Pelle, has been an outspoken leader on this front. He's criticized the Arizona law because it threatens successful community policing efforts that have been implemented in my district and across the Nation.

Misguided laws like Senate Bill 1070 will increase crime. Only comprehensive immigration reform can address this issue, and only Congress has the power to pass it. We need to pass tough, fair, and practical reform that will secure our borders, crack down on employers who hire immigrants illegally, require all immigrants here illegally to register with the government, pass a security check, pay taxes, and learn English.

I call on Congress to fix our broken immigration system now. No one from either side of the aisle thinks that the status quo is working for our country. It's time to stop playing politics with an issue that should have been addressed long ago. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform immediately.

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

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4173) "An Act to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end 'too big to fail', to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.'".

OIL DRILLING NEEDED IN GULF OF MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, the spill in the gulf coast has produced an environmental tragedy, and obviously losing the lives of 11 American workers has been devastating for the families. Our prayers are with them.

The gulf coast right now, the priority of America has to be stopping the oil from gushing, and it seems to be making progress there, protecting our beaches and marshes. But we have a new threat to the Gulf of Mexico and America, especially its workers, and this is the White House's moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

According to the Federal courts, the moratorium has been stayed. It was overly broad without much scientific basis. It didn't result in anything more safe or secure for the gulf. But nonetheless, the Secretary of the Interior has issued a new moratorium, thumbing his nose at the courts and really creating a broader moratorium that has stopped drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

The impact of this is that American rigs are leaving the Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. jobs with it. Capital will soon follow and, ultimately, if the moratorium is allowed to go its full 6 months until the end of the year, we will see a significant, severe dismantling of America's energy infrastructure, future higher gas prices, and we will be ceding more of our energy independence to Middle East and foreign oil.

The truth of the matter is, today, the Gulf of Mexico has been extraordinarily safe to explore for America's traditional energy, our oil and gas. Over 50,000 wells have been drilled in the Gulf of Mexico. This is the first major spill. Over 14,000 deepwater wells have been drilled around the world. This is the first major spill. And just as you don't stop all automobile production because there is a problem with one model, the White House, unfortu-

nately, has stopped all energy production in the gulf because of the disaster with British Petroleum. And the impact on our jobs and our economy is severe. They are laying off workers today. Small businesses are struggling to survive. Rigs are being deployed overseas.

Joining me today to talk about the impact to this economy is Congressman JOHN CULBERSON of Houston, as well. He and I were in a roundtable last week with a number of our small, midsize, independent businesses who are already laying off workers and re-deploying resources as a result of this terrible moratorium that unfortunately is turning an environmental disaster, making it worse by creating an economic disaster, not just in the Gulf of Mexico but one that will reach throughout the United States.

So I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. JOHN CULBERSON.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you, Mr. BRADY. Thank you for the invitation, for putting together the roundtable with industries in the Houston area who are part of the oil and gas industry.

We, in Houston, know that our city is to the energy industry what Silicon Valley is to the computer industry, and there are jobs, not just throughout southeast Texas and Louisiana but throughout the Nation, that are dependent on the oil and gas industry. We, as a Nation, are dependent upon the oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico for—I've seen numbers as high as 80 percent of the oil that the United States—where does that 80 percent number come from, KEVIN, of the oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico? What percentage of the oil and gas consumed by the United States comes out of the Gulf of Mexico?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I think we probably produce about 30 percent. Much of the specialty oil is for jet fuel and a number of our fuels.

Mr. CULBERSON. That's what I remember. The jet fuel is particularly vital.

And, KEVIN, we found out in the roundtable you held in Houston last week, as you said, jobs are being lost as we speak. We, as a Nation, are going to lose those jobs permanently. The infrastructure, the rigs themselves, particularly the semisubmersible floating rigs, are tremendously expensive to operate and maintain, and they are already leaving.

KEVIN, what did we learn? What did you hear about what's happening to these offshore rigs? Where are they going if we don't reverse this moratorium and stop it?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Already, Diamond Offshore's announced that the first rig is leaving the United States for Egypt. They are already leaving, planning to leave others for West Africa, the Middle East, Brazil, and those points. And as they made the point, these rigs, you have them for a limited amount of time. They are well sought