

Airman First Class Jessica Nicole Hinves, a former member of the Air Force, was raped in 2009 by a coworker who broke into her room through the bathroom at approximately 3:00 a.m. She sought medical care and bravely reported the rape. Friends of the rapist began harassing her, but Airman Hinves was not intimidated. She rightly pursued the matter through the military's justice system, and the rapist was scheduled to stand trial in his court-martial.

But the airman who raped Airman Hinves was never prosecuted. His new commander intervened and halted the court-martial. The new commander had only been on the job for 4 days and had no legal training, but still he dismissed the prosecution and the man who raped Airman Hinves never was brought to justice. Only 4 days on the job, and the new commander intervened in the judicial proceedings.

So what happened next? Well, the rapist was given the award for Airman of the Quarter, and Airman Hinves, who was then transferred to another base, now suffers from severe panic attacks and anxiety.

Who can blame a victim for not wanting to report a rape or other humiliating assault? The current process for adjudicating sexual assault and rape in the military is shockingly unjust and is more likely to punish a victim than a perpetrator.

Airman Hinves was the victim of a violent crime. In response, she did everything right. But one commander's decision stood in the way of a fair proceeding against the perpetrator.

In the current military chain of command, commanders can issue virtually any punishment or, in this case, the rapist was not punished at all because the command has complete authority and discretion over how a degrading and violent assault under their command is handled.

Command discretion empowers the commander to decide if a case goes forward to court-martial. The same commander is empowered to determine which JAG officer will serve as prosecutor, which will serve as defense counsel, who oversees the investigation, and even serve as convening authority and, in nonjudicial cases, determine disciplinary action. All these functions are given to the discretion of one person. Simply put, command discretion sets up a dynamic fraught with conflict of interest and potential abuse of power.

This chain of command must be disrupted. We can no longer accept that victims of rape and abuse are beholden to the judgment of a single superior. Instead, victims should have the benefit of impartiality by objective experts, which is what my bill, H.R. 3435, the STOP Act does.

The STOP Act would take the prosecution, reporting, oversight, investigation, and victim care of sexual assaults out of the hands of the normal chain of command and place the juris-

diction in the hands of an impartial office staffed by experts, both military and civilian, but retain it in the military.

Now you've heard the story of Airman Hinves. I will continue to tell stories like hers until this broken system is fixed. I promise to continue to speak out for those who have been victims of sexual assault or rape in the military.

I urge you to write me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES FROM PENNSYLVANIA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from California and commend her for her efforts in this point to identify the steps that can be taken to alleviate the issue of unaddressed rapes in the military. As a former prosecutor, I commend that effort and urge my colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, to pay attention to this issue and hope that we might be able to find common ground to alleviate this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 36 remarkable young people in my own district. The following students from Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District will receive my nomination for the United States Service Academies.

Nominated to the United States Military are: Domenic Luciani from Monsignor Bonner High School, Nicholas Gustaitis from B. Reed Henderson High School, Andrew Helbling from La Salle College High School, Evan Harkins from West Chester Bayard Rustin High School, Kunal Jha from Delaware County Christian High School, Daniel McCormick from The Episcopal Academy, Ryan Fulmer from Devon Preparatory School, Dean Feinman from Haverford High School, and Isaac Wagner graduating from the Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency.

Nominated to the United States Naval Academy are: Maxwell Wiechec from West Chester East High School, Sean Ridinger from Marple Newtown High School, Timothy Bell from Archbishop John Carroll High School, Micheal Cerrato from Methacton Senior High School, Fletcher Criswell from Spring-Ford Senior High School, Micheal Dartnell from Monsignor Bonner High School, Thomas Dolan from Ridley High School, Andrew Driban from Garnet Valley High School, Peter Guo from Conestoga High School, Joseph Horn from Roman Catholic High School, William Kacergis from The Episcopal Academy, Alexander La Bruno from St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Brian Landi from Marple Newtown High School, Luke Lawrence from West Chester East High School, Michael McKernan from Penncrest

High School, Eric Milkowski from Monsignor Bonner High School, Jackson Pierucci from Malvern Preparatory School, Thomas Shiiba from Strath Haven High School, Joseph Sincavage from St. Joseph's Preparatory School, and Eric Csop from Strath Haven High School has been nominated to both the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy.

