

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REAFFIRMING "IN GOD WE TRUST" AS THE OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am troubled and disappointed that this duplicative and needless resolution reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States is being considered today. It is a solution in search of a problem and it comes at the cost of addressing the jobs crisis in our country. With 25 million people out of work, job creation must be our top priority and we should be working every day to help get Americans back to work.

Does anyone seriously believe that "In God We Trust" has come under attack? It is my experience that the American people do not need to be told to respect the symbols of our nation and our national motto. They already do.

Some have raised questions about whether the national motto violates the First Amendment protections against the establishment of religion. Supreme Court Justice Brennan answered those concerns when he said, "The truth is that we have simply interwoven the motto so deeply into the fabric of our civil polity that its present use may well not present that type of involvement which the First Amendment prohibits."

Finally, one of my constituents wrote to remind me prior to 1956 "E pluribus unum" or "Out of many, one" was the de facto motto of the United States. I can't help but wonder whether it wouldn't be a better motto again today. As we face great challenges, we should always remember that we are all in this together.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as October comes to a close, I rise today to celebrate what was Domestic Violence Awareness Month as well as bring attention to the one of many serious issues mainly women and children in our society are struggling with domestic violence. In the United States, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted or beaten by stalkers or her partner. And believe it or not, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury for women in America. According to a study, victims of domestic violence are more than rapes, muggings and car accidents combined. It really is difficult to see that even in this great Nation of ours such unfortunate events can take place. We, as a nation, must

take collective action to make the case that violence is not the solution and it never is acceptable.

Each year, ten million children in this country have witnessed various forms of violence within the household. This, itself, I believe, is unfortunate. The result of these acts has weakened women's voice and positioned children in a situation where they have to grow up without parents.

There is no doubt that domestic violence creates viral impacts for our society. Each year, the Federal government injects hundreds of million of dollars fighting against the cause by creating support programs. In a smaller scale, many have suffered physically and emotionally. In addition, victims would be forced out of work due to injuries; this further positions them in a more economical disadvantage. Women in this country and around the world deserve more respect. They are the important element in our society. In fact, they are the mothers of our Nation's future. This epidemic must be stopped.

Many of us know that violence against women has existed for a very long time in our history. When the settlers set foot in America, they adopted an old English common law, which authorized a husband to use force upon his wife, for correction purposes. Not until 1871, that we began to see women's liberation movements, which ultimately abrogated men's legal right from committing violence on his spouse, at least in Alabama. It became a nationwide concern in 1970 when the issue was put under magnifying lens, while grassroots movements began to grow. Prior to the movement in 1970s, domestic violence was not considered a public issue, since violence mainly took place in one's private property. At the time, the government had taken measures to ensure victim's access to care and support. Though not until a decade later that legislations were proposed as an attempt to take on the issue. In 1994, two legislations were enacted as an effort to respond to this ongoing problem, the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act and the Violence Against Women Act. In 2006, the Congress reauthorized VAWA 2005 and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act 2005. These legislations have created new programs to assist and ensure the safety, well-being of survivors and victims. I am also pleased to see that the President has been showing strong support for this campaign. For FY2011, President Obama requests \$649 million dollars for violence against women programs. As of last year, there are 1,920 shelters to house and assist victims, nation-wide. Our Nation has come a long way on this issue and we still have many more unmet challenges to face. Brighter days are ahead of us.

I would like to take this moment to recognize all my colleagues in the House of Representatives, government agencies in the great State of New York, local non-profit organizations such as Greater New York City Chapter of The Links, Dominican Women's Development Center, Safe Horizon 100 Black

Women, and many others in my Congressional District who have shown tremendous dedication and enthusiasm to fight domestic violence, whether it is to seek for more protection or to ensure that support programs continued to be funded.

Mr. Speaker, in my very own district a not-for-profit organization, We All Really Matter or W.A.R.M., is leading the community to reach out to battered women who have just been released from the shelters. On the 27th of October, W.A.R.M. will be holding its Second Annual Domestic Violence Panel to present positive faces of women who have been abused. This event will be a great resource for the community to learn more about domestic violence as well as allowing victims the break the silence.

We must continue to do all we can to eradicate violence in every household in America. I strongly urge victims to speak up and reach out to your local community about the issue. Do not allow shame and fear to silence you. The best way to solve a problem is to confront it, not to shy away from it. You are the voice of change in our community. Our commitment is to ensure that there will be no more victims. We all really matter and we all deserve to live in a community where there is no place for violence.

