people who make those kinds of charges ought to stand down here and tell people what they did when their chance came.

Some of us served. I was not in Vietnam, but I was in the hospitals dealing with people who came back. Everybody in this body ought to go out to Walter Reed and walk around Unit 56 and look at those amputees and talk to them.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Committee on Government Reform that took a recent official visit to Iraq, I witnessed what I thought was the true shock and awe story. I saw the progress of a fledgling free nation, and I came away knowing we have every reason to be optimistic in that country.

My disappointment, Mr. Speaker, is that when watching the evening news on my return home, I could scarcely recognize the situation I had just left. In Iraq, General James Conway of the First Marine Expeditionary Force described our efforts there as a vivid success story, both during the major combat phase and since its conclusion. Perhaps most important, he said that most Iraqis were concerned not that we would stay too long, but that they would leave too soon.

As a doctor, I particularly wanted to assess the Iraqi health care system. I knew the difficulties that this system had suffered under Saddam's rule, but I also knew that we were starting to see the decrepit hospitals begin to improve. Most of these hospitals had no nursing staff left at all.

A member of the public health team of the 385th Civil Affairs Brigade, Lieutenant Michael Keller, told me that in the library at the medical school no text had a copyright date later than 1984. Mr. Speaker, on average, Saddam's government spent 50 cents per person on health care. Since the fall of that regime, that amount has increased to $45.

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE MANDATORY SECURITY TRAINING FOR FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for comprehensive mandatory security training of the Nation's flight attendants. A bipartisan measure included in the FAA reauthorization bills passed by the House and Senate would have required the TSA to establish clear, consistent security training standards for all flight attendants, regardless of airline affiliation.

The agreement would have ensured fight attendants received self-defense instruction as well as training to coordinate effectively with Federal air marshals, closing a glaring gap in the Nation's aviation security program.

Unfortunately, this critical provision was stripped, apparently at the behest of a single carrier, from the final conference report. Under the new language, TSA could, but would not be required to, issue guidelines for flight attendant security training programs. In the absence of a statutory requirement, TSA is unlikely to establish the rigorous training program demanded by flight attendants.

Forcing flight attendants with no prior self-defense training to confront well-armed, suicide terrorists is unfair and unwise. Flight attendants are uniquely capable of disrupting a potentially devastating terrorist attack. The attempted hijacking of a Quantas flight in May is a good example. The incident, which left two flight attendants and two passengers with stab wounds, dramatically illustrates the consequences of inadequate security training.

The Department of Homeland Security's recent warning of another suicide hijacking reminds us of the perils of complacency. I was pleased that the Committee on Rules reported out a resolution recommitting the reauthorization bill to conference. As this legislation is rewritten, I urge my colleagues to support restoration of the original flight attendant training language.

EXPRESSING DISMAY WITH REMARKS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HOWARD DEAN

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my dismay with the recent remarks made by Presidential candidate Howard Dean. His remarks related to the U.S. role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Dr. Dean said that it is ''not our place to take sides,'' in this conflict. He could not be more wrong. We must as Americans support the only democracy in the region that deals with the ongoing battle of terror. I was in Israel just last month, and I saw firsthand the death and destruction of Hamas and the suicide bombers. They continue to inflict this tragedy on the country of Israel.

Edmond Burke said that ''all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.'' Dr. Dean would have us do nothing and allow evil to triumph over our friends and our allies.

His comments are out of touch and uninformed. I call on all of my colleagues in this body from both sides of the aisle to denounce his thoughtless words. Truly good men recognize that what he has said is simply wrong and that he should be reminded that it is always the place of the United States to take the side against terror.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 69, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, under the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 69) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 69 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 69

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2003 for continuing projects or activities including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees (not otherwise specifically provided for in this joint resolution) which were conducted in fiscal year 2003, at a rate for operations not exceeding the current rate, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority was made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003.

(2) The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003, notwithstanding section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

(3) The District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2003.

(4) The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2003, notwithstanding section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

(5) The Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2003, notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 and section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956.

(6) The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003.

(7) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003.

(8) The Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2003.

(9) The Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003.