

that we cannot think of withdrawing our troops before 2014. If we stay on that schedule, our soldiers will have been fighting, bleeding, and dying there for thirteen years—more than three times the length of U.S. involvement in World War II.

I recently conferred with President Obama in his White House office, urging him to withdraw from Afghanistan. I'm pleased that he has since announced the withdrawal of 10,000 troops in 2011 and 23,000 in 2012. I would have been even more pleased if all our 100,000 troops now in Afghanistan, as well as those in Iraq, were on the way home.

The president may be reluctant to follow the advice of a presidential candidate who in 1972 lost forty-nine states to Richard Nixon. I can appreciate that concern. On the other hand, shortly after the 1972 election, two bipartisan investigations—one by the House and one by the Senate—forced the incumbent who beat me to resign his office in disgrace. A question from the New Testament comes to mind: What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world or wins a big election and loses his own soul? The late Sargent Shriver, my running mate in 1972, came to me the day after the election and said, "George, we may have lost forty-nine states but we never lost our souls."

With this sentiment in mind, I would like to suggest a few bold steps President Obama might consider for the good of his soul and that of the nation.

1. We should bring our troops home from Afghanistan this year. No previous foreign power that has tried to work its will in Afghanistan has succeeded—not Alexander the Great, not the Mongols, not the British, and not the Russians, who, after nine years of fighting, had sent some 25,000 of their soldiers home in coffins. The Soviet treasury was emptied and the Soviet Union collapsed. Even if it were desirable for us to stay a decade more, we simply cannot afford to do so.

2. We should close all U.S. military bases in the Arab world. American troops in the Middle East incite rather than prevent terrorist attacks against us. We would do well to remember that when Osama bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia after fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, he found a large American army in his home country, positioned there to halt a possible Iraqi invasion—a presence that so offended him he denounced the king and his own family for quartering the American "infidels" within the shadow of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. He then returned to Afghanistan to organize Al Qaeda and, later, launch the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

3. We should evaluate whether it is necessary to continue other American troop consignments to Europe, South Korea, and elsewhere. When the U.S. Army was sent to Korea in 1950 the deployment was described as a brief police action, but sixty years later our troops are still there. South Korea is now a wealthier, more populous, and more industrialized nation than North Korea, and is fully capable of defending itself. Similarly, U.S. troops in Europe, now numbering 80,000, have been there for half a century. They should be withdrawn, as were the Soviet forces from Eastern Europe under Mikhail Gorbachev.

4. President Obama should call on the Pentagon to reduce the current military budget of \$700 billion—a figure that accounts for almost half of the world's military expenditures—to \$500 billion next year, and then, over the next five years, to \$200 billion. In a careful and persuasive study, Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and an assistant secretary of defense under Ronald Reagan, identifies unneeded and costly programs that could be cut from the Pentagon budget without weak-

ening our security, including the elimination of sophisticated warplanes—all of which, added up, could save a trillion dollars over the next ten years.

5. The Bush tax cuts for those with higher incomes should be not only repealed but reversed; with an increase in taxes for this bracket, the increased revenues could be used to reduce the national debt. There would, of course, be strong resistance to ending the tax favoritism now enjoyed by the rich, but this bonanza for the few at the top must end.

6. Savings in military spending could be used to launch valuable public investments, thereby creating jobs and stimulating the entire economy. The administration has expressed support for creating a European-style high-speed rail system in the United States, and indeed we ought to build the fastest, cleanest, and safest passenger- and freight-train system in the world.

The president should also revive the full provisions of the World War II—era G.I. bill, which enabled 7.8 million soldiers to secure a college education at government expense while also receiving a cost-of-living stipend. Having been a bomber pilot during World War II, flying missions over Nazi Germany, I was one of the beneficiaries of the bill, eventually earning a Ph.D. in history at Northwestern University. This program was costly, but the government certainly made its money back, because educated citizens earn more and so pay increased taxes. Now, as we experience a crisis in higher education caused by soaring tuition costs that exclude many working- and middle-class young people, why not offer government-paid higher education and vocational training for all qualified students—both civilian and military?

