

IS TWO WARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOT ENOUGH?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about the military campaign in Libya, one that has been underway the last week and a half.

First off, it's distressing to once again see that Congress's power has been so casually disregarded in our role and responsibility regarding war. There should have been a robust debate in this Chamber about the proper course of action in Libya. The American people deserve it. The Constitution mandates it.

The President gave a fine speech Monday night, as he certainly does, but I found him more eloquent than persuasive. I'm not satisfied that he has made a thorough case for military action against Libya. There are still too many unanswered questions.

What is our responsibility now?

Where does our commitment end?

Does the Pottery Barn rule apply in Libya? If we break it do we own it?

I'm not comforted by the fact that NATO is now in charge of this mission because the fact is, the United States is the dominant force within NATO. Any NATO-led operation is one in which we still bear an enormous responsibility.

And then there's the cost. The Pentagon has acknowledged that it's already spent \$550 million on the Libya operation. That's after 1½ weeks. Mr. Speaker. The bill to the taxpayer could easily climb over \$1 billion. And, Mr. Speaker, at a time when we're already spending close to \$7 billion a month on a failed military occupation in Afghanistan; this, at a time when my friends in the majority want to snap the purse shut on so many important programs the American people need.

There is unquestionably, unquestionably a humanitarian crisis in Libya. I'm appalled, as we all are, about Qadhafi's brutality against his own people. But I fear that that operation will set a dangerous precedent and send us sliding down a slippery slope.

We can't afford to head down a path of perpetual U.S. military engagement around the world. With developing situations in Syria, the Ivory Coast, Congo, Yemen, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, we can't give up on diplomatic and humanitarian efforts in favor of guns and bombs everywhere there's violence and unrest.

We're already fighting two wars in the Middle East. Is that not enough? Have we learned nothing over the last decade? Have we learned nothing about the danger of open-ended military conflicts where the exit strategy is unclear and victory is ill-defined?

The war in Afghanistan is sapping America of its strength in so many ways. It has cost us in precious taxpayer dollars and has cost us more

than 1,500 of our bravest people. And it is costing us credibility and moral authority in ways that can't even be measured yet or quantified every single day.

The time is now, Mr. Speaker, for less war, not more. Let's stop, let's turn, and let's insist that we don't turn Libya into another black hole. Let's bring our troops home from Afghanistan, and let's give our children a future of peace.

AMERICA'S RISING ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a topic that affects every American, rising energy prices. I've spoken on this floor about it before, and I will continue to do so until we increase our energy production here in America, and our dependence on the political earthquake zones of this world is depleted.

While President Obama was traveling in South America, I returned home to my district last week, and I heard from my constituents loud and clear: Gas prices are too high. We need to do something about it. That's why I found it so outrageous and appalling when I heard our President last week offering assistance and encouraging energy production, not here in America, but in Brazil.

No, that's not the right direction. We need to encourage energy production right here at home, not Brazil. We need to develop our offshore energy resources so that jobs can be created here in America, not Brazil. And we need to encourage energy independence so that we return to more reasonable energy costs, not in Brazil, but right here in America.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to confront this issue and encourage energy exploration and production right here at home. The time is now to create our independence from foreign energy sources and secure our present and future as good stewards of our God-given resources and the blessings of liberty.

THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today a united Hawaii delegation will be introducing the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act in both Chambers of Congress. Long denied the recognition and rights accorded to America's other indigenous people, this bill will finally enable Native Hawaiians to embark on their long awaited process of achieving self-determination.

On the House side, Congresswoman HANABUSA and I have the great pleas-

ure of being joined in this effort by Congressman DON YOUNG, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO and Congressman TOM COLE. All are longstanding friends of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians.

How we treat our native indigenous people reflects our values and who we are as a country. Clearly, there is much in the history of our interactions with the native people of what is now the United States that makes us less than proud. The American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, all indigenous people, have suffered at the hands of our Government. But one of the great attributes of America has always been the ability to look objectively at our history, learn from it, and when possible make amends.

The bill we are introducing today has been more than 10 years in the making. It has been a deliberative and open legislative process. There have been 12 congressional hearings on Native Hawaiian recognition, five of which were held in Hawaii. These bills have been marked up by committees in both Chambers. The House has passed Native Hawaiian recognition bills three times: First in 2000, again in 2007, and most recently just last year.

The goals and purposes of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act are consistent with the history of the Native Hawaiian people and the record of United States involvement in Hawaii. The bill is also consistent with over 188 existing Federal laws that promote the welfare of Native Hawaiian people.

I know there are Members who question these authorized programs simply because Native Hawaiian is in the title, which is exactly why we need this bill. It will formalize the very special political and legal relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiians by providing a process through which the Native Hawaiian community can reorganize its governing entity within this relationship. This is how we treat Alaska Natives and American Indians, and this is how we should treat Native Hawaiians.

The Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown in 1893. Hawaii's last monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, was deposed by an armed group of businessmen and sugar planters who were American by birth or heritage, with the support, abetted by U.S. troops. The Queen agreed to relinquish her throne, under protest, to avoid bloodshed.

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She believed the United States, with which Hawaii had diplomatic relations, would restore her to the throne.

There may be new Members to this body who have not had occasion to learn the history of Hawaii, and I extend an open invitation to those Members to share this history with you.

The State of Hawaii motto, which is also the motto of the Kingdom of Hawaii, is, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka

pono," which translates to, "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."

Native Hawaiians, like American Indians and Alaska Natives, have an inherent sovereignty based on their status as indigenous aboriginal people. I ask for your support of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.