Nominated to the United States Air Force Academy are: Caitlin Sullivan from Radnor Senior High School, Rebecca Bates from Villa Maria Academy, Kevin Brewer from Monsignor Bonner High School, Meghan Callahan from Cardinal O'Hara High School, and Kyle Schwirian from Spring-Ford High School.

And lastly, to the United States Merchant Marine Academy are: Kelly Choi from Garnet Valley High School and Peter Heinbockel from Strath Haven High School.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to nominate these fine young men and women to our United States Service Academies, some of the finest institutions in the world. These exceptional students have demonstrated themselves to be the best of the best. I invite the people of southeastern Pennsylvania to join me in honoring them for their willingness to serve our country, and I wish each and every one of them all of the best in their bright futures ahead.

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WE NEED A GREATER COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today marks exactly 125 months to the day that we've been at war with Afghanistan. That's 125 months that we have been sending brave young men and women to be maimed and killed in a conflict that is not advancing our values but actually degrading them.

I've never believed more fervently that this war is a national security disaster, as well as a national tragedy and a moral catastrophe.

What we need, Mr. Speaker, is a greater commitment to peace and security. What we need is a more generous humanitarian spirit. What we need is diplomacy and international dialogue, cooperation, and conflict resolution. What we need is to cherish human life and human dignity here in the United States and on every corner of the globe.

Yesterday, we lost one of this body's fierce champions for these values, our colleague, Donald Payne. He was a peacemaker, a man of conscience, an ambassador of decency and compassion. He would not tolerate genocide and despair. He didn't turn a blind eye to human suffering, and he didn't care if it was happening in Newark or Nigeria. He went to some of the most dangerous places on Earth to make lives

and conditions better. He was a voice for the otherwise voiceless. He used his power to advocate for people who were otherwise powerless.

In the mid-nineties, I observed Representative Payne at a hearing with the Bush State Department. He was arguing, he was pleading with the State Department to designate the Darfur genocide. He actually had tears in his eyes and tears in his voice, and this is a man known for being very mild mannered.

His compelling arguments and his compassion and passion actually made it possible to convince the world to condemn the Sudan/Darfur government's role in planning and executing the militia's campaign to kill. His leadership had an indelible impact on African nations.

Congressman Payne shared my belief that the wars we've been fighting for the last decade are dreadful mistakes. He was one of those who stood with us in 2005, when the war in Iraq was still popular, to say no, this is wrong, we have to bring our troops home. But he also understood that it wasn't just about ending war, Mr. Speaker. It was about also leaving something else behind: hope, opportunity, democracy, and human rights.

He knew that the key to ending violence, terrorism, and instability was to build up human capital, to fight hunger and disease, to defend and advance women's rights, to build strong schools, and provide decent health care worldwide.

We've lost Donald Payne. But in his honor, let's not lose sight of the ideals he made his life's work. Let's not lose sight of the goals he fought for so tenaciously.

Because of Donald Payne's example, I will fight forever for peace and for stability worldwide, and believe me, the beginning of this effort will be to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

VOICE OF TEXAS—BILL BAGI: CROSBY, TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like many Members of Congress, I receive thousands of emails from my neighbors each month about the issues that are important to them. Since I work for them and I'm their advocate, it is important that I bring their words directly to the House floor and let other Members hear what I call the pulse of Texans.

Bill Bagi, from Crosby, Texas, recently wrote me about the deteriorating condition of our southern border with Mexico. Here's what he has to say:

I own and operate a heavy, specialized trucking company and transport specialized freight around the USA and Canada. One-fourth of my freight ends up in the south Texas towns of McAllen, Pharr, and Brownsville, and other towns.

Over the last 10 years, I have watched the border in south Texas deteriorate with not

only undocumented crossing, but much worse—the cartels. I know from many of my business customers along the U.S. border that this cartel issue is becoming a very serious issue. Many speak of a blood bath to come on the Rio Grande River.

