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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 6, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM MCCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am still very disappointed that during the debate of the National Defense Authorization Act that Mr. MCGOVERN and I myself had an amendment, known as the McGovern-Jones amendment, and all it did, Mr. Speaker, was set the parameters and the benchmark for bringing our troops home after 2014. The amendment basically said that if you're not bringing the troops out by

2014, then any continuation of those troops would have to be voted on by the Congress.

I'm always very disappointed that the Congress does not meet its constitutional responsibility when it comes to war. Mr. Speaker, because of my disappointment and my continued support of bring our troops home, I will read the names of nine servicepeople given by the Department of Defense who were reported in the Raleigh, North Carolina, paper, The News & Observer:

Hospitalman Eric D. Warren
Private First Class Cale C. Miller
Corporal Keaton G. Coffey
Petty Officer First Class Ryan J. Wilson

Second Lieutenant Travis A. Morgado

Specialist Arronn D. Fields
Sergeant Michael J. Knapp
Sergeant Jabraun S. Knox
Specialist Samuel T. Watts.

Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to spend money that we do not have. Every day our debt goes up. Every day we borrow money from foreign governments, and yet we will not bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

It's kind of ironic that the administration has signed a security agreement that will continue a financial relationship with Afghanistan after our troops come home in 2014. That relationship is for 12 years, has been projected that we will spend approximately \$4 billion a month for those 12 years to pay for a corrupt leader and a corrupt government that will not survive.

It does not matter how much money we spend. Afghanistan's history is that no nation has ever gone into Afghanistan and changed one thing. I do not understand why we in the House continue to find the money—of course it's borrowed money, by the way, probably from the Chinese—to send to Afghanistan. Yet we vote on programs to cut

milk for children in the morning at school. We vote to cut programs for senior citizens to get a sandwich at the senior center, and yet we continue to fund a war that history has shown we will never win.

I have a poster of a photograph that was in the Greensboro paper that has Dover Air Force Base as they are bringing home the flag-covered transfer case. The nine names that I just read, they took their final trip in the back of a plane and they lay dead in a transfer case with a flag over their bodies.

Our Congress needs to wake up, Mr. Speaker. It makes no sense that we will stay there to 2014 or 2015.

I have with me a book that if I could pay for every Member of Congress to have this book, and they would guarantee me that they would read this book, then I would buy it for them. Mr. Speaker, the title of this book is "Funding the Enemy: How U.S. Taxpayers Bankroll the Taliban."

The Taliban, the Taliban, that's our enemy. Yet American dollars are going over, and many of those dollars end up in our enemy's hands to buy weapons and bullets to kill young Americans. I have read only 100 pages. I hope to finish this book next week when we are home; but I think if any taxpayer in this country would read this book, they would be up here protesting Washington sending money to Afghanistan. What is ironic, Mr. Speaker, is that the Taliban will eventually take over Afghanistan, no matter what we do.

I hope that my friends on both sides of the aisle will support us from time to time as we have amendments to create a parameter for bringing our troops out because, quite frankly, I think we will be there probably until 2015 or 2016.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, 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.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I ask God in His loving arms to hold their families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

MODERNIZING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes simple concepts are the most powerful.

Since the beginning of my career, I have seen the power of historic preservation as a key component to a liveable community that is rich and varied, not just merely the historic character, but the mixed uses, architectural diversity, human scale and function, economic development, jobs, and the creation of value.

Today, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be announcing with their president, Stephanie Meeks, some of the most endangered places that we might lose, serving as a call to action. Our heritage matters.

That's why for over 35 years Federal Tax Code has granted special recognition to help with the cost of rehabilitating historic properties, and for good reason. Over 37,000 historic properties have been rehabilitated, have leveraged \$90 billion in investment, and created 2 million jobs.

Historic preservation is good for the soul. People love the enhancement of historic properties, neighborhoods, and districts. It directly links people to who they are, helping us understand and appreciate our roots. It is very important that most people also appreciate historic preservation. That's why it serves as a magnet for tourists and other investors so that surrounding properties and neighborhoods can be strengthened.

It also strengthens the economy. The investment and its ripple effects create more tax revenue and avoid the cost of rundown property and blight. As a local official, for years I learned firsthand that it is hard and expensive to deal with deterioration of the building stock in the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Historic preservation is the best option for the environment. Recycling a building usually has more net environmental benefit than a LEED-certified new building.

