

The Democratic Floor Manager, Mr. Barry Sullivan, announced the President pro tempore and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore taking the chair at the left of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY);

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON); and

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN);

The Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE);

The Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS); and

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

The Democratic Floor Manager announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador from the Republic of Djibouti.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Democratic Floor Manager announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., the Democratic Floor Manager announced His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic.

The President of the French Republic, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY NICOLAS SARKOZY, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

(The following address was delivered in French, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President SARKOZY. Madam Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the United States Congress, I want to say firstly, friendship for France means first and foremost being true to one's friends, to one's values, to one's history and one's past. France is the friend of the United States of America.

It is not simply the French President who says that. I am simply the expression, the voice of the people of France. Since the United States first appeared on the world scene, our two peoples, the French and the American people, have always been friends. And the hardship that both our peoples have endured simply steels that friendship. We may have differences, we may disagree on things, we may even have arguments as in any family, but in times

of difficulty, in times of hardship, one stands true to one's friends, one stands shoulder to shoulder with them, one supports them, and one helps them.

In times of difficulty, in times of hardship, America and France have always stood side by side. They have always supported one another. They have helped one another. And each of us, America and France, has fought for each other's freedom.

The United States and France remain true to the memory of their common history. Our duty is to remain true to the blood spilled by our children on both sides of the Atlantic in common battles. But the United States and France are not simply two nations that are true to the memory of what they accomplished together in the past. The United States and France are two nations that remain true to the same, to the one and the same ideals, who uphold the same principles, who believe in the same values.

And I speak to you as I stand before the portraits of Washington and of Lafayette. Lafayette was the first to speak to both Chambers. What could possibly have brought together two men who were so different in terms of age and of origin, Lafayette and George Washington? It was their common values, their shared values, the same love of liberty and of justice. And when Lafayette joined George Washington, he said to him, "I have come here to this land of America to learn and not to teach." He came from the Old World and he came to the New World and he said, "I have come here to learn and not to teach." That was the new spirit and youth of the Old World coming to seek out the wisdom of the New World, to open here in America a new era for all of humankind.

The American Dream, this American Dream, was from the very beginning, the very outset, a matter of putting into practice what the Old World had dreamt of without ever being able to build it and to accomplish it. From the very beginning, the American Dream meant proving to all men and women throughout the world that freedom, justice, human rights and democracy were not a utopia, but, quite the reverse, they were the most realistic policy there is and the most likely to improve the lot and fate of each and every one.

To the millions of men and women who came from every country in the world and who, with their own hands, their intelligence and their hearts, built the greatest nation in the world, America did not say, "Come, and everything will be given to you." Rather, she said, "Come, and the only limits to what you will be able to achieve will be those of your own courage, your boldness and your talent." The America that we love throughout the world embodies this extraordinary ability to grant each and every person a second chance, another chance, because in America, failure is never the last word. There is always another chance. Here

in your country, on this soil, both the humblest and the most illustrious citizens alike know that nothing is owed to them and that everything has to be earned. That is what constitutes the moral value of America. America did not teach men the idea of freedom; she taught them how to practice it, how to practice freedom. And America fought for this freedom whenever she felt it to be threatened or jeopardized. And it was by watching America grow that men and women understood that freedom and liberty were possible, and it is that that gives you a special responsibility. What made America great was her ability to transform her own dream, the American Dream, into a source of hope for all of mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, the men and women of my generation heard their grandparents talk about how, in 1917, America saved France at a time when my country had reached the final limits of its strength, at a time when France was exhausted, had spent its strength in the most absurd and bloodiest of wars, and France was able to count upon the courage of American soldiers. And I have come to say to you on behalf of the French people that never, never will we forget that.

The men and women of my generation heard their parents talk about how America returned in 1944 to free us from the horrifying tyranny that threatened to enslave us. And fathers in my country took their sons to see the vast cemeteries where, under thousands of white crosses so far from home, thousands of young American soldiers lay who had fallen not to defend their own freedom but the freedom of all others, who died far from their homes not to defend their own families and their own homeland but to defend humanity as a whole. That is why we love America.

And the fathers took their sons to the beaches, the beaches where the young men of America had so heroically landed. And the fathers read to their sons the admirable letters of farewell that those soldiers, those 20-year-old soldiers, had written to their families before the battle to say to them: "We don't consider ourselves to be heroes. We want this war to be over. But however much dread we may feel, you can count on us." Before they landed, Eisenhower told them, and we have not forgotten in Europe these words: "The eyes of the world are upon you, young men of America. The hopes and prayers of all liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And the children of my generation, as they listened to their fathers, as they watched movies, as they read history books and the letters of your soldiers who died on our beaches in Normandy or Provence, as they visited the cemeteries where the Star-Spangled Banner flies, the children of my generation have understood that these young 20-year-old Americans were true heroes to whom we owed the fact that we were free people and not slaves. America liberated us

and this is an eternal debt we owe America.