I urge you to ask the Congress and our President to not stop the deployment of people on the southern border, but to increase them tenfold to protect our U.S. citizens living in America.

This is much more serious than the media and the government want to admit.

Does the U.S. government want a blood bath to take place before they protect our U.S. southern home front? We must stop the infusion of these cartels at the Rio Grande, or they will infest the whole United States, as the Chicago cartel did back in the mob days.

Families are not arming themselves for fun in south Texas. They are preparing for the worst to come. Many believe the U.S. government will not be there when the time comes and we need them. If we don't stop them in south Texas, than Houston and Dallas will be infested with cartel influence.

I have great concerns that they are already operating in the Highlands/Baytown area of southeast Texas.

Thanks for your past support and future drive to protect U.S. citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bagi tells us that he's scared to even go to the south Texas border region. He is a businessman, and he sees firsthand, as the citizens who live on the border do, the problem with the drug cartels.

He is not alone. Mexico is quickly becoming, in my opinion, a failed state. Texas towns are in danger because the Federal Government just does not adequately defend the homeland. Bureaucrats in Washington should listen to the people who actually live and work on the southern border.

Unlike what our government wants us to believe, the drug cartels do not stop at the Mexican-Texas border. Even just last week, our border patrol came under gunfire on the border in Texas from the Mexican side of the border. Mr. Speaker, we send troops to foreign nations to protect their borders. Why don't we protect our own?

Local sheriffs and the border patrol do the best they can with what they have, but it's just not enough. It's really past time for the Federal Government to step up and make Mr. Bagi and all Americans feel safe again. After all, the Constitution actually requires the Federal Government to protect the homeland.

And that's just the way it is.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this week is yet another week in which the House of Representatives has done virtually nothing. We heard my colleagues say they're repackaging some bills, putting a new bow around it, and they're going to pass it out of here. It's a press release for the week that they go home.

After 14 months of running the House, Republicans haven't passed a real jobs bill. I'll give a great example.

Economists and business people know that the biggest growth markets for American companies are exports. When we support U.S. exports, we are supporting American economics. But to support, we need the Export-Import Bank.

The Ex-Im Bank is a wonder. It provides extremely low-risk loans for businesses for exports, small business, medium-size, and big. The U.S. Export-Import Bank does not cost the American taxpayers one penny. It actually makes money, and it helps American businesses and workers sell hundreds of billions of dollars of American goods.

In short, the Ex-Im Bank does just what we need to be doing: compete in the world economy with every tool we have.

Study after study, year after year says that American export efforts need a huge overhaul.

The President is doing all he can. He stood in this well and talked about it and has put forward proposals. But with simple legislation like the extension of the Export-Import Bank, we could do very much more. The Export-Import Bank is the center of our export strategy.

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Now, how does it work?

General Electric was recently bidding on a \$500 million rail project to supply 150 diesel-electric locomotives to Pakistan. Pakistani officials told GE they preferred the GE locomotives and were willing to pay a premium for their high quality and dependability.

There was a complication in that the bid from the Chinese locomotive manufacturer included a financing package with longer terms and drastically reduced fees that GE could not match on its own with private sector financing. The Export-Import Bank stepped in with a financing package that matched the Chinese financing package and enabled Pakistan to make its decision on a true apples-to-apples comparison of American and Chinese goods.

We can win that one. We can win it always when we have a level playing field. That's what the Export-Import Bank does. It helps us compete.

It's not just big businesses—GE, Boeing. It is also that every office in the Congress receives a letter once a month from the Export-Import Bank, telling us of the companies that got that service in our districts. Nucor Steel, Brooks Rand Labs, NOVA Fisheries, American Wine Trade, Coastal Environmental Systems, International Lubricants, which are all in my district, receive the support of the Export-Import Bank. Without it, they could not have done business on their own.

Now, in the past year, not only have we supported \$34 billion worth of exports and 227,000 jobs in 3,300 companies in this country, but the U.S. Treasury