

diverse city it is today, by hosting a number of international students. Texas Southern University, which is located in the heart of metropolitan Houston, proudly serves students of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Moreover, Texas Southern University is poised towards a greater tomorrow—its academic programs are designed to encourage and develop America's future model citizens.

The fighting Tigers of TSU dominated defensively throughout the December 11th game against the Alabama State Hornets at Legion Field. With the final and, winning score of 11–6, the Tigers were able to rejoice in the reclamation of the SWAC Championship, the team's first since 1968—but this time it is theirs alone. Guided by Coach Cole, and led by Dejuan Fulghum, Defensive MVP of the Championship game, and Riko Smalls, Offensive MVP of the Championship game, the fighting Tigers were able to bring home the SWAC championship.

Coach Johnnie Cole achieved many successes in his tenure at Texas Southern University. By transforming and revitalizing the Tigers' football team, he truly has brought football back to TSU. Coach Cole has had a long history with TSU, ever since he played on losing TSU football teams in the 1980s. Though, this year, Coach Cole turned a new leaf for TSU, by coaching an astoundingly successful and triumphant football team all the way to the SWAC championship. Since joining the football leadership team in 2008, Coach Cole has ignored the defeatist mentality and has a renewed focus on reigniting the school spirit for the TSU Fighting Tigers. This year, they finished the season on an eight game winning streak, and Cole bringing TSU the first Conference Championship since 1968 was "icing on the cake." I would like to congratulate Coach Johnnie Cole on his recent award for the Southwestern Atlantic Conference's Coach of the Year; his success represents the future of TSU. It truly was a great combination—with Coach Johnnie Cole, athletic director Charles McClelland, a supportive and spirited student body, and finally a hardworking and motivated football team—that led the fighting Tigers to a great year of dignity, sportsmanship, and success.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the Most Valuable Players from the 2010 Southwestern Atlantic Conference Championship game. I believe that they exhibited the great athleticism and leadership that paved the way for the Tigers' Championship on December 11. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Dejuan Fulghum, the SWAC's Defensive Player of the Year, and the Championship Game's Most Valuable Defensive Player. Dejuan Fulghum is a senior linebacker, who has had a tremendous career with the TSU Tigers. He led the Southwestern Atlantic Conference in sacks, with nine this year, and was third in tackles, with 91. Furthermore, he recorded an interception and two forced fumbles that led to the Football Championship Subdivision designating TSU as the number two defensive team. The Championship Game's Most Valuable Offensive Player, Riko Smalls, a sophomore quarterback, was called to the field on last Saturday, when senior quarterback Arvell Nelson was unable to play. Riko Smalls helped place TSU in the best position for winning the Championship, and rose to his role as a leader on the field.

Riko Smalls' first start with the TSU Tigers, in arguably their most important game, demonstrates the growing capabilities of the Texas Southern Tigers and of the TSU coaching staff. The entire team was well prepared to succeed that day and I congratulate all the Texas Southern Tigers; and, I would like to commemorate the success of their football team, which can now claim the title of the best college football team in Houston.

In representing the eighteenth district of Texas, I am proud to commemorate the fighting Tigers of TSU for their athletic success, and moreover, to commemorate the greater TSU community for their scholastic drive and dedication to becoming champions on and off the field.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Minnesota's Children's Hospital and Clinics for being named a "top hospital" by the Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Not long ago, I had a chance to visit Children's, and I saw firsthand how their commitment to improve patient safety is second to none. Their many safety initiatives have helped patients achieve one of the lowest rates of hospital-acquired infection in the Nation, and their use of electronic medical records has helped further reduce complications and improve patient care.

Minnesota has long been ahead of the curve when it comes to health care. From life-saving technologies and medical technologies to continually striving to create the most effective and efficient health care system, our hospitals have earned a reputation for excellence and innovation in health care. Congratulations to Minnesota's Children's Hospital and Clinics, and thanks for your tireless efforts to provide your patients with the best possible care.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### AFGHANISTAN'S HEAVY COST

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, the war in Afghanistan continues to prove to be

an impossible task. Enough is enough. America is spending \$7 billion a month on the war. To break it down further, that is approximately \$233 million a day on the war, with no end to it at all. Madam Speaker, to reset our equipment alone will cost in excess of \$13 billion, just to bring it back to the same position it was prior to going into Iraq and Afghanistan. It is impossible to absorb this amount of money, particularly with the debt this country has and the fact that we can't even pay our own bills without borrowing money from China, Japan, and the UAE.

