

process as quickly as possible and in full compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Both Acts require discharge permits to be protective of human health and the Delta ecosystem.

The Water Boards are committed to the use of sound science to guide regulatory decisions. We are following the National Academy of Sciences review last fall of the federal agencies' "biological opinions" related to the Delta smelt and the Chinook salmon, and similar scientific review efforts by Federal and State agencies. The State Water Board recently concluded three days of testimony on flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem. As part of the flow criteria proceeding, the State Water Board heard extensive scientific and expert testimony on flow and other factors, including ammonia that impacts the Delta ecosystem. The scientific information from these proceedings will be used in future proceedings to protect and restore the Delta.

The same commitment to sound science guides the Central Valley Water Board's development of the draft permit for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The recent studies by Doctors Glibert and Werner are part of a large body of research being reviewed for permit development. Central Valley Water Board staff has met with both Dr. Glibert and Dr. Werner to understand the application of their respective studies.

The Central Valley Water Board greatly appreciate and value your concern and interest in this matter, and we look forward to working with you and other federal and state elected officials in trying to resolve the complex water quality challenges facing the Delta today. Many challenges remain ahead, and these challenges can only be overcome by the collective resolve of all parties to work toward a common good and collectively beneficial result. As the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board opined on May 21, 2010, such an effort "would be far more productive than continuing with the current pattern of finger-pointing and scientific cherry-picking."

Very truly yours,

PAMELA C. CREEDON,
Executive Officer.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OUR AMERICAN FLAG

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

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this July 4th as the 234th anniversary of our great country and also as the 50th anniversary of the Stars and Stripes that fly above our Capitol and across our Nation today. On July 4, 1960, the red, white, and blue flag rose high above our Nation as an emblem of our national pride and freedom, representing the now 50 States that came together to form a more perfect union.

Old Glory originally came to be by an act of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. It is marked in the

journal of the Continental Congress "that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

From this day forward, the symbol of our great Nation was born. The flag itself was not produced until the late 18th century, characterized by the famous circle of 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies of Delaware, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Although not enunciated by any act of Congress, the colors of the flag have come to have a special meaning. In a report written by Secretary of the Continental Congress Charles Thomson, the colors and the seal of the United States are defined as: white, signifying purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue, signifying vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Through the centuries of its existence, the flag has undergone a number of changes. The first went into effect after the signing of the Flag Act of 1794 by President George Washington. This act of Congress changed the number of stars on the flag to 15 to accommodate for Kentucky and Vermont, the newly admitted States into the Union. It also called for 15 stripes to go on the flag, the only official flag not to possess 13 stripes.

The Flag Act of 1818, signed into law by President James Monroe, the last Founding Father to serve as President, set the common standard for today's flag. It pronounced that all official United States flags must have 13 stripes to represent the original 13 colonies and one star to represent each State in the Union.

The final change to our Nation's great emblem of freedom came by an Executive order issued in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It announced the addition of Hawaii into the Union and also prescribed the arrangement of the stars in nine rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically.

More than 1,500 designs for the new flag were submitted to the White House. It was a 50-star flag created for a class project by a young man named Robert Heft that would become adopted by our country. Young Robert, a 17-year-old student from Lancaster, Ohio, originally received a B minus for the project. Our Nation received a new symbol of our freedom.

As stated by law, on July 4 of the following year, the flag was hoisted up and now stands as the great emblem of our Nation. It is with purity in our hearts that every American, especially our valorous servicemembers here at home and abroad, look to the red, white, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

As we all celebrate our Nation's birth this Fourth of July, I would like to re-

flect upon our independence, our values, and what it means to be an American as a fitting tribute to the 50th anniversary of the current flag of the United States of America.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5585

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor from the bill H.R. 5585.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

THE WAR THAT'S NOT A WAR

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, in January 1991, we went to war in the Middle East against Saddam Hussein, Iraq's dictator who was our ally during the Iran-Iraq war. A border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq broke out after our State Department gave a green light to Hussein's invasion.

After Iraq's successful invasion of Kuwait, we reacted with gusto and have been militarily involved in the entire region 6,000 miles from our shores ever since. This has included Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. After 20 years of killing and a couple trillion dollars wasted, not only does the fighting continue with no end in sight, but our leaders threaten to spread our bombs of benevolence on Iran.

For most Americans, we are at war, at war against a tactic called terrorism, not a country. This allows our military to go anywhere in the world without limits as to time or place. But how can we be at war? Congress has not declared war, as required by the Constitution, that is true. But our Presidents have, and Congress and the people have not objected. Congress obediently provides all the money requested for the war.

People are dying. Bombs are dropped. Our soldiers are shot at and killed. Our soldiers wear a uniform; our enemies do not. They are not part of any government. They have no planes, no tanks, no ships, no missiles, and no modern technology. What kind of a war is this anyway, if it really is one? If it was a real war, we would have won it by now. Our stated goal since 9/11 has been to destroy al Qaeda.

Was al Qaeda in Iraq? Not under Saddam Hussein. Our leaders lied us into

invading Iraq and deceived us into occupying Afghanistan. There is still really no al Qaeda in Iraq and only 100 or so in Afghanistan, and yet there is no end in sight to the war. Could there have been other reasons for this war that is not a war? A military victory in Afghanistan is illusive. Does anyone really know who we are fighting and why?

Why has the war not ended? Nine years, and it continues to spread. Some claim it is to keep America safe, that our soldiers are fighting and dying for our freedom, defending our Constitution. Are we being lied to in order to keep us in this spreading war, just as we were lied to in the 1960s to keep us in Vietnam?