A MAN ON THE GROUND IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof's recent piece highlighting the courageous work of Ryan Boyette in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan.

I had the privilege of meeting with Ryan when he was recently in town. At a time when few outside groups or media have access to the region, he has been an eye-witness to some of the atrocities presently occurring in that country.

Ryan has issued a compelling clarion call to action. Will we answer the call?

[From the New York Times, Oct. 22, 2011]

THE MAN WHO STAYED BEHIND

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

In the last few months, as you and I have been fretting about the economy or moaning about the weather, Ryan Boyette has been living in a mud-wall hut and dodging bombs in his underwear.

Some humanitarian catastrophes—Congo, Somalia, Sudan—linger because the killing unfolds without witnesses. So Ryan, a 30-year-old from Florida, has made the perilous decision to bear witness to atrocities in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, secretly staying behind when other foreigners were evacuated.

I met Ryan a few years ago in Sudan, and even then he was a compelling figure who spoke the local languages of Otoro and Sudanese Arabic. An evangelical Christian deeply

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

motivated by his faith, Ryan moved to the Nuba Mountains in 2003 and worked for Samaritan's Purse, an aid group led by the Rev. Franklin Graham.

Early this year, Ryan married a local woman, Jazira, a health worker—and 6,000 joyous Nubans celebrated at the wedding, along with Ryan's parents, who flew in from Florida.

It was clear that war was brewing in the Nuba Mountains. The region had sided with South Sudan in the country's long civil war, but now South Sudan was separating while the Nuba Mountains would remain in the north. The people—mostly Muslim but with a large Christian minority—supported a local rebel army left over from the civil war.

In June, fighting erupted. The Sudanese government moved in to destroy the rebel army and depopulate areas that supported it. Aid organizations pulled out their workers. Ryan decided that he could not flee, so when Samaritan's Purse ordered him to evacuate, he resigned and stayed behind.

"A lot of people tried to convince me to leave," Ryan remembers. "But this is where my wife is from, this is where I've lived for eight years. It's hard to get on a plane and say, 'Bye, I hope to see you when this ends.'"

Ryan organized a network of 15 people to gather information and take photos and videos, documenting atrocities. He used a solar-powered laptop and a satellite phone to transmit them to the West, typically to the Enough Project, a Washington-based anti-genocide organization. He also supplied eyewitness interviews that helped the Enough Project and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative find evidence of atrocities, including eight mass graves, on satellite images. And he helped journalists understand what was going on.

"He's irreplaceable," said Jonathan Hutson of the Enough Project. "There's no substitute for someone on the ground."

Ryan tried to keep his presence in the region a secret, at least from the Sudanese government, for fear that it might seek to eliminate a witness. Once, a bombing seemed to target his hut, but he heard the plane approaching and ran out in his skivvies and took cover; the bombs missed, and he was unharmed.

After the first few weeks, the killings on the ground abated. But the government has continued the bombings.

"It's terrifying when they bomb," Ryan told me. "You don't feel safe at any time of day or night."

The bombs typically miss and have killed fewer than 200 people, he says, but they prevent people from farming their fields. Several hundred thousand people have been driven from their homes in the surrounding state of South Kordofan, Ryan says, and a famine may be looming.

"It's not a good time to have kids," Ryan quoted Jazira as telling him. "If we have kids, they'll just starve."

Frustrated by the lack of attention for the Nubans' plight, Ryan decided to return to the United States this month and tell his story. He couldn't get a visa for Jazira in time—obtaining an American visa for a spouse is a long and complex process—so she is in a refugee camp for 15,000 Nubans in South Sudan, struggling to address health needs there. Meanwhile, in Washington, Ryan has testified before Congress and met with White House officials.

Soon, he'll go back, rejoining Jazira and sneaking back with her into the Nuba Mountains. It'll be more dangerous than ever now that he has gone public, but he is determined to give voice to the voiceless—and Nubans will do everything to protect him.

In a world where leaders often pretend not to notice mass atrocities, for fear that they

might be called Upon to do something, I find Ryan an inspiration. His eyewitness accounts make it more difficult for the world to neglect a humanitarian crisis in the Nuba Mountains—even if he does need to brush up on his tech skills.

