

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 16, 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5297. An act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

□ 1440

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.

GROUND ZERO—MOSQUE OR MONUMENT

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, history is the great predictor. To understand today, all you have to do is to look at last Saturday. We all remember where we were when hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center. We remember the billowing clouds of smoke blacking out the New York skyline. Those towers—once pillars of strength and freedom—became mass graves in the space of a few moments. Firefighters, police officers, innocent men women and children all died in a firestorm of hate.

Our country men and women were killed at the hands of radical Muslim extremists. People who believe their religion tells them to be violent in the name of that religion.

Now, 9 years later, it's clear that some Americans have forgotten the horror caused by these terrorists, and they expect us to forget as well. However, forgetting is not an option.

Even though we don't show the pictures anymore except on the anniversary of September 11. We don't talk about those responsible for plotting and carrying out these deadly terrorist attacks against America. We're told we can't be angry. We are expected to blindly accept the hatred for America in the name of tolerance. Under this guise of "religious tolerance," we're told we must allow a mosque to be built near Ground Zero.

No one disagrees with the legal right to build a mosque, but the builder's decision is ill-advised and it's insensitive. This is a building where the landing gear from one of the hijacked planes tore through the roof.

The media scolds those of us who disagree with this building. They say to be tolerant, be respectful and accepting of other people's religions. But why is not the same expected of those individuals? Is this really about tolerance?

The day the two planes hit the World Trade Center, that piece of land in New York City took on a whole new meaning. Ground Zero is no longer just a location in New York. It is a symbol of America as powerful as the stars and stripes. It is hallowed ground of the victims who were victimized because of hate.

Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf—the man behind the Ground Zero mosque—should instead build a memorial to the victims of the radical Muslim extremists instead of a mosque. That would be sensitive. That would be compassionate.

The history books show "victory mosques" have been built in or near locations of Muslim conquests throughout history. In 1453, Mehmed II, the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, conquered Constantinople. One of his first acts was to convert a Christian church for more than 900 years—the Hagia Sophia—into a mosque.

Iman Rauf calls his project the Cordoba House. The first great mosque of Cordoba was built by medieval Islamic invaders. They built it on the site of a ransacked Roman Catholic cathedral in Spain. The name Cordoba—is that just a coincidence—the Cordoba mosque initiative at Ground Zero—too many in America thinks this mirrors history too closely.

One of our greatest freedoms in America is our right to worship as we please. Our Nation was founded on liberty and freedom for everyone. Do not Muslims, like most religions and cultures, believe in tolerance and respect for other religions?

Thousands of sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers at this very moment are stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They're fighting the terrorists in the deserts and in the rough mountain terrain. Thirty-five American warriors from my congressional district area

gave their lives in these two wars. They died protecting us from these same radical extremists that murder in the name of religion. It seems to me that the tolerance lesson is being preached to the wrong part of the world.

Many Christians, Jews and other non-Muslims are offended by the building of this mosque and believe it is disrespectful and dishonors those who were murdered on 9/11. If building this mosque is meant to truly promote education and understanding of the Muslim religion, I suggest the supporters take a look at history. And rather than repeat history, they should remember history.

Ground Zero is off-limits.
And that's just the way it is.

AFGHANISTAN STUDY GROUP SAYS "ABANDON THE CURRENT STRATEGY"

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday Speaker PELOSI and the Congress recognized the anniversary of 9/11 with a moving remembrance ceremony on the steps outside the Capitol. It's critical that we never forget the cruelty of those attacks and the tragedy of so many innocent lives.

But just as importantly, we must use this occasion to examine the war that we launched in response to 9/11. Nine years later, have we achieved our original objectives? Is the continued military occupation advancing or undermining our national security interests?

You'll recall that the original purpose was to clear al Qaeda out of Afghanistan. That's been accomplished. There are barely any al Qaeda operatives left in the country, and there is little hope that they could gain a foothold there in the future. But our continued military footprint is not helping us realize any worthy goal.

In addition to putting our troops' lives in danger, it is fueling the rise and aiding the recruitment of Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. And on a global level, Madam Speaker, it is stoking the extremism of al Qaeda and other anti-American jihadists.

But it's just not me saying that. The Afghanistan Study Group comprised of centrist experts and academics just issued a report concluding that, and I quote them as saying, "It is time to abandon the current strategy that is not working. The continuation of an ambitious U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan," the group adds, "will likely work against U.S. interests."

Madam Speaker, the report notes that the war costs more annually than does the new health care reform bill. And yet curiously, very few of my friends on the other side of the aisle are railing about the excessive spending on Afghanistan. It appears that in their eyes, a failed war is worth the investment, but health security for millions of Americans is wasteful.

The Afghanistan Study Group offered some prescriptions and alternatives, including political reconciliation; an emphasis on regional diplomacy; and investments in Afghanistan's economic development—all of which are developments of the SMART security plan that I've been promoting for years.

