

Schroeder. That was her leader. That was her commander saying that to her. Instead of helping her, her commander called her a liar and restricted her from seeking medical help or any type of counseling.

And what's worse is that her commander did nothing illegal. The military judicial system allows commanders complete discretion for handling cases of rape and sexual assault. To the current standard of justice, the commander did absolutely nothing wrong.

This story is one of thousands that happens in the military every year. By the Department of Defense's own statistics, 19,000 men and women are sexually assaulted or raped in the military every year. This is not a secret. Congress and the DOD have worked on this issue for a quarter of a century, but very little has changed.

The issue has been treated like a game of tag. Congress calls a hearing and then, tag, DOD submits a report, then, tag, Congress has a hearing, then DOD has a press conference about a new report. The game goes on and on, but no real changes actually occur.

Well, I have my own game. It's called "Truth Or Dare."

First, truth: the women in our military are more likely to be raped or assaulted by colleagues than they are to be killed by the enemy.

Truth: only 13.5 percent of victims report the crime.

Truth: only 8 percent of the cases are actually prosecuted.

Truth: the sole arbiters of reports of assaults in commands who decide which rapists are punished and will go free are, in fact, the commanders.

And now, there's a dare. I dare the Department of Defense to create a better, fairer process for handling rapes and sexual assaults. Instead of continuing a system that punishes victims and sweeps sexual offenses under the rug, I dare the Department of Defense to create an impartial office to review and handle these cases with experts in prosecution and investigation.

So what actually happened to Private Schroeder? Well, she got transferred away from her rapist to a new duty location. Prior to her arrival, her command called and told her new supervisor that she was a "trouble-maker."

Two weeks after the transfer, her new superior made a pass at her. She refused to have sex with him, and he retaliated by publicly harassing her at work. When she contracted pink eye, he asked her in front of formation if she let a guy ejaculate in her eye.

She reported the harassment to command. Nothing happened. A month later, she awoke to the same supervisor sexually assaulting her. Again, she reported it to her command.

This time the command took action—against Private Schroeder. She was disciplined for having a man in her room. Private Schroeder, the victim of sexual assault, was punished after a sex

offender broke into her room and harmed her.

Private Schroeder learned not to report crimes committed against her. So 6 months later, when she was sexually assaulted again by a marine in a truck, she told no one how he attempted to have sex with her, or how, when she refused, he began to masturbate in front of her and locked the doors so she could not leave. He said, Show me your tits; and, Help me masturbate; and, You masturbate for me.

This is outrageous conduct that should not be allowed in our military. For now, victims of rape and sexual assault must follow the chain of command, even if their commanding officer chooses to ignore the problem. We need to overhaul this system.

I've introduced H.R. 3435, the STOP Act, that would take these cases out of the chain of command and create an office in the military that will handle them.

I will continue to tell stories like Private Schroeder's until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they would like to speak out.

For more information about this issue and opportunities to advocate for change, please visit ProtectOurDefenders.com.

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 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Rudy Stevens, United States Army, Pinehurst, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Lord, too often, we Americans back home forget to pray for our leaders here in D.C. Forgive us, Lord. For those assembled here in the people's House, I pray that You give them courage, strength, and wisdom.

Give them courage from our convictions, strength from Your spirit, and wisdom for the future. For here decisions are made: choices that shape circumstances of years, if not generations, of all Americans.

All the way from California to North Carolina that airborne chorus sounds off loud and strong with, "This land is my land, and this land is your land."

And it is here in this room that chorus hits the ground and finds harmony reminding us that from many, we are one, one Nation under God that seeks liberty and justice for all, for all the fatherless and the oppressed.

So, Lord, hear our prayer and keep these leaders wise, strong, and courageous.

In Jesus' name, 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 California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND RUDY STEVENS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me today to introduce Army Chaplain Rudy Stevens.

Captain Stevens lives in North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District and serves the 2-504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

During his tenure, Mr. Speaker, Captain Stevens has received many awards, most notably the Bronze Star, the Air Assault Wings, and Jump Wings. He has been deployed, Mr. Speaker, on separate occasions and will continue his duty with a deployment to Afghanistan in the coming months.

On behalf of the constituents of the Sixth District of North Carolina and my colleagues here in the people's House, Chaplain Stevens, we welcome you to the House of Representatives and extend our appreciation to you for having offered today's prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches from both sides of the aisle.

HONORING RETIRED COLONEL JOHN R. HED OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my respects for retired Colonel John R. Hed of the United States Air Force.

Colonel Hed was born to Swedish immigrants in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 16, 1920; and ever since he was young, his passion was aviation. In his teens, he enlisted in the Air National Guard and eventually went on to flying school in the Army Air Corps. He later served in World War II in the Aleutian Islands. Upon his return to Minnesota, he helped start the Air National Guard base in Duluth, now the 148th Fighter Wing.

