

third front is taking place. The border war is a bloody battlefield between the law and the outlaws. Once a Texas Ranger told me: Congressman POE, after dark it gets western on the border. He said we are out-manned, out-gunned, and out-financed by the enemy.

Madam Speaker, we need the moral resolve as a Nation to secure the dignity of our borders and to protect the people who are protecting us, our Border Patrol agents. They are doing the job that we asked them to do, so it is long overdue that we protect the border of this country like we protect the borders of other nations so that no more Border Patrol agents will be murdered by those who sneak into our country.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING RETIRING CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus to pay tribute to our colleagues Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, members of the Congressional Black Caucus who are retiring at the end of the 111th Congress.

I will say a bit about each of them in a moment, but I do want to recognize and first thank them all for their service to their constituents and to our country and really to the world. Each of them in their own way has contributed to the cause and the mission of the Congressional Black Caucus which was founded almost 40 years ago and continues as the "conscience of the Congress."

Since our founding in 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus has remained true to its mission to root out inequality and injustice. Our voice has been heard throughout the Halls of Congress and throughout the world. We have been advancing the role of government to empower and protect families and children with every legislative tool at our disposal.

Congresswoman KILPATRICK is an immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus who I served under as first vice chair during the 110th Congress.

Congresswoman KILPATRICK is a brilliant and focused lawmaker who I have also had the pleasure of serving with a member of the House Appropriations Committee where she has been a forceful advocate for her constituents and the State of Michigan.

While serving on Capitol Hill, Congresswoman KILPATRICK has worked to level the playing field for minority-owned media outlets and advertising firms that face discrimination from

major advertisers. She has hosted forums on diversity in advertising and was a leading force in the successful effort to secure a Presidential executive order compelling all Federal agencies to increase their contractual opportunities with minority businesses.

Prior to her coming to Washington, Congresswoman KILPATRICK taught business education in the Detroit public schools before being elected to the Michigan State House where she served for 18 years and was the first African-American woman to serve on the Michigan House Appropriations Committee.

Congresswoman KILPATRICK has a deep commitment to our young people and the security of their future. She established the Sojourner Truth Project to inspire young African-American women to be leaders. Her spirit, her heart, and her intellect soar. The world is a better place because of this great woman.

Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, my friend, our colleague, believe it or not is a former elementary school teacher. She continues to educate us all each and every day. She is also a school psychologist who has lectured at both California State Universities at Los Angeles and Long Beach.

In 1975, she became the first African-American woman to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, and she led efforts during some very tumultuous times to expand school integration and improve academic standards.

For almost 20 years, Congresswoman WATSON served in the California State Senate where I served later. She was the first African-American woman to serve in that body, and she became a statewide and national advocate for health care long before the rest of the country was talking about health care reform. She was an advocate for consumer protection, women and children.

During her tenure in Sacramento, she served as the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Judiciary Committee. Let me tell you, and I always say this about Congresswoman WATSON, there were 40 members of the California Senate. I came to politics as a result of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm running for President. She was the first African-American woman elected to this body. Congresswoman WATSON, I used to watch her as being the only African-American woman in California in the State senate, and how she was able to maintain her integrity, her principles, her intellect and who she was as a black woman and yet negotiate very important legislation on behalf of the whole State. I want to salute her.

Congresswoman WATSON also served as the ambassador to Micronesia. She represented our country in a magnificent way. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her mastery of foreign policy. She is an international leader. She is Dr. WATSON who served in that capacity as ambassador until

2001 when she returned to California to run for Congress in a special election after the untimely death of our beloved Congressman Julian Dixon.

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She is an exceptional public servant, and she has demonstrated throughout her life a remarkable commitment to improving the human condition. And so we salute you, Congresswoman WATSON, and we look forward to this next chapter of your life.

And also, let me just take a moment to honor the extraordinary career of Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, a man who took up the torch from his mother, our former esteemed colleague, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and he has carried it further than any of us would have ever imagined.

Other Members will talk more about Congressman MEEK, but we salute all of our retiring Members and wish them well and Godspeed.

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

DETENTION FACILITIES AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

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. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to again make the case for why the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay should remain open and why Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—or any other hardened terrorist currently residing at Guantanamo Bay—should never be transferred to the United States to stand trial or for continued detention.

When a clear majority of the American people support keeping Gitmo open—as you can see from this chart to my left, Madam Speaker, this pie chart basically says, when you ask the American people what should happen to Guantanamo, fully 55 percent say keep it open. Only 32 percent are in favor of closing Guantanamo Bay detention facility, and 13 percent had no opinion.

Well, Madam Speaker, President Obama made closing Guantanamo Bay an immediate priority upon taking office, and he pledged to close the facility within his first year in office. It has indeed been troubling that the administration, in its push to close Guantanamo Bay to, so-called, "improve" our world standing, has succumbed to letting untruths dictate the popular story line about how the United States treats its detainees. Rather than expend the effort to correct what have become blatant fabrications, they continue to fight—even as recently as this

week—congressional attempts to ban any transfer of detainees to the United States.

Put simply, Madam Speaker, Guantanamo Bay has been and remains the best option to detain terrorists that pose a threat to our national security at home and abroad. Let me be clear. Guantanamo Bay houses some of the most dangerous terrorists in the world, some of whom have succeeded in their plots to kill American citizens and soldiers. Yet, despite their record of plotting attacks on civilians, beheadings, and using innocent women and children as shields, our military personnel provide the detainees with a host of rights, privileges, and, yes, indeed, respect.