But instead of heeding this advice, we're pressing forward stubbornly with failed policy. And the more it fails, the more resources we devote to it. As Robert Dreyfuss writes in *The Nation*, the prevailing wisdom (if you can call it that) seems to be . . . if sending 30,000 troops to the wrong place isn't getting results, sending 30,000 more to that same wrong place might help, and then when that doesn't work, why, send another 30,000 troops."

□ 1450

Madam Speaker, conditions in Afghanistan have gotten so bad that humanitarian groups can't move freely to deliver the aid that is so badly needed. The gruesome murders of medical aid workers last month underscored the deteriorating security situation. The *New York Times* cites the Afghan NGO Safety Office as saying there were more than twice the number of insurgent attacks this August than August of 2009.

I don't agree with everything the Afghanistan Study Group has to say. In fact, by calling for a gradual military drawdown, I believe they are just not being bold enough. But Madam Speaker, this disastrous war has gone on long enough. It's done enough damage. It's time now to bring our troops home.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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, for 10 years the House of Representatives, under the leadership of DUNCAN HUNTER and IKE SKELTON, have brought to the floor of the House in our Armed Services bill language to honor and respect the Marine Corps by changing the name of the Department of Navy to be known as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. For 10 years we sent this language over to the Senate. For 10 years the Senate rejected the House position.

This year, under the leadership of IKE SKELTON and BUCK McKEON, the Armed Services Committee decided to bring this language to the floor as what's called a stand-alone bill. We had 425 House Members—there are only 435—425 signed this bill to recognize the Navy and Marine Corps as one fighting team. And the bill passed the House, as you know, Madam Speaker, by what's called unanimous consent.

Well, at that period of time Senator PAT ROBERTS from Kansas, a former Marine officer, put the same bill in. It's what is called a companion bill. And by

the time we had passed our bill, he had 80 Senators in the U.S. Senate sign his companion bill to rename the Department of Navy to be Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, I have said many times in the last few weeks that I don't think you could get 80 Senators to agree there is a Santa Claus. But the Senators do recognize the importance of honoring the Marine Corps by letting them share in the name of the family, the family being the Navy and Marine Corps family.

It's my hope if the Senate brings this bill up next week, or the week after, or maybe during a lame duck session, that Senator ROBERTS will offer an amendment to that debate on the Senate side. And I would hope that those 80 Senators that have signed his bill will vote to honor and give this respect to the Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, a year ago this September we did a news conference, the Marine Corps League, and we had generals here, former commandants to speak on behalf of the bill. But two people I wanted to make quick reference to. One was Eddie Wright. Eddie Wright is from Texas. He is a young Marine—he is not in the Marine Corps now—but he lost both hands in Iraq. He has picks for his hands. And he said at the news conference that, "If it had not been for a Navy corpsman, I would be dead. But he saved my life. We are one fighting team. And it should be in the name."

Madam Speaker, I have got these posters, as I begin to close. This is the real thrust of what we are trying to do. There would be no cost to the Department of Navy if we changed its name to be Department of Navy and Marine Corps. But this is an actual condolence letter that a Marine captain who was killed for this country—the family received this condolence letter. And Madam Speaker, it says at the top the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag, extends its condolence to this Marine who died. It's almost like it's a stepchild. It's not really part of the family. All we're trying to do, Madam Speaker, is to make this one family.

Madam Speaker, I am now showing that this same family whose loved one was killed, if this bill becomes law, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, with the Navy flag and the Marine flag will send the condolence letter to the Marine family.

Madam Speaker, it's time that we do this for the Marine Corps. I want to thank my House colleagues who have helped us with this for 10 years. And I hope that the Senate will certainly support Senator ROBERTS in honoring the Marine Corps by renaming it the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, as I do every time before I close, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families

who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I will ask God to please bless the President, Mr. Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, please, God, continue to bless America.

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.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEULAH SHEPARD

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. Madam Speaker, this is a special time that we have an opportunity to listen closely to our colleagues and to share some of the pearls of those who live in the United States with our colleagues. And it gives me great pleasure to be able to come today and to express my deepest love and affection for a wonderful woman, a woman of strength, who has gone home to rest and to receive joy.

Beulah Shepard is a very special person in the eyes of our community, Houston and Texas. And today I stand on the floor of the House to call her an American hero. Beulah Shepard passed away this last week, and so we have only our memories. But I want to say to those of you who have known someone that has touched your life, let me just simply tell you the story of my friend Beulah Shepard.

She of course was a mother, was a wife. She has children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. And of course she understood the Constitution, and believed in one vote for every human being. I had a chance to talk to her wonderful daughters, Bobbie and Dianne, and the wonderful family that she has as she lived her last years. And I will tell you our community will remember her as a political icon, someone you went to if you knew what was right, if you wanted to be part of the Houston political community.

But my husband and I know her as friends. And she greeted us as a young couple, and told us how to stay on the straight and narrow. I know her wonderful grandson, who was challenged, and how she was endeared with him. And everywhere Sister Beulah went, her grandson went with her. I loved watching him grow up.

Yes, a political icon she was. But she was more than that. As a mother she loved, as a grandmother she loved. But she believed in public service, not in just the idea of the name of politicians. She believed that if you accepted the