

IT'S TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Congresswoman SUE MYRICK and I went to visit the wounded at Walter Reed. These trips are always a vivid reminder of the true cost of war. Seeing the men and women who have lost limbs for this country make we wonder how many more are going to be in that hospital, both at Walter Reed and Bethesda, with severe wounds.

After hearing Secretary Gates, and I have great respect for Secretary Gates, but he has made it clear that we will be in Afghanistan until 2014. He said it will be 2014 or 2015 before we can start substantially bringing down the number of troops in that country. Here we are in Washington battling right now about the 2011 budget, what should we do or not do and cut this and cut that, yet we seem to find \$8 billion a month for a corrupt leader in Afghanistan named Karzai. He's corrupt and his government is corrupt. Yet we're saying to the American people, if you're a senior, we can't be sure that you can get a sandwich at the senior citizen center in your county. We're saying to the children that cannot afford milk at home, there will be no programs for you. But yet we can find \$8 billion a month for a corrupt leader in a country in a war that we cannot win.

Our troops have already won, but history says you will not change Afghanistan—and I won't go through the history because of time. One day Karzai likes American troops being over there and the next day he doesn't like American troops being there. In fact, in December 2010 in the Washington Post, and I will paraphrase this, Karzai said to General Petraeus:

I have three main enemies—the Taliban, the Americans, and the international community. If I had to choose a friend today—and again, this is the President of Afghanistan—I would choose the Taliban.

They're the ones killing Americans and blowing their legs off and their arms off. How much longer does this have to go on?

I say to my colleagues in both parties, join Representative KUCINICH, RON PAUL and myself—and many others—let's bring our troops home.

I have a photograph here, Mr. Speaker, that was in the Raleigh, North Carolina, paper about a year ago. This is a young Army sergeant. His legs are gone. They've been blown off. His right arm has been blown off and he has a left arm. He is what they call a triple amputee. His lovely wife is there pushing the wheelchair.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the American people to say to those of us in Congress, do not keep our troops there until 2014, 2015, 2016 for a corrupt leader. It's time to bring our troops home.

I have the fortune of representing Camp Lejeune Marine Base in my dis-

trict. I talk to the Marines, who are as brave as brave can be, that have been there three, four and five times. I've talked to the families as they're breaking up, the families when their loved one has committed suicide upon returning from Afghanistan. It's time to bring them home. How many more will be like this sergeant, without legs, without arms?

Mr. Speaker, last week on Tuesday, SUE MYRICK and I saw two young men, one from Florida and one from Nevada, that have no body parts below their waist. The body parts are gone. Everything is gone. Wake up, Congress, and let's bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

My close is this, Mr. Speaker: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in His loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in God's eyes. I will ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And I will ask three times: God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER MEMBER GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, I rise to pay tribute to one of the great Americans that we have ever had in this body, Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro. Most of the people remember her as an exciting Vice Presidential candidate, but those of us in the New York delegation remember her as just a great personality, a great legislator, and a great American.

We in the New York delegation have been fighting for time in which we could express ourselves, but the legislative calendar has not been very kind to us. So this morning we have two of her dear friends in Congresswoman MCCARTHY and Congresswoman MALONEY, and I suspect that every time a New York Member gets an opportunity, we will grab that time so that no one will ever say that she did not leave footprints here that all of us were just so proud.

□ 1020

She succeeded Jim Delaney, who was known to be a very conservative Democrat from Long Island. And we all awaited to see just who was going to succeed Jim. And to see this beautiful, intellectual former teacher, former assistant district attorney to come here, we all waited with breath held back to see just what type of woman she would be.

And even though she held closely those conservative views, it has never been presented to this body in a more

eloquent, a more charming way as we found ourselves with this new exciting candidate who later became a Member and became a part of the leadership of the New York delegation. And once Tip O'Neill saw her, she became a part of the congressional Democratic delegation and just went on. Wherever she went, she excelled with her smile, with her brains and contributed so much in raising the standards of Members of Congress and those who would run for national office.

I worked pretty closely with Senator Fritz Mondale when he ran for President of the United States. And while he was looking for a Vice Presidential candidate, I was so pleased, much surprised that Tip O'Neill said that he thought that within our delegation the answer to Fritz Mondale's problem would be the nomination of Geraldine Ferraro. I was surprised but so excited that I could serve on the Mondale team and to be able to say not only do we have a New Yorker, but we have an exciting candidate that could provide that shot in the arm that the Mondale campaign so badly needed.

And I felt so much like an American when we found out that her background was one of near poverty. Her dad had come here from Italy. She just made the Italian American community just so proud. She made women from all over the country proud. She made New Yorkers proud. And certainly while she did not succeed in becoming a Vice President, as Mondale did not get the numbers that he needed, she became a national figure, a compassionate figure serving in the United Nations, serving on television in terms of the expression of views of the Democratic Party, raising funds for candidates.

Then when she was stricken with this terrible disease that she died from, you would only hear her talking about her husband, John, her beautiful children, and how she can help to make it a better, more effective Democratic Party as well as what contributions can she make to this great country.

So we in the New York delegation feel extremely proud that she was a part of us. She had her own personal family that she loved, her own church, her own community. She had the respect and support of all Americans and the deep-seeded feelings Italian Americans have. She was so well respected in Democratic circles and congressional circles.

But most of all, we remember what a gentle lady she was. We have an expression in this House of Representatives, "the gentleman from Wisconsin," "the gentlewoman from New York." But anyone who had known Gerry, as we so affectionately called her, would know that she was indeed a strong leader but a gentle leader from Long Island and from New York.

