

your chief of staff for not mentioning him.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### — **HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW**

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

#### — **RURAL POST OFFICES**

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, this week the postal service announced a new strategy to keep rural post offices open. My district in Arkansas could have lost as many as 100 post offices.

This new plan from the postal service is not perfect. The retail window at many post offices will have limited operating hours. However, access to the retail lobby and post office boxes will remain unchanged. More importantly, towns will keep their ZIP codes, and community identities will be preserved.

In November of 2011, I introduced H.R. 3370, Protecting Our Rural Post Offices Act, which prohibits the postal service from closing rural post offices that do not have an alternative office within 8 miles. Now that the postal service has announced plans to keep all post offices open, Congress can enact reforms that will ensure rural Americans no longer have to worry about access to mail services.

So many of the challenges we face in Washington are not Democrat versus Republican; rather, urban versus rural interests. In small communities across Arkansas and across the country, the post office represents the town identity and lets the world know the community exists. If post offices were to completely close and small communities no longer had their own ZIP codes, cities' identities would be lost. For my part, I will continue efforts to ensure rural Arkansas communities keep access to postal services.

#### — **HONORING OUR NATION'S MOTHERS**

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to pay tribute to the Nation's mothers and to be able to wish them a wonderful and happy Mother's Day.

This morning I had the privilege of going to the women's war memorial at

Arlington Cemetery to lay a wreath for our fallen women who fell in battle and in service to their Nation; many of them were mothers. I stand today to say to them, even in the loss of life, we thank you. We honor you.

I honor my mother, who lost her life in 2010, Ivaleta Jackson, along with my aunt, Valerie Bennett, along with my living aunt, Vickie Bennett, and as well Audrey Bennett and some of the mothers of my community: Ruby Mosley, Dany Simmons, Sylvia Gonzalez, Ester Campos. So many mothers who have served their communities. The late Beulah Shepard. So many of them.

But I want to say to the Nation's mothers that we have an obligation to ensure that your children are protected and that the lives of women are protected and that we recognize and respect all of the service, all of you that are stay-at-home mothers who take care of the children at home; those who work; those who work and have children. To those who do so many things, I am so honored to be able to say, you are, in fact, America's heroes. We honor you this weekend. But, actually, as we're taught, we honor you every day of the year.

God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

#### — **VOTER PHOTO ID LAWS**

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when people fraudulently vote, they infringe on the rights of lawful voters. One solution is to require valid photo IDs. The Supreme Court has upheld photo IDs to vote, but some object.

Attorney General Eric Holder is investigating Texas' photo voter ID laws even though such IDs will be free to those who need them. A person needs an ID to open a bank account, to use a credit card, to check into a hotel, to drive, to buy a lottery ticket, to buy alcohol, cash a check, board a plane, or even visit a public school. When Eric Holder spoke in Austin recently, it was reported that people had to present a valid photo ID to enter the building he was speaking in. Isn't that ironic.

A local D.C. paper printed an editorial claiming photo ID laws disenfranchised voters. But to enter the paper's facilities, a person must present a photo ID. Ironic again. It would seem the only ones who would be disenfranchised by voter photo ID laws would be unlawful voters.

And that's just the way it is.

#### — **HONORING STAFF SERGEANT TRAVIS MILLS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it's always my privilege and honor to ad-

dress you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Today, I come before you with a humble heart and an appreciation for a young American whom I believe this Congress needs to honor. I will be reading into the RECORD a poem in honor of an American hero, Staff Sergeant Travis Mills, Bravo Troop 4, 73rd Cav, 82nd Airborne, United States Army, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this remarkable young man, Staff Sergeant Travis Mills. On April 10, 2012, while out on patrol with his troops in Mialand province, Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Mills almost lost his life during an IED explosion.

He is known for leading his men in combat. Where they go, he goes. After the explosion, while being airlifted on the bird, an extraordinary moment was noted by the medic onboard. While bravely wounded, he did not shed even a tear, and he asked how his men were doing, who were also wounded. He then smiled at them, gave them a wink to reassure them—this is a man who lost four limbs, Mr. Speaker. It was impressive, to say the least.