Mahalo nui loa. (Thank you very much).

CAROL ANNE BEAVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my dear sweet sister-in-law, Carol Anne Beaver, went to be with her Lord on Saturday, March 26, 2011. She passed away in her home near Lockhart, Texas, following a long and valiant battle with cancer. She is the first of four daughters of James Brasher and Betty Hodges. She was born on December 19, 1955, in Pasadena, Texas.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her loving husband of 7 years, Jeff Beaver; three sons, Michael, Dustin, and Layton Warmack; Layton's wife, Holly; two granddaughters, Kelsie Anne Warmack and Maddy Ruiz; one grandson, Layton Warmack; three sisters, Vicki Perdue, Barbara Payne, and my wife, Terri Barton. She is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, her stepfather, Steven Hodges, two brothers-in-law, two stepdaughters, and of course her husband's family.

She began her business career in Houston, Texas, as a bookkeeper for Brinadd Company, a multinational workover and completion fluids company that was owned by her late stepfather, James Jackson. While with Brinadd Company, she gained an early knowledge of computerized accounting systems when she worked closely with the programmer to convert a handwritten system into a computerized one.

She moved to Lockhart, Texas, in Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT's district in Caldwell County, in 1988. She worked several years as a secretary and bookkeeper at a local law office. She subsequently returned to the accounting field, first working for Lifeway, then Columbia Health Care, and finally went to work for Austin's municipal transit system, Capital Metro System. She retired from Cap-Metro, when she came down with cancer, as the payroll manager for the entire system.

Carol was a very loving, caring woman. She had a ready smile, a twinkle in her eye. She treasured her husband, her family and many, many friends.

When I started dating her baby sister, Terri, she was, as she should be, very skeptical of whom she called Congressman JOE. She wasn't sure that her baby sister should be associated with anybody that was a Member of Con-

gress. I would have to say, though, that when I invited Carol, her mother and two sisters and Terri to the local Dairy Queen in Lockhart, Texas, I was able to at least neutralize their opposition with some ice cream sundaes and some Barton-backer T-shirts. Carol and I became fast friends, and she came to respect not only me but this institution.

She is going to be missed. She was the absolute most courageous, dedicated human being in fighting her long battle with cancer. She never complained. She never grumbled or whined about "Why me, Lord?" She took her battle with cancer in stride. She is now with her Lord in a better place. We will miss her very, very much, but we know that one day we will see her again.

Her funeral will be tomorrow in Lockhart, Texas, at 1 o'clock. Visitation is this evening from 5 to 8 p.m. at the McCurdy Funeral Home in Lockhart, Texas.

Sweet, sweet, Carol, we miss you very much.

GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the late Geraldine Ferraro. There will be services held for her tomorrow in New York, which many of us will be attending.

It was the night of July 19, 1984, in San Francisco that Geraldine Ferraro changed the game, changed the rules, and changed history when she accepted the Democratic Party's nomination as Vice President of the United States of America.

I was there on the floor that night as a young delegate, and when Geraldine Ferraro walked out on that stage it was electrifying and inspiring beyond words. What her nomination meant to me and to millions of women everywhere, what she accomplished in that moment and what she said that night was all so important that her words still ring in my ear as if it were yesterday.

She said, "By choosing a woman to run for our Nation's second highest office, you send a powerful signal to all Americans. There are no doors we cannot unlock. We will place no limits on achievement. If we can do this, we can do anything."

That moment served as a hammer blow to the glass ceiling and a clarion call for a greater gender equality in our country.

I remember reading Time Magazine, and Time Magazine heralded her selection as "A Historic Choice." But even more than that, it was a life-changing event. It changed the course of women's lives for the better. I know beyond question that it changed mine.

Because even in that not too distant era, it had been all too commonplace for those in power to believe that: She simply cannot do that. She is a woman.

It didn't matter if you had the talents, the education, the abilities and the drive to be the best one to get the job done if it was a job that many believed women simply could not do. That was the kind of thinking that was all too often applied to roles in politics, to career choices, and to sports. And Geraldine Ferraro changed all of that.

When she gained admission to Fordham Law School, an admissions officer said to her: You're taking a man's place, you know. You really should not go to law school.

Geraldine Ferraro knew a woman's place was in the House, the Senate, or any job she wanted to take. When she first ran for Congress in 1978, all the political experts said she could not win in her home district in Queens. She not only won; she went on to become a leader here in Congress, and she went on to become a friend, a mentor, and a role model.

That is one of the reasons that, to honor her, I have redoubled my efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and to add to our Constitution the simple words: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States on or by any State on account of sex." Those words embody the principles that Geraldine Ferraro lived by and the equality of opportunity that she sought.

I saw her several weeks ago. She was full of energy and plans and had some constituent issues she wanted me to take care of. She never gave up. She never gave in.

Towards the end, Geraldine Ferraro fought her own battle against cancer with the same dignity, courage, tenacity, and grace that she brought to all of her fights, whether it was battling for equal rights or for human rights, for women and men alike.

It can truly be said of Geraldine Ferraro, this heroin and role model for the ages, what was once said of the great heroes of old. She was, as Tennyson wrote, "One equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Geraldine Ferraro. We shall never forget her. And I remember one of her great sayings was, "Every time a woman runs, women win."

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THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEBATE OVER DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, abortion on demand is an American tragedy, but public funding for abortion and abortion providers is an American disgrace. Fortunately, we have never been closer to denying public funding to abortion providers in America than we are today.

On February 18, 2011, with bipartisan support, the House of Representatives