

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 877

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 877.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

FREE DEBATE OVER WAR WITH IRAQ

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have returned from the work recess. So many of us have had the opportunity to listen to our constituents, and aside from the important business of the appropriations process, I heard a singular cry and that is whether this country was going to engage in war with Iraq.

I am gratified to hear that there will be a full debate in this House and I hope it will not be limited by time. But I have called for citizen summits across the Nation, communities opening up in town hall meetings and PTA meetings and civic associations to discuss one of the most important decisions this Nation has to make. For if this war is engaged and we go into war, there is no determination as to whether this will be a 1-year war or a 20-year war.

The American people must be involved. And although this is the people's House, and I hope we will have full debate, I believe it is crucial to have citizens debate all over this Nation. In visiting with students at the University of Houston, I made this point.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the American people will begin to debate this crucial issue impacting America.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AVOID WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I want to start my 5 minutes with a quote

from Jefferson. Jefferson said, "No country perhaps was ever so thoroughly against war as ours." These dispositions pervade every description of its citizens, whether in or out of office.

□ 1915

We love and we value peace and we know its blessings from experience.

We need this sentiment renewed in this Congress in order to avoid a needless war that offers us nothing but trouble. Congress must deal with this serious matter of whether or not we go to war. I believe it would be a mistake with the information that is available to us today. I do not see any reason whatsoever to take young men and young women and send them 6,000 miles off to a land to attack a country that has not committed any aggression against this country. I believe it would be a serious mistake for various reasons.

First, it is a practical reason. There is no practical defense for this. Our military now has been weakened over the last decade, and actually when we go into Iraq, as we may well do, we will weaken our ability to defend our country. We do not enhance our defense by initiating this war.

Besides, it is impractical because of unintended consequences which none of us know about and what might come. We do not know exactly how long this will last. It could be a six-day war, a six-month war or six years or even longer. It could be very impractical by going to war.

There is a military reason for not going to war. We ought to just listen to the generals and the other military experts that are now advising us there is not a good reason to go to war, possibly even start World War III some have suggested. They claim our troops have been spread too thinly around the world, and it is not a good military matter to go into war today.

There is a constitutional argument and a constitutional mistake that could be made. If we once again go to war, as we have done on so many occasions since World War II, without a clear declaration of war and a clear goal of victory, a haphazard way of slipping into war by Executive Order or, heaven forbid, getting permission from the United Nations makes it so that it is almost inevitable that true victory will not come.

So we should look at this in a very constitutional fashion. We in the Congress should assume our responsibility because war is declared by Congress, not by a President and not by a U.N.

This is a very important matter, and I am delighted to hear that there will be hearings and discussion on this matter. I am certainly arguing the case that we should have a balanced approach. We have already had some hearings in the other body, and we heard only one side of why we must do this, but if we have true hearings, we best have a debate and evidence on both sides of this matter rather than

just getting one side up and saying why we must do this.

Actually there are even good political reasons for not going into this battle. War is not popular. It may be popular for the short run when there seems to be an immediate victory and everyone is gloating over the victory, but war is not popular. People get killed and body bags end up coming back. War is very unpopular, and it is not the politically smart thing to do.

There are economic reasons that we must be careful for. We can make serious economic mistakes. It is estimated that this venture into Iraq may well cost over a hundred billion dollars. Our national debt right now is increasing at a rate of over \$450 billion and we are talking about spending another hundred billion dollars on an adventure that we do not know what the outcome will be and how long this will last? What will happen to oil prices? What will happen to the recession that we are in? What is going to happen to the deficit? All kinds of economic ramifications. So we better not make the mistake of going into something that really we have no business getting into.

There is a diplomatic reason for not going. There could be serious diplomatic mistakes made. All the Arab nations nearby and adjacent to Iraq object to it and do not endorse what we plan and insist that we might be doing, and none of the European allies are anxious for this to happen. So diplomatically we are way off on doing this.

I hope we take a second thought and be very cautious in what we do.

TRIBUTE TO MARLA ANN BENNETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in praise of Marla Ann Bennett, the young San Diegan who was killed in the July 31 terrorist bombing attack at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Marla was an extraordinary woman who touched the lives of many people in her all-too-brief lifetime. Her brutal murder left a terrible void in those lives and brought forth an outpouring of grief from the Jewish community where she lived: in Berkeley, where she attended the University of California; in Jerusalem, where she continued her studies and found a spiritual home as an American Jew in the Jewish homeland; and in San Diego, where she grew up and planned to return once her studies were completed.

At Marla's memorial service, which was attended by over 2000 people, and in more intimate meetings with her family and her friends, I have shared the community's terrible grief at Marla's death, but also the great joy that she felt in life and shared with

others. It is that joy and in the words of Rabbi Martin Lawson, "Marla's legacy of caring, of Jewish learning and teaching, of smiles and optimism, of warmth and hope," that I want to share with my colleagues and the American people.

As a young girl, Marla was precocious, mature beyond her years. At age 2, she told her parents no more babies in this house anymore, and at age 3, she announced that she was going to Stamford University. By her early teens she had explored her Jewish identity and found fulfillment in Judaism's spiritual teachings and in its call to save the world through acts of kindness and generosity. As a camp counselor, school class officer and volunteer Jewish educator, Marla was known for her infectious enthusiasm, good nature and appetite for hard work.

