

"We're not going to be here forever, you need to take care of yourself," Guillen said.

The U.S. military left Nangalam base last February, handing over to Afghan forces. But within weeks, things went badly wrong.

Enemy forces returned to roam freely through the valley. The Afghan commander deserted. Hundreds of his soldiers followed.

"I believe there was some of (feeling of abandonment) amongst the (Afghan) soldiers. It's probably what led to some of their leadership leaving," Guillen said.

The Afghan forces that remained ransacked their own base.

All the electric wires have been pulled out. Anything of any value was taken. You can see the wiring hanging out of the light.

Just about everything else that could be moved was sold for cash.

Without American support, the Afghan army refused to resupply the base. The soldiers were living in filth.

For the U.S. military, it was an embarrassing example of what might happen when security is handed over to Afghan forces across the country, and so four months after leaving, a small group of U.S. troops was sent back in.

Today, American contractors are back on the base repairing the damage, with U.S. taxpayers footing the bill, again.

A new Afghan army unit has been brought in, with a new commander, Colonel Turab. U.S. officers have nicknamed him "Honest Abe."

And he was honest to a fault about the prospects for the Afghan army.

"It will take about 30 years" for the Afghan army to be ready, Turab said through a translator. "And if they are reformed and the corruption is removed, ten years."

"They understand what they're doing. They understand what's required. It's just getting them to do it without coalition support," Guillen said.

The U.S. exit strategy depends on them doing it without support. Not in 30 years, and not in ten. They have just two years before the vast majority of American forces are scheduled to leave the Pech Valley—and all of Afghanistan—for good.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN ED JENKINS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life, leadership, and legacy of our former colleague and a friend of many in this house, Congressman Ed Jenkins.

My colleague, JOHN LEWIS, has brought many of us together on this floor or in other public statements to say what an honor it was to serve with Eddie Jenkins, how much we all learned from him. The humor as well as the intellect he brought to his work was definitely, definitely an asset to the work of the Congress.

Eddie Jenkins was a proud son of Georgia. If you heard him say it, you would agree, a self-described country lawyer from Jasper, a public servant dedicated to his constituents, to advancing the interests, hopes, and aspirations of his neighbors down there in Georgia, and in securing future prosperity for all and opportunity for all Americans.

It must be a true honor for Congressman Jenkins and his family that this

tribute has been organized and led by the conscience of the Congress, a man of extraordinary leadership and character and a fellow representative from the State of Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Congressman Jenkins will long be remembered as a leader willing to work across the aisle, negotiate and build coalitions on behalf of the greater good. He will be remembered in textile mills across the South as a champion of the industry, a defender of good-paying jobs for local workers in small towns and communities across the region for small businesses. He will be remembered as a champion of the Ways and Means Committee for his expertise on the Tax Code, for his wisdom and leadership, with the respect he earned even when his colleagues disagreed with him. And he will be remembered for his legendary tough questioning during the Iran-Contra hearings, a scene that reflected and embodies his strong will, deep character, and core principles—his pursuit of the truth, his commitment to transparency and accountability, and his firm belief in the sanctity of the rule of law.

Congressman Jenkins served his community and our country as a lawyer and a congressional staffer, in the Coast Guard, and as a Member of the House of Representatives. He'll be missed by his friends in Congress, by his friends he served in Georgia, by his neighbors, and loved ones.

We only hope that it is some comfort to his wife of 51 years, Jo; his daughters, Janice and Amy; his brothers, sisters, grandsons, and his entire family that so many share grief at this sad time.

Thank you, Mr. Jenkins, for a life of service to the Congress and the country. Thank you, Mr. LEWIS, for providing this opportunity for us to honor a person we were proud to call a colleague and friend.

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THANK YOU TO MY FRIEND, GABBY GIFFORDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, today I really just want to say thank you to a young woman who for the last time in her legislative career as a Member of Congress will grace our presence this evening at the State of the Union, and I'm talking about my good friend, GABBY GIFFORDS. I think the world will all know GABBY as the courageous heroine who, on January 8, 2011, was met by an unbelievable mad person who changed her life and the life of so many, but I really want to tell all of us in this body what a great individual and humanitarian she was for all of us.