Yesterday in an article in The Washington Post, Afghan President Karzai stated that he "now had three enemies: the Taliban, the United States, the international community." He also said in The Washington Post article that if he had to choose sides, he would choose the Taliban. This is what our young men and women are dying for.

Madam Speaker, I have on the floor with me today a photograph taken of the Air Force Honor Guard at Dover Air Force Base, escorting the remains of an American hero off the plane. Madam Speaker, this is just not worth the cost of our young men and women dying, and it's not worth the cost that it is costing the taxpayers.

In addition, I read another article that I would like to quote from. It was an AP article entitled, "No Decisive Victory One Year Into Afghan Surge." It really gathered my attention. In the article, a citizen of Afghanistan stated, "Every day that passes, the security situation is getting worse. The government is not in a position to bring peace. Every day, the Taliban are getting more powerful than the government."

Madam Speaker, again, today I have this poster on the floor because, in my mind, since we don't draft young men and women anymore to fight wars, and it is a volunteer service, and they are doing a magnificent job, but with four, five, and six deployments, they are wearing down. They're wearing out. Their suicides are up, and divorces are up as well.

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Last week, we had six Americans killed in a bombing in Afghanistan. We continue to repeat history. This case of Afghanistan history will show that no nation has ever conquered Afghanistan. It will always be a vast country of 1,400 different tribes. What are we trying to do? Why are we continuing this war effort?

I join my friend JIM MCGOVERN. I join my friends in both parties that are saying to the President, please, Mr. President, rethink. Don't stay there four more years because it's not going to be worth it. It's not worth it now. And, Madam Speaker, after 10 years, going on 10 years of being in Afghanistan, we continue to see no end to this commitment that, in my humble opinion, is not worth one American life.

So, Madam Speaker, as I do frequently on this floor, I'd like to close

by asking 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've given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in Your eyes for Your people. And God, please give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right for Your people in this country.

And, Madam Speaker, three times, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

Mr. CONYERS. Will the distinguished gentleman yield?

Mr. JONES. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. I want to thank the gentleman for his contribution tonight and associate myself with his excellent statement and remarks.

Mr. JONES. I thank the gentleman, Mr. CONYERS. Thank you so much for joining me.

#### GIVING THE GIFT OF WATER TO THE NEEDIEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

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

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker and Members of the House, I rise to point out that a very important consideration is about to take place in the next 3 days dealing with the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act. Its main sponsor is the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER). It has 97 cosponsors. And I want to commend the bipartisan spirit in which this bill has been put forward, because we have no less than one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten Members of the House that belong to the minority that are cosponsors. And in the other body, we have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight Members of that distinguished body who are in the minority there, plus two Independent Senators that have joined us.

And why? Because we've been working on this question of water for the continent of Africa and the states and the millions of people there suffering there and in Haiti. And we have a very rare opportunity in these next several days. The other body has passed the measure, and I stand before the House tonight to urge that it be taken up here as soon as possible.

As we gather for the holiday season, we are giving thanks for family and friends, but what may be unconsidered and unmentioned is appreciation for access to the water and adequate sanitation, something that's taken for granted in our great country.

And so I rise to remind us that there are 884 million people across the planet who went without access to clean water this year, and 2.5 billion men, women, and many, many children who

went without adequate sanitation. Without access to these basic building blocks, many of the people of undeveloped nations will likely have been left without the ability to work because of health problems that hamper productivity and discourage economic investment.

The countries of the world, including our great Nation, have come together to say that we can do better. And so a set of shared goals, entitled the Millennium Development Goals, have set specific targets relating to increasing access to water and sanitation by 2015. With these goals, we and the international community have pledged to halve, by 2015, to cut in half, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford or come into possession of safe drinking water. Think of it. And many of these are children. That's the worst part of it all.

And as this Congress draws to a close, we have a sensitive opportunity to make good on that promise. Important legislation, entitled the Water for the World Act, H.R. 2035, has already passed in the other body. We need it here. And, if enacted, this bill could help 50 million people over the next 6 years.