As President of the French Republic, my duty is to say to the people of America that you represent in its vast diversity, that France will never forget the sacrifice of your children. And to say to the families of those who did not return, those who did not come back, to those children who cried the loss of their fathers whom they had virtually had no time to know, that the gratitude of France is forever. On behalf of my generation that did not suffer under the war, on behalf of those children who will always remember, and to all the veterans present here, and in particular to the seven I was honored enough to decorate last night, one of whom, Senator INOUE, belongs to your Congress, I want to express the deep, sincere gratitude of the French people. And I want to tell you something, something important: Every time whenever an American soldier falls somewhere in the world, I think of what the American Army did for France. I think of them and I am sad, as one is saddened to lose a member of one's family.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is more important than any disagreements that we may have or that we may have had or any disagreement which we may yet have. That is the bedrock of the friendship between France and the United States of America. The men and women in my generation remember the Marshall Plan that allowed their fathers to rebuild a devastated Europe. The men and women of my generation remember the Cold War, during which America again stood as the bulwark of the free world against the threat of a new tyranny. I remember the Berlin crisis and President Kennedy who unhesitatingly risked engaging the United States in the most destructive of wars so that Europe could preserve the freedom for which the American people had already sacrificed so much. To forget that would, for a man of my generation, be tantamount to self-denial. But my generation did not love America only because she had defended freedom. We also loved America because for us she embodied what was most audacious about the human adventure, the human enterprise, because America for us embodied the spirit of conquest. We loved America because for us America was a new frontier that was continuously being rolled back, a constantly renewed challenge to the inventiveness of the human spirit.

My generation, without even coming to America, shared all of your dreams. And our imaginations were fueled by Hollywood. By the great conquest of the western territories. By Elvis Presley. You have often probably not heard his name quoted here, but from my generation he is universal. There was Duke Ellington, Hemingway, John Wayne, Charlton Heston, Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayworth. But also Armstrong, Aldrin, Collins, who fulfilled mankind's oldest dream on the day

when Americans walked on the Moon. That day America was universal and each one of us wanted to be part of this great adventure.

What was most extraordinary for us was that through your literature, your cinema, your music, it seemed to us that America always seemed to emerge ever greater and stronger from the adversity and the challenges it faced. And it seemed to us that instead of causing America to engage in self-doubt, these difficulties only strengthened her belief in her values. What makes America strong is the strength of this ideal that is shared by all Americans and by all those who love her because they love freedom.

And let me say this as I stand before you here in this Congress. America's strength is not only a material strength. It is first and foremost a moral strength, a spiritual strength. And no one expressed this better than a black pastor who asked just one thing of America: that she be true to the ideal in whose name he, the grandson of a slave, felt so deeply American. That name was Martin Luther King. He made America a universal role model.

The world still remembers his words, that not a single young Frenchman of my generation has forgotten, either, the words of Martin Luther King, words of love, words of dignity, words of justice. And these words, America heard, and as a result, America changed. And the men and women who had doubted America because they no longer recognized her began to love her once again.

Fundamentally, what are those who love America asking of her if not to remain forever true to her founding values?

Ladies and gentlemen, today as in the past, as we stand at the beginning of the 21st century, it is together that we must fight to defend and promote the values and ideals of freedom and democracy that men such as Washington and Lafayette coined and invented together.

Together, united, we must fight against terror. On September 11, 2001, all of France, horror-struck as we were, rallied to the American people. And the front-page headline of one of our major dailies read: We are all American on this 11th of September, 2001. And on that day, when you were mourning so many dead, never had America appeared to me as so great, so dignified, so strong. The terrorists had thought that they would weaken you, but they made you greater. And the people of America were admired worldwide for its courage. That is the truth. And from day one, France decided to participate shoulder to shoulder with you in the war in Afghanistan. And let me tell you solemnly today, France will remain engaged in Afghanistan for as long as it takes, because what is at stake in that country is the very future of our values and that of the Atlantic Alliance. Solemnly before you let me say, failure is not an option. Terrorism

will not prevail, for democracies are not entitled to be weak and because we, the free world, are not afraid of this new barbarism. And because of that, America can count on France in its battle on terror.