Another wise public investment would be the expansion of Medicare to all Americans. Some of the recently proposed health-care legislation has been so lengthy and complicated that I am not sure what is contained in it, but we all know what Medicare is. We could reduce the impenetrable legislation to a simple sentence: "Congress hereby extends Medicare to all Americans." I am at a loss as to why an old codger like me benefits from Medicare while my children and grandchildren do not. To soften the impact of this expansion on the budget, I propose that the program be implemented in steps every two years: the first step including children up to the age of eight; the second, those from nine to eighteen; the third, those from nineteen through thirty; and finally, those from thirty-one through sixty-five. Programs such as Medicare have been in place for years in many advanced countries. My Canadian relatives tell me that any government that tried to do away with their comprehensive medical and hospital care would be promptly expelled from office.

None of this is intended as a criticism of Barack Obama, who had my support when he was a candidate for the United States presidency and who has my support today. I hope that some of the ideas here might help him on the road to greatness. I wish him well on the journey ahead.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR LOUIS JAMES LANGLAIS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Chief Petty Officer Special War-

fare Operator Louis James Langlais who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Master Chief Langlais was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Master Chief Langlais was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including six Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, three Presidential Unit Citations, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Master Chief Langlais is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Master Chief Langlais an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Master Chief Langlais' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

COMMENDING MICHAEL HOWARD MADISON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mr. Michael Howard Madison's retirement from Cleco Corporation. After 40 years of service in the electric power industry, in April of 2011, Mr. Madison announced his plan to retire from Cleco Corporation.

With his professional endeavors spanning an impressive four decades, his career began working as an electrician to put himself through college, graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1971.

Various career choices, with one highlight being his position as state president for American Electric Power, led to his eventual position as president and CEO of Cleco Corporation in 2005. Of his many contributions, of special note are that he strengthened the utility company, proposed a new solid-fuel generating unit near Boyce, and grew the stock price by 71 percent.

Not only should Mr. Madison be celebrated for his ambitious career, but for his public service. Some of the active boards he has served on include the Better Business Bureau, Capital One Bank, Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Council for a Better Louisiana, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, along with many others.

Mr. Madison's career has brought honor and pride to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana. I congratulate Mr. Michael Howard Madison upon the occasion of his retirement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JEROME P. STANO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Jerome P. Stano, a former Parma Councilman, Ohio State Representative and Ohio State Senator.

Mr. Stano was born in Cleveland on September 30, 1932. He graduated from Cleveland's Benedictine High School and later attended Benedictine Illinois College. During the Korean War, Mr. Stano bravely served our country as a member of the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Stano began his career in politics as a councilman for Parma's Ward 2. He was elected to the Ohio General Assembly as a State Representative and on January 3, 1974, Mr. Stano began his tenure as an Ohio State Senator. He served the citizens of the 24th District faithfully, working on issues such as medical care for the elderly, until December 31, 1980.

Mr. Stano worked tirelessly on behalf of the residents of Parma, Ohio and was an active member of the community following his career in politics. He is credited with founding Parma's Pee Wee Football program. Mr. Stano was also an active member of the Parma Elks Lodge, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus. Due to his commitment to the citizens of Parma, one of the city's parks on Gerald Avenue, has been named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Jerome P. Stano. I offer my condolences to his wife of 57 years, Klara; his children, Paul, Elaine, Diane and Kathy; and his grandchildren Christian, Bretton, Douglas, David and Grant.

“TEN YEARS AGO THIS DAY” IN HONOR OF THE RISING AND THE OPENING OF THE 9/11 MEMORIAL ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in remembrance of all of the Heroes and lost loved ones of all of the families of 9/11. On this the 10th anniversary, I ask that this tribute in honor of them, and the new visitor center and the rising of The Two New Towers and their strength penned by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

TEN YEARS AGO THIS DAY

Ten . . .
Ten years ago this very day . . .
Upon, this most hallowed ground . . . these most scared graves . . .
As here and now we all so kneel and pray . . .
As they tried to so take America's very heart away!
As so many magnificent men and women died on that day!
As so many fine lives were so lost, and so left all in such pain and dismay!
As all of their loved ones were so left with that kind of pain, that only Heaven can so take away . . .