If the administration won't tell the full story about how we treat Guantanamo detainees, Madam Speaker, then I certainly will.

Among the rights and privileges extended include 24/7 medical service, comprised of things like annual dental checkups, eye exams, physical therapy, mental health services, and one medical staffer for every two detainees. Detainees are afforded anywhere from 4 to 20 hours of outdoor recreation daily; are allowed unmonitored legal communication, have access to more than 15,000 books, magazines, and DVDs in 18 different languages; and they are, indeed, allowed to observe their religious customs. Cultural and dietary needs are met. Each detainee receives up to 6,800 calories per day, with six menus from which to choose. No wonder the average weight gain, Madam Speaker, has been 15 to 20 pounds.

That's the reality of Guantanamo Bay. Having gone to these lengths, it is simply, to me, incomprehensible that we would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to transfer these detainees to our shores and make accommodations for them within our borders, especially with a \$13.8 trillion national debt that's only growing.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, terrorists who cannot be prosecuted should not be released. This is particularly true given that the recidivism data that was released just last week indicates that up to 25 percent of those released from Guantanamo Bay have reaffiliated with terror groups and rejoined the fight against us, continuing to kill Americans.

Madam Speaker, the American people know that the Gitmo detainees—which include terrorist trainees, terrorist financiers, bomb makers, Osama bin Laden's body guards, terrorist recruiters, and would-be suicide bombers—are not minor offenders by any means. Indeed, attempted attacks on our homeland in the skies over Detroit, in the streets of New York City, and in a courthouse square in Portland, Oregon, remind us that the battlefield is not limited to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Those that seek to do us harm should never be transferred to our soil or tried in our Federal court system, where

they would essentially be provided the same protections under our Constitution as the very U.S. citizens they would love to kill.

Transferring terrorist detainees to the U.S. could eventually lead to their release—on American soil, Madam Speaker, putting our own citizens at risk. Indeed, any facility where they could be held—whether for trial or lifelong detention—could itself become a terrorist target.

Simply put, the American people believe that bringing Guantanamo Bay detainees to American soil—for any purpose—puts Americans at risk and is a national security threat. The President and his Administration would be wise to listen to the voice of the American people, follow the lead of this Congress, and keep Guantanamo Bay open.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN PATRICK KENNEDY

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague and good friend, Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY from Rhode Island.

I have known and worked with PATRICK for more than half of my life now. PATRICK and I were first elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly together in 1988. And I must say, I'm having a bit of a hard time imagining coming back to work in January without him serving in the Congress.

I still remember hearing about his first run for the State House, the young KENNEDY taking on the establishment in Providence. People thought that he didn't have a chance, but they didn't know PATRICK very well. He knocked on every door, shook every hand, and fought for every last vote. In the end, that race wasn't even close.

In the State House, he immediately showed his independence, refusing to toe the party line, much to the surprise of the House leadership at the time. I remember well one of his early efforts to enact responsible gun control measures, an issue that was and is very important to me as well.

PATRICK soon arrived in the Halls of Congress, and as the nephew of President John Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy and the son of Senator Edward Kennedy, an intimidating legacy followed closely behind him. But PATRICK didn't strive to fill anyone else's shoes. He worked hard every day to chart his own course and to fight for his constituents in Rhode Island. But, and perhaps without intention, he not only upheld his family's own enduring legacy, he carried it forward by knocking down new barriers as well. His compassion and commitment to promoting social justice for all Americans was clearly evident, particularly when he spoke out on behalf of those suffering from mental illness and addiction.

It is because of PATRICK's efforts that I and many of my colleagues have

gained a new awareness of the tens of millions of Americans who struggle every day with the hidden disability of mental illness or addiction. These people had no voice, no champion until PATRICK stepped up and took on what so many others were afraid to say out loud. Mental health parity legislation passed this Congress because PATRICK KENNEDY fought for every vote, just as he did with that first State House run. He met with every chairman, he sat down with every Member, and he raised this issue at every event that he went to, even if it meant bringing attention to what he once considered his own greatest weakness, but he did so without hesitation once he learned that speaking openly and honestly about his personal battles could move the debate forward and help countless others seek treatment and overcome their own challenges.

Most people know PATRICK as a passionate and outspoken advocate for millions of people, but to really know Patrick is to watch him sit down one-on-one with a constituent, a child or a senior citizen. And where politicians are often running from place to place to the next event trying to shake the most hands, see the most people, PATRICK would rather sit down and talk with one person about their experiences, about their family, their opinions rather than jump from event to event. He really truly cared about what his votes and his actions and the things he did meant to each Rhode Islander, and I know how much each conversation, each meeting, and each interaction meant to him and how it helped him to grow as a legislator and as a person.

PATRICK, I know your dad must have been so proud to serve with you for these past 16 years. Together, you forged a better path for social justice and equality for the people of Rhode Island and the people of our Nation. As you prepare to leave, know that you have made a profound difference during your time in this great institution, one that will endure and continue to resonate throughout our Nation.

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I look forward to continuing our work together, both inside and outside the Halls of Congress. And to quote your dad, Senator Edward Kennedy: "The work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my great friend, Mr. LANGEVIN, from Rhode Island.

Madam Speaker, no one has brought more passion to the floor of this Congress than PATRICK KENNEDY. PATRICK has never hesitated to speak out for the poor and the powerless, those who faced mental and physical disabilities, those who needed someone on their side. The Kennedy family has always