We own the Iraq Government, as we do Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, we are fighting the Taliban, those dangerous people with guns defending their homeland. Once they were called the Mujahideen, our old allies, along with bin Laden, in the fight to oust the Soviets from Afghanistan in the 1980s. In that effort, our CIA funded radical jihad against that nasty foreign occupier, the Russians. What gratitude. Those same people now resent our benevolent occupation, with a little violence thrown in.

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The resistance to our presence grows as our perseverance wanes. Our people are waking up, but our officials refuse to recognize the longer we stay, the greater is the support for those dedicated to the principle that Afghanistan is for Afghans who resent all foreign occupation.

The harder we fight a war that is not a war, the weaker we get and the stronger becomes our enemy. When an enemy without weapons can respect an army of great strength, the most powerful of all history, one should ask, who has the moral high ground?

Military failure in Afghanistan is to be our destiny. Changing generals without changing our policies or our policymakers perpetuates our agony and delays the inevitable.

This is not a war that our generals have been trained for. Nation building, police work, social engineering is never a job for foreign occupiers and never an appropriate job for soldiers trained to win wars.

A military victory is no longer even a stated goal of our military leaders or our politicians, as they know that type of victory is impossible.

The sad story is, this war is against ourselves, our values, our Constitution, our financial well-being and common sense. And at the rate we're going, it's going to end badly.

What we need are honest leaders with character and a new foreign policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE REMEDIES ACT OF 2010

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, among the many challenges of this Nation is the ongoing oil spillage in the gulf, a region that I come from.

I also happen to come from the city of Houston and represent a number of large energy companies, along with wind and solar and natural gas. We truly need a seamless energy policy, but our consuming responsibility is to stop this oil spillage and to stop it now. And I believe it is important that we do it with an understanding of a long-range strategy to address this crisis.

Right now, as I speak, Hurricane Alex has made its way along the gulf. And during this hurricane season, we don't know how many other hurricanes will come and disrupt the clean-up actions that are going on.

So today I've introduced H.R. 5676, the Right to Equitable Means of Ensuring Damages for Injuries are Efficiently Secured Act of 2010, or the REMEDIES Act. And I rise today to introduce this to address the many issues created by the recent disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

For over 2 months the blown-out wellhead beneath the wreckage of the Deepwater Horizon platform has spewed tens of thousands of barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico and the gulf coast communities on a daily basis. The initial explosion killed 11 people, seriously injured 17 others, and destroyed a multi-million dollar platform. But the extent of the damage done is far, far greater. The disaster and its aftermath have wrecked local industries and polluted or outright destroyed precious natural resources, and people are unable to work and to earn the money to pay for food, mortgages and other basic expenses.

And in my visits to the gulf region, these people were unattended to; oystermen, fishermen, shrimpers, restaurants not having any way to access a quick and immediate response.

Oh, yes, you see now a claims system in place. You see that there is now an established \$20 billion fund that I am grateful to our President for establishing. But look how long it took because there was no structure in place.

It is obvious that the existing body of law is antiquated and, therefore, inadequate to cope with the current situation. The liability caps under the current law will allow the responsible parties to pay just a mere fraction of the damages they have inflicted on the people of the gulf. Legislation enacted in the early part of the last century does not properly cover all the workers in the contemporary industry, and BP and other oil industry entities need to be able to address this question.

My bill would establish a tiered liability system so that we would pro-

vide a structure to provide coverage, yet protect the smaller and independent operators. The REMEDIES Act will also make some needed changes to 1920-era laws such as the Jones Act and the Death on the High Seas Act, to ensure that family members can recover, such as mothers and sisters, brothers and wives, which is not the case at this point. The language suggests that it will be a personal representative.

In addition, my bill would cause the end of lax permitting of the Minerals Management Service and the Department of the Interior and would require that if you had five safety violations, you would immediately put a moratorium and shut-down of the deepwater drilling.

My bill would also increase the oil spill liability trust fund from \$1.6 billion to \$10 billion. The money would be standing there now.

In addition, the Federal Water Pollution Act would be amended, as I said earlier, permitting, requiring that any permit would require you to establish a vetted recovery plan, so that if your BOP did not work, you had a back up plan that had been vetted and assessed as workable.

In addition, as I mentioned, if you had any violations, as these companies have been known to have, but, in particular, this company, you would immediately be shut down.

When I asked one of the new members of the MMS why BP wasn't shut down with the enormous list of violations that it had, the question was, not to the fault of the person who answered the question, but it was, We just haven't looked at that now.

My amendment, or my legislation, will call for the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a separate claims process under their jurisdiction. This legislation will ask the President to establish an emergency spill coordination team led by the commandant of the Coast Guard, along with the EPA, and the Secretary of Energy.

My amendment would also establish a research and development fund funded by the industry up to \$1 billion to be able to design the most sophisticated technology for recovery, research, and remediation in an oil spill.

And my amendment would require immediate post-traumatic stress disorder counseling for all of the people who we are not even addressing the pain or the mental distress that is being caused.

I ask my colleagues to review H.R. 5676, the REMEDIES Act, so that we can go forward and establish a pathway to solve this problem and not have it happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a far reaching, comprehensive piece of legislation to help address some of the many issues created by the recent disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the "Right to Equitable Means of Ensuring Damages for Injuries are Efficiently Secured" Act of 2010.

For over two months, the blown out wellhead beneath the wreckage of the Deepwater