And all of those innocent children aboard all of those planes who now so they . . .
Will never grow up to be happy, old, and so gray . . .
Who were once but all the apples of their parents eyes, night and day!
As all hearts are so warmed, whenever we so think of how in the face of evil they so stayed!
As all across our Nation, America so wept on that day!
From The Towers, to The Pentagon . . . and Flight 93, as upon us all such evil so weighted!
As America so saw, “Let's Roll” and what of most heroic hearts are so made!
And to what new heights, they could so reach . . . so soar, as did they!
As all of our tears flowed and poured, as out across our Nation we so mourned and prayed!
As all of The Towers fell down on that day . . .
Leaving us all with that kind of pain, that even time can not so take away . . .
As ten years later to this very day, still all of our hearts feel like it was only yesterday!
And yet, America's heart has grown even greater they say!
All because of what they so taught us, and to what our Nation they so gave!
For from this most hallowed ground, and from their strength and courage we have so found!
The strength to stand and to rebuild, as over these sacred footprints the water washes down!
Upon, this spot where all of their most sacred ashes were once so found . . .
All so scattered all across this ground!
All in this high place of reverence and of such faith so now, where all of their most magnificent souls can so be felt all around!
Has Come A Rising, of remembrance to all of them so now!
To last forever and a day, this most sacred ground!
A Rising . . . to so honor each and every man, woman and child so how!
All in our Lord's plan, so that in 100 years from now we will all stand here so very proud!
And then 100 more, we will stand here all in such honor at this shrine so now!
As we will feel all of their courage and strength, and what their fine faith has so meant!
To us all so now!
So that whenever someone looks upon this hallowed place, that they will leave with but tears on their face!
As a Tribute to Them and The American Way, and to this The Human Race!
As A Triumph of Good Over Evil, that the entire world will say!
That we have all so walked with our Lord and his Angels this day!
With all of their blessings of Hope, Courage and Faith . . . which within our hearts will stay!
You, may bring down our buildings!
You may murder our women, men, and our most precious children!
Crash planes into fields, or at The Pentagon, and yet still you will not victory so wield!
For, as long as we have such strong fine women and men, who into such graves do so tragically descend!
Who so believe in America and what our Freedom so brings, upon which our Nation depends!
Then, Will Come A Rising . . . over such evil that which all of us despise then . . .

Standing here on this sacred ground, one feel's all of their souls so beseeching us so now!

To teach our children well, all about what their fine lives have so meant . . .

So that they too may teach their children's children time and again!

To remember what it so means to be an American, as up from the ashes anew so came!

A Rising, With Faith In Hearts We Will Forever So Honor Their Names!

Goodness . . . Evil . . . Darkness . . . Light . . . Those Brave Hearts Who Bring The Light!

As Against The Darkest of All Evil's, As Onward We Fight!

Together enjoined, as we battle on into the darkest of all nights!

As why With This Rising, we so honor these Heroes and their Families, with such homage we pay!

All because they made America's heart stronger that day!

Ten Years Ago This Day! Never Forget!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, due to weather related travel delays I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 692 on September 7, 2011. This vote was on H. Con. Res. 67, a resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 67.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN HOWARD WELLS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of John Howard Wells, Jr. Mr. Wells was a patriot, veteran, and had a love of country. Mr. Wells fought in the Korean War aboard the *USS Hollister*, DD-788. He was a Cold Warrior in the 60's and 70's and at one point in his career his security clearance was so high that the level of clearance was classified.

Mr. Wells also spent part of his career working for NASA. During the 80's and 90's he was a Ground Controller for the Space Shuttle Project and worked in the original Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center. He also took a major role in the design, engineering, construction, and start-up of the New Mission Control Room which recently closed in July following the last flight mission of *Atlantis*.

His family will tell you that even these accomplishments are not what made him great. The titles of husband, father, and grandfather are what defined him in life. He taught his children how to have confidence in their talents. He wrote love letters to his wife. He loved and doted on his daughters and was joyous in the grandchildren they brought to him. He helped his son through the toughest years of his life