And again it is together that we must fight against proliferation. Success in Libya and progress under way in North Korea show clearly that nuclear proliferation is not inevitable. And I say this as I stand before you, the prospect of an Iran armed with nuclear weapons is unacceptable for France. The Iranian people are a great people. The Iranian people who come from a great civilization deserve better than the toughened sanctions and growing isolation to which their leaders condemn it. We must persuade Iran to choose cooperation, dialogue and openness. And no one must doubt our determination. We will remain firm and we will engage in dialogue precisely because we have been able to remain firm.

Together we must help the peoples of the Middle East to find the path that will lead them to peace and security. To the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, I wish to say this: Do not hesitate. Take whatever risks you need to take for peace. And do so now, because the status quo masks even greater dangers, that of delivering Palestinian society as a whole to the extremists that challenge in an unacceptable manner the very existence of Israel, that of playing into the hands of radical regimes that are exploiting the deadlock in the conflict in order to destabilize the region, that of fueling the propaganda of terrorists who want to pit Islam against the West. France wants security for Israel. It will not change its position, and it demands that there be a state for the Palestinians. And that is the only way forward for peace.

And it is again together that we must help the Lebanese people affirm their independence, their sovereignty, their freedom, their democracy. No one is entitled to prevent Lebanon to live as a free country. What Lebanon needs today is a broad-based president elected by the Lebanese and in strict respect of its constitution. France will not accept anyone trying to subjugate the Lebanese people.

Ladies and gentlemen, America feels that it has a vocation to inspire the world. America is the world's most powerful country, because for more than two centuries she has striven to uphold the ideals of democracy and freedom. And allow a friend of America to say this to her: This stated responsibility comes with duties, for France and for America, and the first of which is that of setting an example.

Those who love this Nation, which, more than any other, has demonstrated the virtues of free enterprise, expect America to be the very first to denounce the abuses and the excesses of a financial capitalism that sets too great a store by speculation. They expect her to commit fully to the establishment of the necessary rules and safeguards.

The America that I love is the one that encourages entrepreneurs, not speculators.

Those who admire the Nation that has built the world's greatest economy and has never ceased trying to persuade the world of the advantages of free trade expect her to be the first to promote fair exchange rates. The yuan is already everybody's problem. The dollar cannot remain solely the problem of others. If we are not careful, monetary disarray could indeed morph into economic war. And we would all, all of us, be its victims.

Those who love the country of wide open spaces, of national parks and protected nature reserves expect America to stand alongside Europe in leading the fight against global warming that threatens the destruction of our planet. I know that the American people and its cities and States are increasingly aware of the stakes and determined to act. Allow me to say, with all the friendship that I feel for America, that this fight is essential for the future of humanity, and we will not be able to achieve the results that we must achieve without America leading this fight for the safeguarding of our planet, of humankind, of the human species. We need America in order to protect our planet and its environment.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express one last conviction: Trust Europe.

Our world is unstable. It is a dangerous world. And I state this as I stand before you, the United States of America needs a strong, determined Europe. The European Union, with the simplified treaty, is about to emerge from 10 years of discussion on its institutions and, therefore, 10 years of paralysis. Europe will soon have a stable president and a more powerful high representative for its foreign and security policy, and I want to explain to you that Europe must now reengage in the major construction of its military capacities.

The aim and objective I am proposing to our partners is based on a simple observation, i.e., there are more crises than there are capabilities to cope with them. NATO cannot be everywhere. The European Union must be able to act as it did in the Balkans and in the Congo and as it will tomorrow in Sudan and Chad. And for that, Europeans must step up their efforts.

My approach, I ask you to believe me, is not an ideological one. My approach is purely pragmatic. Having learned from history, the history I was recalling at the beginning of my statement, I want in the years to come for Europeans to have the means to shoulder a growing share of their defense. And I want to say these two sentences from the bottom of my heart so that each and every one of you should understand what I am referring to. Who could blame the United States for ensuring its own security? No one could. Who could blame me for wanting Eu-

rope to ensure more of its own security? No one. All our allies, to begin with the United States with whom we most often share the same interests and the same adversaries, have a strategic interest in ensuring that Europe be able to affirm and assert itself as a strong, credible security partner.

At the same time, and with the same strength of belief, at the same time and likewise being familiar, very familiar with the political history of my country, I want to affirm my attachment to NATO. I say it here at the podium before this Congress, the more successful we are in establishing a European defense, the more France will be resolved to resume its full role in NATO.