PILL MILLS MUST GO

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Florida, seven people die a day, each day, of prescription drug abuse. We had three teenagers a couple of weeks ago die in 1 week. A gentleman, a friend of mine, buried his daughter on a Saturday. I talked to him on Monday, and he pleaded with me to do something about killing these pill mills all across our State.

Florida prescribes 10 times more oxycodone pills than all other States combined. To put it simply, we have more pain clinics than McDonald's restaurants.

It's time to put these pill mills out of business. We have 1,300 pill mills in Florida. We need to shut them down now. Four thousand deaths in Florida in 2008.

I've introduced legislation to crack down on pill mills. My bill will stiffen penalties and fines and use the seized assets to fund prescription drug databases. Forty-two States have databases. Florida does not. We need a database today.

The time to act is now. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in this fight, to put these pill mills out of business and stop these needless deaths.

HONORING GERALDINE FERRARO

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the New York delegation to honor the memory and many contributions of one of our favorite daughters, Geraldine Ferraro. Last Thursday, New Yorkers poured out in great numbers to honor her at her funeral. Her three children—Donna, Laura, and John, Jr.—spoke eloquently and movingly in support and love of their late mother. And at the funeral and speaking in a eulogy beautifully for her, Vice President Mondale, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congresswoman JANE HARMAN, Senator MIKULSKI, and former President Clinton.

It would have thrilled her to see four women precede a President in eulogizing and speaking about her, two of whom were Secretaries of State, because it was her life that helped inspire and move women forward in our national life, not only in politics but in every area—business, finance. All areas of American life, Geraldine Ferraro inspired with her life and her historic run for Vice President of the United States.

With her passing, America lost a leader who was as wise as she was warm; a trailblazer who broke down barriers for women. For women everywhere, not just in the United States but across the world, Geraldine Ferraro

was a champion and a heroine. For me, personally, she was a dear, dear friend and a mentor.

What seemed to non-New Yorkers as a feisty and fast-talking woman seemed to us as just another mom from Queens. She inspired us with her personal story.

The daughter of Italian immigrants, raised by her seamstress mother after her father died at 8, she became a public school teacher, a lawyer—one of just two women in her law class—and a Member and leader of Congress, elected in 1978. She also, after her historic run, became a commentator on television, a delegate to the United Nations. She headed the World Conference in Beijing in 1995, and I was proud to be part of her delegation at the World Conference on Women.

Last August, on her 75th birthday, we renamed the Post Office in Long Island City in her honor. It used to be in her district; it is now in mine. And I was honored to be able to author the legislation and work with my New York colleagues and others to pass it. And she was so thrilled at that naming to see so many of her friends, not only from New York and her district but across the country, come in one place to honor her.

Later that day, which happened to also be Women's Equality Day, she rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange in honor of the progress for women.

I know that a post office is only the start of the memorials to this wonderful, charming, talented trailblazer who continued blazing trails her entire life. I met with her shortly before she died, and she had a list of constituents she wanted helped and causes she wanted completed.

We do stand on her shoulders and women like her who came before us.

I will never forget, as an eager, young delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention, and I can tell you firsthand that Geraldine Ferraro thrilled us when she took the stage as the first woman ever nominated by a major political party to be its candidate for Vice President of the United States.

□ 1030

It was absolutely electrifying. She changed my life, and she changed the lives of women everywhere. She changed the aspirations of women and how they view themselves.

I will never forget being on the floor. Many of the men gave their delegate card to the women delegates who were part-time delegates. So the floor was filled with women. People were handing out cigars saying, "It's a woman." And when she went to the floor, there was literally applause for over 10 minutes.

I shall miss her dearly and shall honor her passing by redoubling my efforts to complete her unfinished work to pass the ERA. It is time to enshrine in our Constitution the high principle

of gender equality that Geraldine Ferraro so courageously stood for in her life.

Geraldine, we will miss you, we honor you, and we thank you for your many, many contributions to American life.

MEMORIAL FOR GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I also am part of the New York delegation, and I want to talk about Geraldine Ferraro. My good colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY, basically laid out her life and all the good things that she did. I guess I want to talk about what she meant to so many of us that weren't even in politics back then.

I think the first time that I ever saw Geraldine or heard of Geraldine was when she was announcing that she was going to be running for Vice President. So all these things from last week, when we were notified that Geraldine had passed away, many of us wanted to go back to New York for the funeral. Unfortunately, our business here kept us here so we couldn't go back. We're kind of used to that.

A lot of times it is said you can spend a lifetime here in Congress, but 2 minutes after you die they will say, "Who was that?" But that's not Geraldine. Geraldine was someone that was a force. Again I say in 1984, like most Americans, I took notice of Geraldine Ferraro when she did accept the Democratic nomination for Vice President at the national convention in San Francisco.

She struck me as a unique figure on TV, a woman in a male-dominated profession. She had a smile. She had confidence. When she got onto that stage, you just knew this radiance that came out of her. For myself, I was not in politics, didn't follow politics too well, but she certainly gave a strong impression to me.

Her message was also full of hope. I happen to believe that, especially when we say to people, "If we can do this, we can do anything." I am one of those people that believe that. I am here in Congress. Everybody said I couldn't do that. Somehow I got here. Somehow I have stayed here. Somehow I keep fighting for my constituents back at home.

She inspired women to get involved. She inspired them to get involved in politics, whether at the staff level or as a candidate. And while I understood the importance of the event, I had no idea that I would be standing here praising this woman that I first saw on TV. As I said, I had no political ambitions. I was a nurse, just several miles away from the city where Geraldine was. Like most Americans, I did vote and I followed the news, but I never thought I would get involved in politics.