I asked Ryan if he planned to use Twitter. "Twitter?" he asked. "I've been in the bush for nine years, so I don't know how to use it." But he's planning to learn.

TRIBUTE TO SPC. JOSEPH B.
DELOACH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of South Carolina's heroic sons, U.S. Army Specialist Joseph B. DeLoach, from Ruffin, South Carolina. In 2010, Specialist DeLoach was injured by an RPG while in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was serving as a cavalry scout with the 1-32 Cavalry Squadron, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The following poem, composed by Mr. Bert Caswell, an appreciated Capitol tour guide, is a testament to this true American hero.

OUT IN FRONT

All in times for war!
There, are but all of those who so insure!
With Scouts Out in front, you must believe!
For way out up ahead, there are all of those
fine soul who have died and bled!
As all out there on the very edge of death,
they so live . . .
All for Country Tis of Thee, so much they
give!
Scouts Out, Heroes who no doubt . . . may
not be coming home!
Gathering Intel, melding into the battle zone
. . . knowing so very well, death lies
close!
As they may be gone for days and days, for
only our Lord God so knows where are
they!
All to help win all those wars! Airborne!
As to new heights Blake, your fine heart has
soared!
For when they sign you up on that line,
You know for sure that you so live on all
borrowed time!
Realizing, on each new day . . . you but live
on, someone else's prayers!
All for love of Country Tis of Thee, they
cheat death we see!
Out of RECON, all by themselves as they
must be!
As their magnificent souls go so far beyond!
Oh Yea Blake, Rambo aint got nothing on
you . . . as into that darkness dis-
appearing, your gone!
The ones who so lead the way, and for all of
them and their fine families we now so
pray!
Way out up ahead, as into that darkness all
by themselves as they've so led!
Give Blake some C4 and DEC CORD, and he
will blow up anything all for . . .
All for that old red, white and blue!
For he's a true Son of the South . . . through
and through!
Scouts out!
Bad to the bone, as Blake that's you . . . the
title that you now so own!
As an American Hero so tried and true, but
The Best That South Carolina Can So
Do!
In Seven months in Iraq, you were involved
in six exploded IED's attacks!

And then on that fateful day, after recover-
ing from his injuries re upping so
bravely!

In Afghanistan, with your name on it . . .
you met an RPG that your sight so
ripped!

Right on the very edge of death, four times
. . .

As your Brothers in Arms rushing in . . .
your so blessed!

As an Angel on the Battlefield, named SPC
Resmondo . . . so brought you back
from death!

As you magnificent warrior, so lost your
sight . . .

And yet you see far much more clearer than
any of us tonight!

As you'd do it all again, All Out in Front . . .
As so magnificently, bringing to all your
light!

Scouts Out, are some of our nation finest
men . . . who are Devout!

As it's only upon themselves, they they must
so count!

As this strong South Carolina son, was
raised by his fine mom and dad . . .

To be such the one!

But, there's even more greatness still to
come . . . all in Blake's three young
sons!

Ethan, Bryson, and Joey Jr., are but Blake's
greatest of all loves!

Now, Blake is "Out in Front" all in his re-
covery, as he's on the hunt!

Because, Scouts fight, and they don't run!
A quiet calmness all in his heart has so
begun!

And if ever I have a son, I wish he could be
like this one!

Whose, life speaks volumes . . . all because
of what he's so said and done!

As one day up in Heaven, one again, Blake
you will be Out in Front!

For all you've done, and you will see our
Lord my son!

HONORING LT. COLONEL THOMAS
PLOURDE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Thomas Plourde of Lewiston, Maine. Plourde was a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Japanese American Combat Team in World War II, all of whom will be receiving Congressional Gold Medals today.

The 442nd Combat Team was comprised almost entirely of Japanese Americans, men who volunteered to fight tyranny and oppression abroad even while their families were interred in camps at home. For its size and length of service, it was the most decorated unit in the entire history of the United States military. In the course of their service, the 442nd earned 9,486 Purple Hearts, eight Presidential Unit Citations, and 21 Medals of Honor. These brave men fought with unparalleled skill and valor winning tremendous victories for the allies in Europe. Their heroism cannot be overstated.

At just 23 years old at the time of his enlistment, Thomas Plourde would serve as a 1st Lieutenant before rising to become a company commander for the 442nd. Following a decisive victory in the allied push to liberate Italy, Lieutenant Plourde led a task force that secured the capture of 33 German officers and over