She was sworn into office on January 4, 2007. She came out of the State legislature in Arizona, so her background was in the State legislature, as mine is.

She currently represents southern Arizona, the Tucson area, which has the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista. She is the leading champion on border security, energy independence, and the needs of military families and veterans, which she knows so well because she is married to an active military veteran, Mark Kelly, who not only flew umpteen missions as a naval pilot but also flew into space as a NASA astronaut.

On January 8, when she was having Congress On Your Corner at a supermarket in northwest Tucson, an ordinary morning, and many people were there, she was met by a madman who not only changed her life, but ended the life of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green; Dorothy Morris; John Roll, chief Federal judge for Arizona; Phyllis Schneek; Dorwan Stoddard; and Gabriel Zimmerman. Twelve others, including Giffords' staff members Ron Barber and Pat Simon, were wounded. She was treated initially nearby and then flown to the TIRR Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital in Houston. She continues to be rehabilitated, and it is remarkable how far this young woman has come.

She was a Fulbright Scholar, but more importantly, she is my friend. You see, in the House we have a little bipartisan softball team. We play folks like the NRCC young folks and the DCCC young folks, and now recently we're all playing the press corps. She was a member of our team, and she was a really good member.

I wish GABBY well as she moves to a new direction in her life, and I pray each and every morning and each and every evening that God will continue to allow her to become a complete human being again. She is a great lady, a great friend of this House, a great friend of the folks in Tucson and surrounding Arizona.

Mr. ENGEL. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Yes, I will yield to my friend, Mr. ENGEL from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I think that her taking the floor this morning is the best example of bipartisanship that people say Congress doesn't have enough of, and I think that those of us that believe in bipartisanship need to do more and more of this.

The attack on GABBY was really an attack on all of us, an attack on Congress, and something that's really unthinkable. I'm very happy that she will be here this evening for the State of the Union Address by the President.

I got to know GABBY very well because my son attended the University of Arizona in Tucson and graduated from there, and he was campaigning for her, and I actually got to know her before she even was a Member of the House. I think that all of us can say that she has been one of the most collegial, friendly, hardworking and dedicated Members of Congress.

We go out there, all of us, on both sides of the aisle every day and meet with thousands and thousands and thousands of constituents. I think that she embodied the best of what Congress has to offer. I am sorry that she is resigning, but I know that she's doing what she feels is best for her State of Arizona and also best for her. I know that we all wish her Godspeed, and I know we all wish her as speedy a recovery as we can get.

I know we haven't seen the last of her. She will come roaring back and will continue to make tremendous contributions to this country for years to come. So I want to thank the gentlewoman for doing this. I think that both of us standing here today shows the American people that Congress can work together and should work together, and in the fine tradition of GABBY GIFFORDS, we are going to make sure that we all continue to work together.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF 93 WXRT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Chicago is a city of many treasures. From the architecture to the museums and cultural institutions, from the sports teams to our food, there are many, many reasons to celebrate the Windy City. But with so much to do, see, and eat, some of our city's finest features do not make it onto most tourists' to-do lists. But if you want to share with the visitors some of the true heart and soul of Chicago, drive down Lake Shore Drive with our lake on one side and our beautiful skyline on the other and 93 WXRT on the radio.

I have tried to explain to my children about the vast wasteland that was music radio in Chicago before XRT. Forty years ago, all you had was the same 10 songs on AM radio. Then came XRT, with a rich, diverse playlist, with a passion and an integrity unmatched even today. No coincidence it became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked me to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to listen to Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ball Room to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts that played host to greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxie Music and the like.