She carried those qualities with her when she moved to Jerusalem to attend the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies at Hebrew University. In addition to her graduate work in Jewish history and culture, Marla worked to promote peace and understanding between Jewish and Arab Israelis. She felt that Israel had to do more to end the conflicts with its neighbors, and she grew impatient whenever a friend or family member seemed to give up on the peace process.

Marla knew that living in Israel was risky but for her it was exhilarating. In an article for the San Diego Jewish Press Heritage, she wrote "I am not a tourist; I deal with Israel and all its complexities, confusion, joy and pain every single day. And I love it. Life here is magical." In another article she wrote, "I have a front row seat for the history of the Jewish people. I am part of the struggle for Israel's survival."

Now Marla is a casualty in that struggle, but she is also a beacon of light for all those who dream of peace and work for the day when Israel can dwell in peace with her neighbors.

Marla Bennett was one of thousands of young American Jews who have gone to Israel and stayed on despite the horrors of war and terrorism. In an open letter to Marla's parents, another young American who chose this path wrote that "there was no question as to whether it was worth the risk." He told the Bennetts, "My heart literally breaks for your loss but not for your daughter. She lived her life as a free, independent and bold Jewish woman. May her example live on in the sons and daughters that follow her."

Amen. Marla Bennett was a beautiful, brilliant, brave, kind and caring young woman who lived life to the fullest, and though her death is a terrible blow to many of us, her life is an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING HEATHER IVANYI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize tonight and congratulate a very special constituent in my congressional district, Heather Ivanyi, who is a teacher at Oliver Hoover Elementary School, and I want to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community's special children, those who have special needs, and for having been featured recently as a Super Teacher in the Miami Herald.

Heather not only teaches her students spelling and arithmetic, but more importantly, she develops their creativity and positive self-esteem. At home she focuses on her beautiful 6-year-old daughter Kayla Rae, who has Down's Syndrome.

Knowing firsthand the special needs of children like her daughter, Heather spends her free time working for groups like the Association of Retarded Citizens, the Possible Dream Foundation and the American Rehab Corporation to further assist children with Down's Syndrome, with cerebral palsy and other such disabilities.

Along with her assistant Daphne Noisette-Andre, Heather Ivanyi dedicates and cares for the special needs children of our community and we are a better community for that, and I would like to read just a few lines from the article that was written in the Miami Herald by Yohana De La Torre, and it is entitled, "A special teacher works for special children, Hoover's Heather Ivanyi is tireless." It says, "A Miami native, Ivanyi graduated from Killian High School and received her associate degree from Miami-Dade Community College."

"In 1994, she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in varied exceptionalities while working full time.

She volunteered, became a teacher, but it says teaching did not stop there for Ivanyi. She started to build awareness within the community and made contacts with Costco, Toys R' Us and corporations like Target.

Thanks to her persistence, these corporations still donate toiletries, food, toys, books and diapers to help places like the Association for Retarded Citizens and another special needs foundations called Dr. Gerald's Possible Dreams Foundation. She says, "I never take no for an answer. I have no shame in asking. I want people to learn that children with disabilities are human, too."

Her long-time friend Frances Capo, who is also a teacher, said this about Ivanyi, I do not know how to describe her. There are no words to describe her. She is a go-getter and always has a positive outlook on everything. She not only goes in there to teach but also to believe in her students.

There are many heroes in our community, Madam Speaker, heroes like Heather who do not get the special recognition they deserve. Many of them are our teachers in our private and public schools, and to them we say thanks and muchos gracias.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MIDWEST FARMERS AND RANCHERS FACE DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, times are often tough in the high plains of our country, and Kansas farmers and ranchers struggle every year to make ends meet, but this year is especially difficult, and I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues here in the House tonight and the citizens of our country the difficult circumstances that those farmers and ranchers face this year because of very little snowfall, no rainfall this spring, and this being the second and third and sometimes even fourth year in a row in which moisture has been lacking for farmers to farm and ranchers to raise their cattle.

I just completed 25 town visits throughout the month of August across the First District of Kansas and saw the worry and concern upon farmers' faces. Every day our farmers look to the skies and hope and pray for rain.

□ 1930

Communities gather every evening in the community band shell where they come together and as a community pray that rain will fall. The circumstances that our agriculture producers face and the communities in which they live is desperate. We have ranchers selling their cattle every week. Our herds are being culled. We had almost no wheat harvest in many places in Kansas; and in fact statewide wheat harvest was down almost half of what it was last year, and last year was a very bleak year in and of itself. The fall crops, the milo, our fall crops have failed, almost no fall crops produced in Kansas because of lack of moisture. Here in a couple of weeks our farmers will try to begin the process of planting wheat, and yet no rain comes. There is no moisture in the surface, no subsoil moisture for those seeds to germinate. In addition, our cattle are struggling because there is no water in the ponds and no grass to feed.

So I think it is important for those of us who care about the future of rural America, those of us who care about the livelihood of our farmers and ranchers, to bring to our colleagues in Congress the circumstances that we face. Almost every year that I have been in Congress, 6 now, we have had an emergency assistance package designed to help those who face natural disasters, those who struggle as a result of hurricanes and floods. I am here to tell my colleagues that the circumstances that farmers and ranchers