

□ 1110

Under General McNabb's leadership, USTRANSCOM has moved over 1.5 million passengers and over 4 million short tons of cargo in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq Freedom. To put this in perspective, this is the equivalent to moving the entire population of southwestern and southern Illinois and all of their household belongings halfway around the world. America truly has a military deployment and distribution system that is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Under General McNabb's command, USTRANSCOM has provided humanitarian relief to hurricane victims in the United States, earthquake victims in Haiti and Japan, and flood victims in Pakistan, just to name a few. The medicine, supplies, equipment, and personnel that USTRANSCOM has delivered in the wake of these and other natural disasters ultimately saved lives and eased human suffering.

In addition to conducting some of the largest military moves since World War II and providing unparalleled humanitarian relief, General McNabb has made it a priority to transform our Nation's deployment and distribution system, ensuring our ability to project national power where needed with the greatest speed and agility, the highest efficiency, and the most reliable level of trust and accuracy. As a USTRANSCOM commander, General McNabb actively took on the role of the distribution process owner for DOD, charged with improving efficiency and interoperability across the entire DOD supply chain. To meet the needs of the military and the Nation, General McNabb developed the Arctic overflight route and expanded multimodal logistics throughout the northern distribution network. He has improved combat readiness and capability while saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. Troops and equipment are now arriving and leaving the battlefield faster and at less cost.

General McNabb will be the first to tell you he did not accomplish these feats alone. He led the way in seeking collaborative joint solutions to today's complex global distribution issues. Those who worked for him and with him, military and civilians from every branch of service, will miss his leadership and mentorship. They'll miss the stories and humor he used to get his message across. We in Congress will miss his straightforward approach and sound counsel. The Nation will miss his devotion to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to the men and women serving in our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize General McNabb for serving the Air Force with honor and distinction for 37 years. I also wish to recognize his wife, Linda, and wish her the very best in the future as well. The Air Force will lose not one but two exceptional people upon General McNabb's retirement.

General McNabb and Linda, we wish you well in your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of unprecedented support for our great Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray this day, O Lord, for peace in our world, that righteousness will be done and freedom will flourish.

The work of these days has concerned the interchange of goods, talent, and resources with other nations of the world. In Your wisdom You created many peoples and have asked us to live and work together so that all might know and experience Your blessings.

Send Your Spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might judiciously balance seemingly irreconcilable interests. Help them to execute their consciences and judgments with clarity and purity of heart so that all might stand before You honestly and trust that You can bring forth righteous fruits from their labors.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORBES led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MILAN PUSKAR

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week, West Virginia experienced a tremendous loss. Milan "Mike" Puskar, cofounder, former chairman and CEO of Mylan Labs in Morgantown and the namesake of WVU's Milan Puskar Stadium, passed away.

Mike was not only a visionary entrepreneur who grew Mylan into the largest generic drug manufacturer in America, but he also was a beloved philanthropist who was passionate about our Mountain State. He was an extremely committed supporter of West Virginia University and gave selflessly of his time and treasure to the academic and athletic programs there.

Milan had a kind heart and lived his life with the utmost integrity. The life he lived and the legacy he left behind have left West Virginia a better place for our children and grandchildren.

My wife, Mary, and I, as well as all West Virginians and Mountaineer fans across this country, will keep Mike and his family in our thoughts and prayers. He will be missed by all.

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN EGYPT

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the violence in Egypt. Months after Muslims and Christians fought for democracy, religious violence continues to plague the country. Worse yet, in post-revolution Egypt, violence against Coptic Christians is rising.

This weekend, over two dozen people were killed in Cairo, most of them Coptic Christians. Demonstrators had gathered to protest the attack on a Coptic church and other Christian-owned properties. In response, military officials aggressively confronted protesters by driving vehicles into crowds and shooting off rounds of live ammunition. In the end, 26 people were dead and hundreds were wounded.

This brutal crackdown puts into great question the ability of the military government to bring democracy to Egypt and protect its minority Coptic population. These military attacks are unacceptable, and the resulting deaths are absolutely appalling.

The Coptic Christians simply want respect for their churches, their homes, and their basic rights. Democracy cannot thrive in Egypt if the rights of Coptic Christians are not respected.

The United States must do everything it can to pressure military leaders to end the violence, punish those

responsible, and uphold the equal rights of all Egyptian citizens.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID A. DRAKE

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his life for our freedom: United States Army Private First Class David A. Drake.

