

goes from a helicopter mode until it goes to like a plane just flying with the propellers in front of it, and then it goes back up. But Jim Shafer has said that John Brow and Brooks Gruber do not deserve the blame for this accident.

I made reference to Dr. Rex Rivolo in my comments earlier, Mr. Speaker. He's a strong proponent of clearing the pilots' names.

Brian Alexander, I made reference that he had handled the lawsuits for 17 of the 19 families whose young sons were killed.

Jim Furman, who was the attorney for the two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, their families.

Eric Thorson, a former aircraft investigator for the United States Air Force, he's actually joined us in this as well.

And I mentioned Phil Coyle, because Phil Coyle has said he was on the inside, he saw it. These pilots could not be held at fault because they were not to blame.

Danielle Brian, executive director, Project on Government Oversight, she's joined in this effort.

And Bob Cox, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star.

Mr. Speaker, I will close in just a few minutes, because I want to thank the staff for staying on to give me this opportunity to talk about this issue.

I have made a promise to Connie Gruber in Jacksonville. Her husband, Brooks Gruber, is buried down in the cemetery, Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina. I have met Trish Brow and her two boys, Mark and Matthew. I've taken them to lunch here in the Members' dining room. Both those ladies have my promise, Mr. Speaker, that if we ever get just one paragraph, that I would like to go to the cemetery at Arlington and stand there with Trish and Matthew and Mark and say: "Colonel, rest in peace. You will never be blamed again for this accident because you were not at fault."

Then I want to go to the cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina, with Connie and her little girl, Brooke. Brooke was a baby when her daddy was killed. She's a beautiful little girl of 12 now, I guess soon to be 13. She never knew her daddy. She has just seen pictures of him holding her as a little baby and smiling at her. That just made it very, very special.

These two men deserve in the eyes of God to be cleared. I am not the smartest man in Congress, and I do not profess to be one; but God gave me a big heart, and he put this on me almost 13 years ago. And what I have found out, Mr. Speaker, is we are right. We are right. The Marine Corps is wrong in this situation. The experts who helped develop the V-22 have said: We are right and the Marine Corps is wrong. Curt Weldon who fought so valiantly to save the program deserves the credit. He's joined and said these two men deserve to be cleared.

Mr. Speaker, I remember vividly a quote from Voltaire:

To the living we owe respect, to the dead we owe the truth.

That's all this is all about, the truth that these two marines were not trained, did not understand, nor did Bell-Boeing, nor did the Marine Corps. They were not trained as to how to handle the vortex ring state.

We have gotten a little bit further in the last year, but recently the Marine Corps rejected a letter that the wives had signed off on if they could change two words. And the two words are the same word, the word "solely," the word "solely." The pilots are not "solely" at fault.

Mr. Speaker, that bothers me because I know, and the Marine Corps knows, that they were not trained. Now, if they had been trained as to how to react and respond to vortex ring state in the V-22, then I might be able to accept that word "solely." But how in the world can you say that pilots who were not trained because Bell-Boeing did not know how to handle vortex ring state in the V-22, the Marine Corps did not understand it, so if they didn't understand it and they didn't train the pilots, how could they be "solely" responsible?

□ 1550

That is absolutely unacceptable to the wives, and it is unacceptable to me. So therefore, again, Mr. Speaker, I am going to meet with Secretary Hagel on the 10th of July. I will be prepared. I only have 30 minutes, but that's fine. I know he's a busy man with all of the problems facing our military and the world; but if he'll give me 30 minutes, I will show him in 20 minutes why these pilots should not be held responsible for this accident.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and the staff for giving me this extra time. This is one of these things that is a religion with me. I don't fly much. I've been in a few small planes, and I cannot imagine the panic of these two fellows, knowing that they've got 17 young marines, privates and corporals, sitting in the back of this plane and how they must have felt. I don't know. God knows their hearts, because He was with them when they went down, but all I can think of is the panic of something you had not been trained to handle, the panic of, What do we do now?

Brooks, John, what do we do now? We've got seconds, seconds.

And then the plane flips and burns.

I ask God to touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps and of the commandant. The commandant now is a fine gentleman—I know him, and I have respect for him—but he was there the day and the night of this crash.

The whole reason for this mission was to show the anti-V-22s and Secretary Dick Cheney that this was a remarkable plane, this V-22 Osprey, because they could show how they could descend so quickly and recover some Americans that would be held by terrorists. That was the mission they were

on in Marana, Arizona—to show the world that this plane was unique and that it could land and descend quickly and hit the ground and get these people out. Well, the problem was that no one understood the parameters of this plane and how it should descend; so, therefore, these 19 marines were killed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to be back on the floor right after the Memorial Day break before I meet with the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, and talk about this again. I believe sincerely that we are all stronger people and better people when we admit we've made a mistake, and when an organization that the American people love so much like the Marine Corps—and I love the Marine Corps, but quite frankly, when they will not give Connie and Trish a little paragraph, like I have already said three times today, which clearly states that their husbands were not at fault, it is very disappointing to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I do on the floor when I think about all of our men and women overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, I am going to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform.

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

I am going to ask at this time that God touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps to give peace to the families of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States of America, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1703

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) at 5 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-88) on the resolution (H. Res. 228) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JIM COSTA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JIM COSTA, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, regarding a third-party workers' compensation matter.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for May 20 through May 22 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. COLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of inspecting damage in the district from the recent tornadoes.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Darrell Issa	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
Hon. John Mica	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
Hon. Raul Labrador	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Scott DesJarlais	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
Hon. Blake Farenthold	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
Hon. Tim Walberg	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Paul Gosar	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
Linda Good	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
Adam Fromm	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Carlos Uriarte	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00