□ 1010

Historic preservation strengthens the community. A varied streetscape with a mix of uses makes that community safer and more resilient the same way that a forest that is composed of a variety of different tree species is more resistant to fire and disease than a monoculture of a single species. Historic preservation avoids that monoculture of the built environment

that is numbing to the soul and depressing to the economy, which is subject to decline in the future as the entire area ages and deteriorates at the same time. We're watching this phenomenon on display in communities across the country as first- and second-tier suburbs deteriorate.

As I mentioned at the beginning, Historic Tax assistance has been in the Tax Code since 1976. That's why it's important with all the justifiable pressure and concern to reform and simplify the Tax Code that we must retain tools for historic preservation. Indeed, I think it's time to modernize the historic property tax credit to reflect the many changes since 1976. Some of the most profound adjustments were made during the administration of Ronald Reagan, but it's been over 25 years since the provisions were addressed comprehensively.

We need to recognize the difficulty with the current investment climate that makes it more difficult for people to take advantage of the tax credit as well as opportunities going forward to maximize the capacity for this important program. That's why I have introduced, with my Republican partner, Congressman AARON SCHOCK, H.R. 2479. It would provide more benefit to smaller-scale, Main Street rehabilitation. There will be a 10 percent bonus for significantly enhancing energy conservation and special incentives that can be used in tandem with the 33 historic tax credit programs in individual States across America.

It's hard to think of a better value for strategic investment in communities that provide a sense of place in history with the creation of jobs and wealth. A modernized historic preservation tax credit will be a key ingredient for years to come—a building block for a livable community where families are safe, healthy, and economically secure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important modernization of the historic preservation tax credit.

THE TALLEST WARRIOR ON THE LONGEST DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, growing up, I knew that my dad, when he was a teenager, fought in the "Great World War II." Because my father never spoke much about it until recently, I was curious about what happened. My fascination with World War II began when I saw the movie "The Longest Day" as a kid. Young Americans—mainly boys, really—who had never been far from home were sent to a faraway land to free a people they had never met. They charged onto a beach through a hail of gunfire in order to stop the spreading threat of evil in Europe.

This action-packed movie depicts the graphic details of the longest day on

June 6, 1944, D-day. Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., played by Henry Fonda in the movie, was the son of President Theodore Roosevelt. You remember President Roosevelt. He led the charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.

Teddy, Jr., fought in World War I as well with his brothers. His brother Quentin, a fighter pilot, was killed in action. General Roosevelt was crippled from the wounds of World War I and had a heart condition, but he was not finished fighting. At the age of 56, General Roosevelt was the highest ranking officer that landed on the shores of Normandy. He was determined to lead this new generation of warriors—who became the Greatest Generation—as they took on the Nazis.

His son Quentin Roosevelt II, named after Teddy Jr.'s late brother, the fighter pilot, was also on the beaches of Normandy that day. They were the only father and son duo known to fight on D-day. Roosevelt and his boys were part of Operation Overlord. The greatest invasion in history was expected to come at a high cost. And, it did. American youth gave their lives that day for the future of others.

Armed only with a walking stick and a pistol and under constant enemy fire, Roosevelt led several groups of 20-something Americans up Utah Beach and inland. General Omar Bradley described Roosevelt's actions as the "single greatest act of courage" he witnessed in the entire war.

On D-day, thousands of American boys charged out of the sea onto French soil, beginning the liberation of Western Europe. Our boys laid claim to the beachheads inch by bloody inch. The remarkable Army Rangers climbed the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under heavy, brutal German fire. They had to.

Americans did not go to Normandy to conquer. They went and they sacrificed to ensure that Hitler would no longer be a threat. Hitler had little regard for American GIs. He was certain that the "soft" sons of America would never become soldiers. He thought the Nazi youth would be able to outfight the Boy Scouts. He was wrong. The Boy Scouts took them on D-day. The sand was stained red with the blood of American warriors and that of our allies.

Mr. Speaker, to my left is a photograph of the Cliffs of Normandy, where Americans are buried. In all, 9,387 Americans are buried at the top of the beach at Normandy. Buried on the cliffs, their white crosses and Stars of David shine and glisten in the morning sunshine over now peaceful Omaha and Utah Beaches. One of the ones buried there is the tallest warrior on the longest day, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. This is his grave. It is at the front of Normandy. Fittingly, he is buried next to his brother Quentin. Quentin was the only person from World War I to be buried at Normandy. General Roosevelt, who died of a heart