Staff Sergeant Travis Mills lost three of those limbs initially and later a fourth limb. In two short weeks, already his progress and courage was an inspiration, to say the least. And now he embarks upon his recovery. It's clear that nothing is going to slow his recovery down.

□ 1520

I will now read a poem, penned by Albert Caswell, titled: "They'll Not Take That From You."

And what can these, our brief lives so make?  
All out upon our life's wait?

All within these, our short lives await . . .

So then which steps must we all so take?

All in our times worth, not to forsake . . .

All in which we so create . . .

For the path is straight my friend . . .

And our journey is but a long and hard one,  
so then!

For its all in our hearts depends . . .

If its up in Heaven we wish to wake . . .

Travis, no they'll not take that from you!

They may take your strong arms and legs  
. . .

They may even make you cry out in pain, as  
do they!

Until, it's for death you beg!

But there are a few most magnificent things,  
Travis,

so they . . .

That, they'll not so take from you . . .

All because of what you so gave!

The word of hero,

now comes before, and after, your fine name  
this day!

And Heaven for you Travis one day, awaits!  
As from you, this they'll not so take!

They'll not take that from you!

For it's that most splendid word, of "Honor"  
. . .

That which so courses all through your magnificent veins!

For you were one of those most gallant ones  
of all . . .

Who, like all of those other fine souls before  
you,

who so stood tall!

Who so selflessly marched off to war,

to hear that clarion call!  
 Leaving behind all that they so loved . . .  
 All of your most precious loves,  
 who you held so very high above . . .  
 All for The Greater Good!  
 With tears all in your most magnificent  
 eyes,  
 as you so left and so said your last goodbyes  
 . . .  
 With your heart of gold comprised,  
 marching off to war so ready to die . . .  
 Travis, no they'll not take that from you!  
 With all your most splendid valor, and grace  
 . . .  
 With all of your most magnificent courage so  
 all in place,  
 as you so heroically stared all in death's  
 face!  
 As with smell of death upon you so wafted,  
 and yet with each new step somehow you  
 still kept pace!  
 As such heartache upon your fine soul was  
 placed . . .  
 As all for your Brothers In Arms You So Led  
 The Way!  
 As so boldly you so stood all there in uni-  
 form . . .  
 As why now you so hold such a special place!  
 All in our hearts so very warm . . .  
 All in this our human race.  
 No . . . No . . . They will not take that from  
 you!  
 For Travis,  
 yours will always be a heart of such honor  
 and faith!  
 One of such most splendid grace!  
 As we so look upon your magnificent face  
 . . .  
 And so see what you so gave . . .  
 As there we all so find such a fine soul as  
 comprised . . .  
 Who above all others we must now so place  
 . . .  
 With but your most heroic will,  
 as Travis you climbed mountains and so  
 climbed hills . . .  
 As your own blood was so spilled,  
 and still you did not lose pace!  
 And now your new battle has just begun!  
 As your fine heart,  
 now so shines all like that morning sun!  
 As you rebuild with each new step, all one by  
 one!  
 No Fine One,  
 You're Airborne and They'll not take that  
 from you!  
 For it was you,  
 who so chose to answer freedom's most noble  
 call . . .  
 As our Lord God your great valor saw . . .  
 They'll Not Take That From You!  
 For in these, our most troubled times,  
 all in these our most shortest of all lives . . .  
 Only, but one thing so lives on . . . so  
 shines's!  
 As not so gone, as out into eternity so sur-  
 vives!  
 As is what we so do upon this earth!  
 Do we in the darkness so reside?  
 Or is it with our goodness,  
 that we so make even the Angels too cry?  
 For if all in our most noble deeds,  
 that we so succeed to fight evil's needs . . .  
 Then, it's Heaven we shall all so see.  
 For these are such things,  
 that which only our magnificence can so  
 bring!  
 And that no one else can so take from you  
 Travis . . . sing!  
 No Travis, They Will Never So Take That  
 From You!  
 And now the time has so come!  
 To mount up Cav, my son!  
 To go Airborne to recovery, to get up and  
 run!  
 To win one more battle,  
 like all of those other ones you've won!  
 Because, Travis you are Army Strong!