In his career, he has flown over 7,400 hours in over 75 different aircraft. He even owned a prototype, the Baby Albatross sailplane, which now resides in the Smithsonian; and in 2003, he was inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was married to the love of his life, Artelle, for 55 years.

Throughout his 91 years on this Earth, Colonel Hed was a true American who lived by the motto of "God, family, country." Minnesota will miss him, and America will miss the likes of him.

THE HELP ENTREPRENEURS CREATE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to support a tax cut to help entrepreneurs start businesses. Today, I'm introducing the Help Entrepreneurs Create American Jobs Act to permanently double the deduction for start-up expenses. Supporting small entrepreneurs, who are the true job creators, and creating jobs should be our number one priority. That is why President Obama called for this tax cut and why I am proud to stand with businesses across my district and the Nation to introduce this commonsense proposal.

We must put party aside and make it easier for Americans to start small businesses. I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DESTROYS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, National Review Editor Rich Lowry stated that the President's budget "is built on gimmicks and cheery assumptions that support a massive superstructure of new taxes and new debt. It is a blueprint for national decline."

The President's budget request called for the biggest tax increases and accumulates the largest debt in our Nation's history. Over the past 3 years, this administration has spent more money than ever before and increased

our national debt by almost \$5 trillion. Our unemployment rate has consistently remained above 8 percent for 36 months. It is clear that borrowing and spending more money will not create jobs. It is past time for the President and the liberal-controlled Senate to come together and support House Republicans' efforts to put American families back to work. Dozens of job-promoting bills that have passed the House are sadly held up in the Senate graveyard.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE TRANSPORTATION BILL

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, across the Nation, Americans are calling for Congress to take immediate action to create new jobs. Instead of working on a bipartisan agenda to create jobs, Republicans are moving a transportation bill that slashes the infrastructure funding and destroys jobs.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has called this bill the worst transportation bill he has ever seen. The Republican transportation bill would eliminate 550,000 American jobs, cut highway investment in 45 States, and bankrupt the highway trust fund by \$98 billion.

Congress must get serious about working together to solve the problems our Nation is facing. It just can't be "my way or the highway." Let's do a jobs bill that will create jobs for the American people.

□ 1210

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARDINAL- DESIGNATE DOLAN

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

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who will be elevated to a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church this Saturday. His Holiness, Pope Benedict, could not have picked a better man of faith for this prestigious role. Archbishop Dolan has dedicated his entire life to serving God and the Catholic Church.

Just 3 years ago, New Yorkers were blessed when the Pope appointed him the 10th Archbishop of New York. He has warmed our hearts with his big personality and quick wit, and he has strengthened our faith with his guidance. On a national level, his leadership has shed positive light on the Catholic Church and continues to raise his profile.

As New Yorkers, we are truly blessed to have Archbishop Dolan lead our archdiocese from the pulpit at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We couldn't be more proud that he will soon be wearing a

red hat and serving as the prince of the Catholic Church in the Pope's College of Cardinals.

Once again, I offer my warm congratulations to Cardinal-Designate Dolan and wish him Godspeed in his new role.

PRESIDENT'S 2013 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, on Monday, President Obama released his 2013 budget proposal. The budget recognizes that infrastructure investments are necessary to create an environment of growth. For western New York in particular, we are pleased it includes measures that benefit the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Buffalo Coast Guard, Jamestown Airport, and our Great Lakes.

We need only look at the United States in 1937, Japan in the 1990s, and Europe over the last couple of years to understand the dire consequences of government pulling back at a time of economic uncertainty. For this reason, I wish the budget had gone a little further.

A New America Foundation report makes the case that investing \$1.2 trillion over the next 5 years rebuilding the infrastructure of this Nation will create 27 million jobs in 5 years. This job growth would cut the debt and deficit and create jobs for Americans, for these jobs cannot be outsourced.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION AND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, despite the Obama administration's recent actions to disguise their attempt to force contraceptive coverage on religious institutions, the American people will not be fooled.

The Obama administration has gone out of its way to impose its radical agenda on Americans. While some religious exemptions exist for churches, affiliated institutions such as religious hospitals or schools would not be exempt from this overreaching mandate. In fact, New York Bishop Timothy Dolan summed it up when he said:

Never before has the Federal Government forced individuals and organizations to go out into the marketplace and buy a product that violates their own conscience. This shouldn't happen in a land where free exercise of religion ranks first in the Bill of Rights.

This administration has shown no restraint in expanding the size, scope, and power of the Federal Government. We must repeal this law and restore religious freedom to religiously affiliated institutions in this country.