Thank you, XRT, for 40 great years. You made me a better person. And when your kids turn their dial to 93, they will find Lin Brehmer, "your best friend in the whole world." Lin has been the morning voice of XRT for the last 20 years and is a Chicago institution unto himself. For 20 years, Lin has

been there with us to celebrate all things Chicago, from commiserating with us over another Chicago Cubs loss to suggesting the perfect restaurant for a post-concert dinner. He shares with us the best of the city and makes sure we better understand the world with "Lin's Bin." He helps us discover new sounds, rediscover old favorites and provides an unparalleled soundtrack to our days.

A celebrated fixture in radio, Lin has received a variety of honors throughout his illustrious career. In 1990, he was honored as Music Director of the Decade by Hard Report.

Lin's musical sensibilities are nicely summed up by his motto, borrowed from the writing of Gerard Manley Hopkins: "Flesh fade and mortal trash fall to the residuary worm, you and I might as well rock and roll." Dubbed the Reverend of Rock and Roll early in his radio career, Lin sought to put together a radio program unlike any other.

Now, more than 35 years since he first hosted a radio show in Albany, New York, Lin has succeeded in doing that and so much more.

Radio isn't Lin's only passion; he is also quite the accomplished foodie, never going anywhere without a food guide in his car and his self-described "eating pants," an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal—oh, that Wiener Circle. His favorite restaurants in Chicago include a wide variety of cuisine for an even broader array of occasions. His recommendations have included "best upscale Mexican restaurant for when you want to leave the kids at home" and the very specific "best late night steak burrito." I'm sure he also enjoys splitting a cinnamon roll with our friend and his colleague, Teri Hemmert, another Chicago jewel, at her favorite table at Ann Sather's Restaurant on the north side.

Lin Brehmer is a man who helps us discover the best about Chicago, and in doing so, has become a Chicago treasure himself. We appreciate and applaud his career as one of our city's finest radio personalities and most recognizable voices, and look forward to the music experiences and food he will help us discover in his next 20 years. Thank you, Lin, for always reminding us why it's great to be alive.

PUTTING PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I know in just listening to some of the comments that I'm joined by I think all of my colleagues in welcoming GABBY GIFFORDS back to this body for this evening's State of the Union Address, and certainly our thoughts and prayers are with her for a full and speedy recovery as she continues to make strides.

Mr. Speaker, this past month, I've had the opportunity, as many of my

colleagues have, to travel throughout our districts, and as the number one manufacturing district in our country, it's no surprise that people are frustrated and concerned about jobs and the economy.

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I know that's common because when I talk to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues over on this side of the aisle about the number one issue we face, they also say it's jobs and the economy. So whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or an independent, I think we can all come together and agree that we need to find the common ground to spur economic growth.

It's time that we work together in a bipartisan way to pass legislation that empowers job creators and puts America back to work. I firmly believe that if we put people before politics and progress before partisanship and find common ground, we will move our country forward. If you have an idea that is going to move our country forward, I think that we ought to vote on it and move it forward immediately.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1,000th day that the United States Senate has not passed a budget. As someone that ran a small business before coming to Washington, sitting around kitchen tables, Americans are wondering how they tighten their belt, how they balance their budget.

But the point there is that they have a budget. Small businesses all across the land can't operate without a budget. Big businesses can't operate without a budget. American families generally can't operate without a budget. And yet we here in Washington have not had a budget in far, far, far too long. You could build the Empire State Building two and a half times in the time that it has taken the Senate to even pass their version of a budget. This is just plainly unacceptable for the American public.

Put something forward. Let us know where we should be putting our priorities. And that, unfortunately, creates an enormous inefficiency. Can you imagine trying to figure out where you're supposed to spend your resources, what you're supposed to spend your money on in terms of trying to move your family forward without a budget?

There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty, Mr. Speaker, out there and I hear it from people each and every day, uncertainty that Washington is creating. Excessive regulations, there's no question about that. We look at Dodd-Frank. In Dodd-Frank, frankly, we've got 400 rules and regulations, over 200-some-odd that have yet to even be written. What it does is it paralyzes small businesses. People are sitting on their hands. They're not moving forward; they're not hiring people. This is something that we here in this body have an opportunity to change. We can provide that level of certainty, and I think that we must.