You Are America's Heart and Son!  
 They may have taken your strong arms and  
 legs!  
 But, your fine heart and soul they can not so  
 touch,  
 can they!  
 And that's what you run with this very day  
 . . .  
 Bravo my son, you are Airborne in every  
 way!  
 As once again, you are out on point leading  
 the way!  
 For Travis, SSG Mills you have so many  
 lives to touch!  
 So many hearts to fill as such!  
 And so many years from now,  
 Heaven is yours one day so don't rush!  
 And your family and this world,  
 so needs men like you as such!  
 Travis, They'll Not Take That From You!  
 I yield back the balance of my time.

#### AMERICAN VALUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 52 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We are really blessed here in the Capitol with some of the greatest people that work around here and touch the lives of so many. So many come from around the country to admire our great national Capitol, and the people that work around here touch them one way or another.

Albert Caswell is one of those great folks. It seems every day we see him with wounded warriors, in addition to his regular duties as a tour guide. He's taken them through the Capitol, doing poems for them, having them signed by Members of Congress, getting them entered in the RECORD, getting them to individual warriors. He just does great work, so I'm quite pleased my friend STEVE KING read that into the RECORD.

The truth is, freedom is not free, and we're surrounded by people who have given a great deal—given limbs, given so much. I was standing by a Gold Star mom in Texas this past week, and I really wasn't sure who gave the most. Her son gave everything—gave his life. But his mother gave her son.

We're told by Jesus, Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

This Nation has experienced so much love by people who have laid down their lives for their country, but at the same time millions of parents have given their children proper teaching to love the things that make this country the greatest country in the world. Instill those values in their children for them to be willing to show the greatest love that anyone can have.

I do know, from being so close to parents who have given their children, that that is an unfathomable love. To care about your country and its freedoms so much that you're willing to risk a child's life for the good of others, and ultimately give that child for the good of the country.

□ 1530

It is so terribly difficult.

So we have people on foreign soil who are risking their lives; some have given their lives for this country. We have law enforcement. We have intelligence agents, agents from all parts of State, local, and Federal Government who put their lives at risk every day so we can enjoy the freedoms we have. We owe them not to be stupid about the way we carry out the government's business and the way in which we protect the citizens of this country, the people in this country, from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Now, we have some very noble patriots that serve at the various levels of our Federal entities that are charged with keeping us safe. Having visited with Secretary Panetta, who called me a few weeks ago, having had multiple conversations with Director Mueller as Director of the FBI, so many others in our Federal law enforcement, our Federal intelligence, justice, we have a great lot of noble people. But here again, we cannot be foolish about the way we go about protecting America.

There are people who have been at war with the United States since 1979. President Carter hailed the Ayatollah Khomeini as a man of peace as he came back from exile and for the first time in so many years gave a foothold for radical terrorizing Islam to have a country in Iran. Americans soon found out the price of bad judgment in international affairs.

Not too long thereafter, there was an attack against the American Embassy in Tehran. I know at Fort Benning, Georgia, where I was, a lot of folks were put on alert that it may be necessary for us to go and defend this Nation because an attack against a country's embassy is an attack against that country. It is an act of war. So there was an act of war committed in Iran in 1979, and our response was so benign that it is still being used as a recruiting tool by radical Islamists today to show how Americans are not very smart, they don't have the stomach for a strong fight so we can still prevail.

We had a benign response in 1983 after the attack on our marines and lost around 300 precious marine lives in Beirut. The response was to pull them out without a fight.

So many times we've been attacked in the last 30 years, acts of war, and we failed to recognize what they were until 2001 when most of America woke up at that point, that there are people who want to destroy America. When bin Laden wrote that they had spent around \$500,000 to train those people and to carry out the mission of crashing planes into American buildings to destroy buildings and to kill thousands of Americans—apparently they were hoping for more, in the range of 50,000 or so to be killed in the Twin Towers. But as bin Laden has pointed out, an investment, from their standpoint, the way they saw it, of around \$500,000 cost America trillions and trillions of dollars. And even before he was taken out,