

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

END OF U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the official end of United States military operations in Iraq. President Obama has fulfilled his promise to bring all of our troops home by December and, for that, I commend him.

I objected to the invasion of Iraq at the outset, and I have vigorously opposed it since. As we withdraw from Iraq after nearly nine years of war, there is no sense of "mission accomplished" because the mission was incomprehensible. We invaded the country under false pretenses and deliberate misrepresentations: no credible evidence pointed to the existence of weapons of mass destruction and, not surprisingly, none were found.

It is my hope that history books accurately will record the sorry consequences of invading a sovereign nation on the basis of adulterated evidence. That is what we did in 2003, and our country has paid, and will continue to pay, dearly for its foolish rush to war. Today, Iraq's economy is in shambles, its coalition government is fragile, anti-Americanism runs high, and violence abounds.

Since we launched this war, nearly 4,500 American soldiers have lost their lives and tens of thousands have sustained lifelong injuries. Their sacrifice must be honored and remembered. One way to do so is by not repeating the grievous mistakes that led us into Iraq. My fear is that those who sought this war again are urging conflict—this time with Iran. George Santayana warned that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Let us reflect at length on the punishing costs of war and its unforgiving legacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIME WARNER CABLE ON THE OPENING OF THEIR D.C. BUREAU

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Time Warner Cable for its investment in local television news coverage in North Carolina and its recent expansion into Washington, D.C.

By opening a news bureau in our nation's capital, the people of North Carolina will have another outlet to learn about the important work being done on their behalf and other updates that are important to the communities throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, TWC is dedicating significant resources to high quality local news channels that provide critical local news, weather, traffic

and sports coverage in the communities that they serve.

In my district, the Raleigh research triangle area is home to some of the leading innovators in technology and healthcare. The legislation that we pursue and enact in Washington has an enormous impact on these businesses and research facilities. With Time Warner Cable's commitment to reporting both at the local and national level, they are giving our residents an important resource to stay informed and involved.

I applaud Time Warner Cable for recognizing the importance of local news, for investing in it and creating jobs while providing this critical service to their customers and the constituents I serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD ROBINSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Richard Robinson in the event of his retirement after seven dedicated years of service as Chief Executive Officer of Stanislaus County.

Rick was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September 2004. In this position, under the director of the Board of Supervisors, Rick oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a \$900 million operating budget and over 3,600 employees.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Rick led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County budget functions, a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner. During his career with Stanislaus County, he also led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County health care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's health clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavior Health Center to private ownership.

Prior to his appointment with Stanislaus County, Rick had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local government career in 1982 as an Accountant for the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Rick currently serves on several local committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee. Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus

County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates. Rick has been married to his beautiful wife Kathy for 37 years. They have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Richard Robinson for his years of dedication to the County of Stanislaus.

TO COMMEND ZIAMATIC CORPORATION FOR RECEIVING THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR SAFETY AND EXCELLENCE IN 2011

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prestigious Bucks County based company, Ziamatic, for receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. Ziamatic Corp. (ZICO) was founded in 1958 with the intention of providing the men and women in the fire services industry with products that make their profession safer and easier. Over the years, Ziamatic has grown to become a leading manufacturer of fire and safety equipment in the United States. Today, the Yardley-based company employs 33 people.

For almost half of the last century, ZICO has designed and developed dozens of new products ranging from breathing apparatus to ambulance equipment and ladder access systems. With each new design, one thing has always been consistent: quality. Before a product has the ZICO name attached to it, it must undergo rigorous testing to be sure that it meets the highest of standards.

Thank you to Mike Ziayalek, and all of the employees at Ziamatic. Congratulations on receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. We appreciate all that you do for the community and wish you many more years of success.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR PLAYING THE NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 St. Xavier University Cougars football team, who will compete in the

• 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.

school's first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship game on December 17, 2011. The Cougars, who call my district home, will compete for the title in Rome, Georgia, against Carroll College of Montana.

St. Xavier defeated Marian University on December 3rd to go 13-1 for the season and earn a trip to the title game. Marian was the only school to defeat St. Xavier this year, and the Cougars avenged their loss in exciting fashion to earn their title birth. With SXU leading by three points in the final moments of the game, Marian was threatening to score with a first-and-goal situation. On third down, SXU freshman Clayton Fejedelem intercepted a pass in the end zone to seal the victory.

The Cougars' potent spread offense was on full display in the second half of the contest with three touchdowns through the air. St. Xavier's offense leads the NAIA in scoring offense with 45.9 points per game. Just as impressive was the defense as it held Marian's star running back to just 26 yards on 16 carries.

