

over and over again the problem; but very few solutions have come from it. It is by no means intended to be a quick fix to the problem of sexual assault, but, instead, is intended to be a positive first step towards remedying this terrible problem.

Along with my colleagues on the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I also plan to introduce a comprehensive legislation package to deal with other aspects of this issue based on the findings from the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues hearing, additional research and information that we have been gathering, as well as the task force report.

We look forward to continuing to work together in a productive manner to eliminate sexual assaults of our United States servicewomen. Again, it is a first step, and I encourage my colleagues to approve this amendment to the fiscal year 2005 DOD authorization bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute. Mr. Chairman, I want to take this time to thank the members of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, and my co-chairwoman, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER). Her work on this issue has been very valuable, and she has been very aggressive; and I think the result of our hearings are bearing fruit here in this amendment.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for their letting us offer this amendment and also, hopefully, making it a part of the bill.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS), the vice chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues on the Democratic side.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the amendment as vice chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. As we all know, our dedicated military servicemen and -women dedicate and risk their lives in order to protect our great Nation. We stand united on both sides of the aisle today as the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to bring awareness to an alarming trend of sexual assaults against women in all branches of the military.

The Pentagon itself has reported more than 100 cases of sexual assaults amongst troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 14 months. These numbers are not necessarily reflective of the actual situation, because women are discouraged from seeking help or reporting their assaults because of our military system, which has no comprehensive policy to address sexual assaults.

We are in the midst of a growing problem of violence against women that will not be tolerated. In March,

the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues held a hearing on sexual assaults in the military, where we heard directly from a courageous survivor, Captain Machmer. Her message was very powerful and clear: the military has a pervasive culture that needs to be aggressively addressed. She said, and I quote, "My assailant received a reduction in rank to specialist, forfeited \$826 for 2 months, and had extra duty for 30 days. And, still, this person works on the base I worked on."

In fact, studies estimate that 75 to 84 percent of alleged offenders are honorably discharged. What type of message are we sending to women serving in our country, and, more importantly, the next generation of women interested in joining the Armed Forces?

Last week, the DOD Task Force on Care For Victims of Sexual Assault released a report with recommendations. In line with these recommendations, this amendment that we are presenting here tonight would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a comprehensive policy to prevent and respond to sexual assaults in the Armed Forces.

This amendment would also require the Secretary to take steps to improve the Defense Department's capacity to respond to sexual assaults and restructure procedures on how assaults against women are to be handled.

What we need is a commitment to taking action. At this time, when our troops are valiantly committed to our country, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan effort.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. All time for debate on the amendment has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

The question was taken; and the Chairman pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) will be postponed.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4200) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

MAKING IN ORDER ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT 13 DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4200, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, first I just want to commend the chairman pro tempore, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), who has presided over the last several hours of debate. I thank him for a great job.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 4200, pursuant to House Resolution 648, the amendments I have placed at the desk shall be in order as though printed in House Report 108-499 and numbered 29, 30, 31, and 32; and

amendment No. 13 in that report be modified in the form that I have placed at the desk; and

the amendments and the modification that I have placed at the desk shall be considered as read for purposes of this unanimous consent request.

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object at this point, but I wish to offer a brief explanation to one aspect of one of the amendments addressed by this request offered by the gentleman from California, and I do so on behalf of my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. Speaker, if you read the text of the amendment, it is very difficult to decipher, so the unanimous consent request makes in order this amendment to correct a mistake in the drafting of the bill. The amendment proposes to add a military construction project to replace the fire crash/rescue station for Warner Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. The amendment offsets this addition by deleting another military construction project, the Visitors Quarters at Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida.

With that explanation, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the chairman in his request.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the amendments and the modification are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 29

At the end of title X (page 409, after line 13), insert the following new section:

**SEC. 1077. PLACEMENT OF MEMORIAL IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY HONORING NONCITIZENS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial marker honoring the service and sacrifice of noncitizens killed in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.