CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

A THREAT TO LIBERTY IN UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a threat to liberty anywhere is a threat to liberty everywhere.

Freedom's bell rings now for nations around our world to choose between the fledgling democracy of Ukraine or the dictatorship of Russia.

As the Russian bear eats its way through Ukraine's easternmost regions with abandon, the scene seems almost surreal as the world waits while Putin's pushes his illegal aggregation further

The questions for freedom loving nations are:

Who defines freedom's edge for Ukraine? Surely, not Russia. Where does the edge of defiance stop? And who will push the bear back in its cage?

Aggressor Putin says he will send Russian peacekeeping forces to the nation he has just invaded illegally. That would be a line for "Saturday Night Live" if it were not so real.

When the Budapest Accords were signed in 1994 and Ukraine voluntarily gave up the third-largest cache of nuclear weapons on Earth. it was left defenseless, but was promised by our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine.

So let me ask our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia: Do words mean anything, or were they merely artful conveniences at the time?

Now, let me ask NATO nations: Where is the edge of liberty you will defend?

THE CAMEL STATUE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States State Department is on an art spending spree.

First, it spent \$1 million for a granite statue at the London Embassy. It is modern art. It looks like a stack of bricks.

Now it has spent \$400,000 for a statue of a camel that will be sent to the Embassy in Pakistan. Is this really necessary? I mean. a camel?

This is an example of spending somebody else's money. This ought to be embarrassing to the State Department. Mr. Speaker, there is more.

This is the same State Department that the inspector general has recently said has lost or misplaced \$6 billion. The State Department cannot account for this money. Where, oh, where has the taxpayer money gone? If any business lost \$6 billion its shareholders would be mad and want answers. But the government gives no answers, and what money it has it wastes on camel statues.

Wenstrup Whitfield Williams Wilson (SC) Wittman

Holt

Beatty Becerra Bera (CA) Bishop (GA) Bishop (NY) Blumenauer Bonamici Brady (PA) Braley (IA) Brownley (CA) Bustos Butterfield Capps Capuano Carson (IN) Cartwright Castor (FL) Castro (TX) Chu Cicilline Clark (MA) Clarke (NY) Clay Cleaver Clyburn Cohen Connolly Convers Courtney Crowley Cummings Davis (CA) Davis, Danny DeGette Delanev DeLauro DelBene Deutch Dingell Doggett Doyle Duckworth Edwards Ellison Engel Enyart Eshoo Estv Farr Fattah Foster Frankel (FL) Fudge Gabbard Garamendi Garcia Green, Al

Wolf Yoho Womack Young (AK) Woodall Young (IN) NOES-165 Green, Gene Negrete McLeod Grijalva Nolan Hahn O'Rourke Hanabusa Pallone Hastings (FL) Pascrell Heck (WA) Pelosi Higgins Peters (MI) Himes Peterson Hinojosa Pingree (ME) Pocan Honda Polis Horsford Price (NC) Hoyer Rahall Huffman Rangel Israel Rovbal-Allard Jackson Lee Ruiz Jeffries Ruppersberger Johnson (GA) Rush Johnson, E. B. Rvan (OH) Kaptur Sánchez, Linda Kelly (IL) т. Kennedy Sanchez, Loretta Kildee Kilmer Sarbanes Schakowsky Kind Kirkpatrick Schiff Kuster Schneider Langevin Scott (VA) Larsen (WA) Scott, David Lee (CA) Serrano Sewell (AL) Levin Lewis Shea-Porter Loebsack Sherman Lofgren Sires Lowenthal Slaughter Lowey Smith (WA) Lujan Grisham Speier (NM) Swalwell (CA) Luján, Ben Rav Takano (NM) Thompson (CA) Lynch Thompson (MS) Maloney. Tierney Carolyn Titus Maloney, Sean Tonko Matheson Tsongas Matsui Van Hollen McCarthy (NY) Vargas McCollum McDermott Veasev Vela McGovern Velázquez McNernev Walz Meng Michaud Waters Miller, George Waxman Welch Moore Wilson (FL) Nadler Napolitano Yarmuth

Yoder

NOT VOTING-36

□ 1904

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCI-PATION HALL FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CERE-MONY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 90, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIL-LIAMS). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 90

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR REMEM-OF HOLOCAUST DAYS BRANCE CEREMONY.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on April 30, 2014, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 94

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK, be removed as a cosponsor from H. Con. Res. 94.