Private First Class Drake enlisted in the United States Army in January 2011. In the Army, he served as a combat engineer, leading from the front with his unit, the 515th Engineer Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On September 28, 2011, he gave his life in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, conducting operations against the enemy.

David is remembered not only for his heroics on the battlefield, but for the tremendous impact he had on his family, friends, and his community. His brother recalls David's absolute devotion to others in describing why he joined the Army. "For him, it was pride in serving our country, serving the people, keeping our freedom." His character and patriotism are an example for us all.

Private First Class David Andrew Drake personifies the honor and selflessness of service in the United States Army. His bravery and dedication to duty will not be forgotten. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, my deepest sympathies go out to his family, his fellow soldiers, and to all who knew him.

SENIORS TASK FORCE: ENTITLEMENTS AND THE SUPERCOMMITTEE

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for older Americans and pledge to protect the program they have paid into, have been promised and deserve.

Throughout much of the year, we have heard how Congress needs to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits under the guise of deficit reduction. I reject that premise.

I do so for Dale, a Sacramento resident, who, at 70 years old, recently retired with his wife. The dream of retirement went well for a short while, then utility and home repair bills started piling up. And if this weren't enough, both Dale and his wife have suffered deteriorating health, which has increased their medical bills to levels they cannot afford. Cuts to Medicare or Social Security would, as Dale

put it, "take from the poorest of the poor."

That is unacceptable. Any proposal to meet our deficit must meet the test of protecting our seniors.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Prayer Caucus to note the importance of prayer in our Nation's history. On October 12, 1844, 167 years ago today, John Chambers, the Governor of Iowa Territory, issued a proclamation declaring a day of Thanksgiving to God.

Chambers said, in part, "I have deemed it proper to recommend a day of general Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the many and great blessings we enjoy as a people and individually, and of prayer and supplications for the continuance of His mercy and goodness towards us; and for the prosperity, happiness, and ultimate salvation of the American people.

"We are told that 'righteousness exalteth a nation' and are taught by divine authority that the voice of thanksgiving and prayer is acceptable to our Father in Heaven. Let us then unite our voices in the humble hope that they will reach the Throne of Grace and obtain for us a continuation and increase of blessings."

□ 1210

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WEEK

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Physician Assistant Week, which is observed annually from October 6 through October 12.

On October 6, 1967, the first PAs graduated from Duke University. Today, more than 40 years later, legions of practicing PAs have reached the number of over 83,000, and 307 million patients visited PAs last year alone. I know firsthand the key role of the PA profession in the delivery of care. Before serving in office, I worked for nearly a decade as a PA and served as a clinical instructor who trained future PAs.

Created in response to a shortage of primary care physicians, the PA profession today is crucial to developing a strong primary care workforce. Not only do PAs provide high-quality, cost-effective care in virtually all health care settings, but PAs also extend the reach of medicine to underserved communities throughout the U.S. With health care reform expanding access to 33 million Americans, PAs are needed now more than ever.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the final day of PA week, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contribu-

tion, as well as the promise, of the PA profession.

FREE AMERICA TO TRADE FREELY WITH COLOMBIA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House today will vote on a jobs plan that will create thousands of jobs for Americans. I'm talking about the pending free trade agreement with Colombia that has been waiting for years to be voted on.

In my great home State of Texas, new jobs will be created in the exporting sectors like petroleum, chemicals, and machinery. Texas is the number one State that exports to Colombia, but in my district alone, the 22 companies that exported to Colombia last year paid almost \$12 million in unnecessary tariffs. When tariffs on these products are removed, United States companies will be able to expand their markets, export more products, and create American jobs; and America will become more of a competitive country in the international marketplace.

I've been to Colombia, and unlike some South Americans, Colombians like Americans. They are a U.S. ally. Free trade with Colombia helps both nations and solidifies our joint interests in South America. This agreement is a diplomatic win to help thwart the influence of dictator Chavez of Venezuela in that region.

Create jobs. Pass the free trade agreement with Colombia. It's good for Americans, and it's good for Colombians.

And that's just the way it is.

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare were created because they reflect the values of our country. We should be incredibly proud of these programs, which provide a vital safety net for our seniors, and we should commit ourselves to strengthening them.

There are seniors like Rita Manley, in my district, who depend on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Rita is 82 years old, suffering from cancer. She lives in Central Falls, Rhode Island. She was recently laid off from her job at the Central Falls Housing Authority, and relies on Social Security for income and Medicare to cover her medication, which costs about \$400 a month. Rita would not be able to afford her cancer medication without the support of Medicare.

We should do everything we can to protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for seniors like Rita all across this country. Our seniors deserve and have earned