SXU had come close in the past, making it to the NAIA semifinals three times before, but this year the fourth time was the charm. When the Cougars face Carroll College tomorrow, I am confident they will be ready to take on the Fighting Saints. Please join me in honoring the St. Xavier University Cougars football team and their head coach, Mike Feminis, on competing in the NAIA National Championship and sealing their place as a perennial football powerhouse. May they perform like champions and bring back a national championship trophy.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, while I am deeply concerned about Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons and I support targeted sanctions against Iran, I voted no on H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 because I do not believe it would accomplish its stated goal of reducing the threat from Iran.

I am concerned that at a time when more nuanced diplomatic tools are needed to successfully address this important and multifaceted effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, this legislation would dangerously limit the flexibility of the U.S. Government to engage directly with Iran to turn back these efforts. The Administration has made it clear that the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA), enacted just last year after careful deliberation by both the House and Senate, is an adequate and effective tool for addressing the threat potentially posed through multilateral negotiations with Iran. I have spoken directly with officials at the State Department and they tell me they are very concerned that piling on additional sanctions could have the counter-

productive result of sending the already destabilized economies of our European allies into a tailspin and threaten the stability of the global economic recovery.

I am also troubled by the 601(c) provision inserted during mark-up of the bill, which takes the unprecedented step of restricting dialogue between U.S. and Iranian officials. The controversial provision would prohibit contact between U.S. diplomats and any Iranian official who "would pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the vital national security interests of the United States." This is dangerous and would have prohibited the efforts that secured the release of two of my constituents, Sarah Shourd and Shane Bauer, along with their friend and fellow U.C. Berkeley alumnus Josh Fattal, who were detained for years in Iran after being arrested while hiking near Iran's border with Northern Iraq. Furthermore, not only is it unclear how restricting negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program would advance our security interests, it should be clear that taking this option off the table is counterproductive in addressing the very real threats that Iran presents.

It is my hope that my colleagues will address these issues in conference and return a bill for final passage that considers what it takes to effectively undertake national security strategy execution. It is time for us to stop posturing and to understand that far from a reward to withhold, diplomacy is a critical tool for protecting United States national security interests.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NATION'S ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at local hospitals to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit before you a poem, authored by Albert, reflecting on the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men and women of our Nation's Armed Services.

CHRISTMAS TEARS

This Christmas season, as you awake. . . .
Please, so take the time to so take. . . .
To remember in this December, all of those
families whose hearts now quake. . . .
For they are so separated, so far across the
shores . . . by such dark and most evil
war. . . .
All in fear, not knowing . . . if but their
loved ones may live but one day more.
. . . .
So say a prayer. . . .
Because, there will be tears across this nation. . . . Christmas Tears. . . .
And as you so see the smiles upon your children's faces. . . .

Remember, there are such men and women of honor, fighting all in such dark places.

. . . .
Giving all of their treasure, oh yes That Last Full Measure . . . so you may live in peace. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, for all of them and all of these so here . . . Our Patriots of Peace!

And all of the ones, who now so in hospitals, who have so just begun their new battles in this new year. So shed a tear.

. . . .
For the ones who now so live without arms and legs, and holes in all places . . . teaching us all what faith is!

For them all so shed a tear!

And for all of those most magnificent ones, as Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven now in the ground . . . for freedom won! Shed a tear. . . .

For all those little boys and girls, who have just lost their best friends in the world. . . .

Its so sad now, shed a tear. . . .

And as you so sing your songs of joy, remember all of these little girls and boys in your hearts so very loud! And shed a tear. . . .

And in this evening as you break your bread, remember to say a prayer for all those whom have bled!

All so you can be free and live in peace. . . . Please shed a tear, and say a prayer for all of these. . . .

A child is born. . . .

As we remember on this golden morn. . . .

Remember all of their Christian Acts, for their courage does not lack. . . .

So for all of our Armed Forces, shed a tear.

. . . .
Say a prayer, that they will all be home one day . . . safe and sound in the coming years. . . .

And on this Christmas night as you so lay yourself down to sleep. . . .

All in your hearts, so very deep. . . . Say a prayer. . . .

That our Lord will so watch over all of these.

. . . .

And say a prayer for peace . . . do so please.

. . . .

Now, on this night from high above. . . .

But comes a gentle rain, soft falling snow flakes from our Lord all in his love.

. . . .

All for their selfless sacrifice, all of these fine men and women who now must fight. . . .

Are but our Lord's tears, for all these and their families on this night. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, and so pray that they will all be back next year.

. . . .

But, with their loved ones, on Christmas night. . . .

Lord God, Bless Them. . . . Bless Them All! Thank Them All. . . .

And say a prayer and shed a tear for all those most magnificent families and heroes who answer the call!

Thank them all and shed a tear.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 2011, I inadvertently cast "yea" votes on the final passage of H.R. 1905 and H.R. 2105. I am opposed to both bills.