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

There was no objection.

SHANNON MELENDI'S DEATH STINGS, 20 YEARS LATER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some words written by Anne Vasquez about the tragic loss of a teen from my Miami high school:

Shannon Melendi and I became fast friends. Tears still sting my eyes when I think of the final chapters of Shannon's short life.

At 19, a sophomore at Emory, she disappeared on a Saturday afternoon lunch break from her job at a softball field in suburban Atlanta.

The year was 1994. It would be another painful 12 years before the suspect confessed.

Shannon's body was never found. No funeral, no official moment to mourn. The last 20 years have unfolded in surreal fashion.

A smart 19-year-old with quick wit, the president of her high school senior class, an aspiring lawyer, a champion debater, the daughter of present and caring parents-it can happen to anyone, anywhere.

Indeed

Thank you, Anne. Shannon, we'll always remember you.

Congress should pass my bipartisan bill with Mr. CONNOLLY, the Foreign Aid Accountability Act, and make the State Department account for the money it spends, otherwise more lost money, more camel statues, more art spending sprees.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1915

AMERICA'S MORAL COMPASS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have always viewed the budget document that is produced by this House and the Senate and the President as a moral compass of America's commitment to her people.

That is why I rise with such great disappointment on the Republican Ryan budget in that today, as we speak in the Rules Committee, we are gutting investments in education, scientific research, advanced manufacturing. We are cutting from those vital transportation investments by over \$52 billion when we have crumbling highways and crumbling dams and crumbling infrastructure. We are slashing \$145 billion from the very heart of our children's opportunity for education out of the Pell grants, providing millionaires with over \$200,000 in a tax break, ending Medicare as we know it by vouchering it-almost like the privatization of Social Security-and cutting Medicaid by \$732 billion, then ending the opportunity for Americans to have access to affordable health care, preventative health care, so as to be able to allow those who need health care to have it-to avoid being a third world country.

There are 25 million Americans who need access to health care. Let's get a better moral document and reject this present Republican budget.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROOPS TO THE TRACK

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Troops to the Track's fifth anniversary.

A partnership between the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR, Troops to the Track is a recreational group therapy program for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Now in its fifth year, Troops to the Track has reached more than 2,000 individuals since its inception. I am humbled to be part of this initiative.

Last year, I was honored to join participating soldiers and their families from the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox for last year's Quaker State 400 at the Kentucky Speedway. I would like to commend the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR for joining together in the creation of this important partnership and in giving our troops the recognition they so richly deserve.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that over \$300 million would soon be paid out to States through the Secure Rural Schools program in order to compensate for the lost local revenue because of a lack of timber harvesting in national forests.

Last year, the administration decided to retroactively apply 2013 sequestration cuts to the 2012 SRS funds. and it requested the repayment of \$17.9 million that has already been distributed to States and counties. This decision immediately sparked bipartisan opposition, prompting the House Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an investigation into the administration's legally questionable actions. The investigation found that the White House ordered the sequestration cuts for the SRS program and that the administration chose to apply the reductions in a manner that made certain that all Secure Rural Schools counties felt the hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the administration chose against playing more politics with this program at the expense of our rural communities, including those which I represent in the Allegheny National Forest, but in the long run, rural communities wouldn't need additional funding through this program if we actually harvested the proper levels of timber on these taxpayerowned lands.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SER-GEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL FERGUSON

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant First Class Daniel Ferguson.

Sergeant Ferguson grew up in Polk County, Florida, where he attended Mulberry High School and played tight end for the football team. He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. His classmates and teachers remember him fondly as a person of great character, kindness, and respect.

After graduating, he joined the Army in 1993. He served with distinction in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait, earning a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, and five Army Commendation Medals, amongst many others. He returned from Afghanistan last year.

Last week, on April 2, Sergeant Ferguson was shot and killed on Fort Hood in a tragedy that left three killed and 16 more wounded.

On behalf of the people of the 17th District of Florida and Florida's heartland, I send my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant First Class Ferguson as well as to the families of Sergeant Carlos Rodriguez and Sergeant Timothy Owens.

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 7 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

\Box 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO-VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL 25, 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-405) on the resolution (H. Res. 544) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.