I would like France, a founding member of our Alliance and already one of its largest contributors, to assume its full role in the effort to renew NATO's instruments and means of action and, in this context, that it should allow its relations with the Alliance to evolve, just as European defense should grow and evolve. This is no time for theological quarrels. We do not have time on our side. We need to come up with pragmatic responses in order to make our security tools and instruments more effective and operational in the face of crises. The European Union and the alliance of NATO must march hand in hand. Our duty is to protect our fellow citizens, and we will protect them together, a European defense which is credible and strong within an alliance which is renewed.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the long run, I want to say this: I want to be your friend, your ally, your partner. But I wish to be a friend who stands on his own two feet. I wish to be an independent ally, a free partner. Because these are the values that we share together. We need France to be stronger. I am determined to carry through with the reforms that my country has put off for all too long. I will not turn back. I will implement all of them, because France has turned back for all too long. My country has enormous assets. And I want, while respecting its very unique identity, to put my country in a position where it can win all the battles of globalization. I passionately love France, but I am lucid about the work that remains to be accomplished.

It is this ambitious, lucid, farsighted France that I have come to present to you today, a France that comes out to meet America, to renew the covenant of friendship and alliance that Washington and Lafayette sealed in Yorktown.

Together, ladies and gentlemen, let us be worthy of the example she set. Together, let us be equal to their ambition. Together, let us be true to their memories.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I say this to you on behalf of the French people: Long live the United States of America. Long live France. Long live French-American friendship.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m., His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Democratic Floor Manager escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1227

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 12 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 31, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Today, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider three resolutions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with 33 U.S.C. §542. The resolutions authorize Corps surveys (or studies) of water resources needs and possible solutions. The Committee adopted the resolutions by voice vote with a quorum present.

Enclosed are copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

DOCKET 2784: DELAWARE COUNTY AND CHESTER COUNTY STREAMS, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Delaware River and its tributaries, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, published as House Document 179, Seventy Third Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable using a comprehensive, watershed systems approach in the interest of ecosystem restoration, flood plain management, flood damage reduction, water quality control, groundwater and subsidence management, comprehensive watershed management, recreation and other allied purposes.

DOCKET 2785: ILLINOIS WATERWAY, ILLINOIS AND INDIANA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Illinois Waterway and Grand Calumet River, Illinois and Indiana, published as House Document No. 677, 79th Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, regarding possible alternative locations for disposal of dredged material from the Calumet-Sag Channel Modification and Illinois Waterway, Illinois and Indiana.

DOCKET 2786: WHITE RIVER NAVIGATION, ARKANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on White River Navigation to Batesville, Arkansas, dated December 23, 1981, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time, in the interest of navigation, flood control, and environmental restoration including Federally-owned lands within the White River Basin, Arkansas.

DOCKET 2787: VERMILLION HARBOR, OHIO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Vermillion Harbor published as House Document No. 231, 85th Congress, 1st Session and other pertinent reports, to determine whether changes to the recommendations concerning modifications to the breakwaters contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction and related purposes in the vicinity of Vermillion Harbor, Ohio.

DOCKET 2788: DUTCHESS COUNTY WATERSHEDS, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Wappinger Creek Watershed, Pleasant Valley, New York, authorized in accordance with Section 212 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (Public

Law 516), 81st Congress, 2nd Session, and other related reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, navigation, watershed management, water supply, and other allied purposes, in Dutchess County Watersheds, that drain directly into the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York.

There was no objection.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to fifteen 1-minutes per side.

FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Veterans Day, I rise to urge Congress to support the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. This important piece of legislation will restore U.S. veterans status to the surviving soldiers of the 250,000 Filipinos who were called into military service to the United States Armed Forces by President Roosevelt on July 26, 1941.

Of the only 22,000 surviving Filipino World War II veterans, I want to highlight Faustino "Peping" Baclog, who currently resides in Los Angeles, California. Peping was among the 75,000 Filipino and U.S. soldiers subjected to the 90-mile trek from Mariveles to Tarlac, better known as the Bataan Death March. He survived the atrocities of Japanese occupation and fought side by side with the Americans, only to have his service as a U.S. national and a veteran denied by the 1946 Re-scission Act.

We now have a unique moment to undo the injustice of that act and give honor and respect to this brave group of veterans. As Peping tells us, though, "They pay us to die, but they cannot pay us to live." For these men, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act will fulfill a promise we denied them for over 60 years, recognition of a grateful Nation that their service to our country is just as equal as the soldiers with whom they stood shoulder-to-shoulder on field of battle.

FUNDING OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 38. That is 38 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That's \$18.5 million a day not able to be used.

In June, this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. On September 6, the Senate completed their