Please join me in helping move this legislation across the finish line and provide millions of our fellow world citizens with the gift of water.

#### IN HISTORIC VOTE, UN DECLARES WATER A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT

Juan Gonzalez: The United Nations General Assembly has declared for the first time that access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. In an historic vote Wednesday, 122 countries supported the resolution, and over forty countries abstained from voting, including the United States, Canada and several European and other industrialized countries. There were no votes against the resolution.

Nearly one billion people lack clean drinking water, and over two-and-a-half billion do not have basic sanitation.

Bolivia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Pablo Solon, introduced the resolution at the General Assembly Wednesday.

Pablo Solon: [translated] At the global level, approximately one out of every eight people do not have drinking water. In just one day, more than 200 million hours of the time used by women is spent collecting and transporting water for their homes. The lack of sanitation is even worse, because it affects 2.6 billion people, which represents 40 percent of the global population. According to the report of the World Health Organization and of UNICEF of 2009, which is titled "Diarrhoea: Why Children Are [Still] Dying and What We Can Do," every day 24,000 children die in developing countries due to causes that can be prevented, such as diarrhea, which is caused by contaminated water. This means that a child dies every three-and-a-half seconds. One, two, three. As they say in my village, the time is now.

Amy Goodman: Bolivia's ambassador to the United Nations, Pablo Solon, urging support for the resolution Bolivia introduced recognizing access to clean water and sanitation as a fundamental human right.

For more on this historic vote, we're joined now here in New York by longtime water justice advocate Maude Barlow. She's the chair of the Council of Canadians, co-

founder of the Blue Planet Project and board chair of Food and Water Watch. Last year she served as senior adviser on water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Welcome to Democracy Now!

Maude Barlow: So glad to be here.

Amy Goodman: Talk about the significance of this. If you asked people in this country, they would have no idea this has passed.

Maude Barlow: I know, I know, which is why you matter, I just have to say. This is very, very distressing to know something this important happened and it's been blanketed. There's no media here; it's just like it didn't happen. It's had media in other places.

There's no human—there has been on human right to water. It wasn't included in the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights. And then, more recently, when people have realized that it needed to happen, there were very powerful forces against it—powerful countries, powerful corporate interests and so on. But Ambassador Solon and a number of developing countries decided that they were going to move this, countries from the Global South, that they were going to move this through, and they just tabled it a month ago, and yesterday, at the vote at the United Nations, they won. Not one country had the guts to stand against them, even though lots of them wanted to do it.

And basically, for the first time, the United Nations General Assembly debated the right to water and sanitation—it's very important both were included—and acknowledged and recognized the right of every human being on earth to water and sanitation. And this matters because—as you know, because we've talked so many times—we are running—a planet running out of water. Brand new World Bank study says that the demand is going to exceed supply by 40 percent in twenty years. It's just a phenomenal statement. And the human suffering behind that is just unbelievable. And what this did as basically say that the United Nations has decided it's not going to let huge populations leave them behind as this crisis unfolds, that the new priority is to be given to these populations without water and sanitation.

Juan Gonzalez: And the countries that abstained, could you talk about—did any of them talk about why they were not voting "yes," or did they just remain quiet?

Maude Barlow: Oh, it was the usual gang. It was the United States and Canada, the European—not the European Union—the United Kingdom some of the European countries voted to abstain; some were wonderful—Australia, New Zealand. So it was all of the Anglophone, neoliberal, you know, bought into this whole agenda that everything is to be commodified, countries who are able to continue to supply clean water to their citizens, which makes it doubly appalling that they would deny the right to water to the billions of people who are suffering right now.

They used procedural language about this and that. There's another process in Geneva with the Human Rights Council, which we support, and they used the excuse that we have to wait for that. But that's a long-term process, and it could or could not end in something very specific. So they just cut through it. A bunch of brave countries from the Global South said, "We can't wait. We need this now." And it's not a surprise that it came from Bolivia, because, remember, Bolivia is suffering double whammy with a, you know, dearth of water, dearth of clean water, but also melting glaciers from climate change.

Amy Goodman: Well, let's go back to Bolivia. I want to go back to Bolivia's UN representative, Ambassador Pablo Solon, at a