

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can continue its worthwhile conservation efforts in the future.

Additional co-sponsors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005: Congressman NORMAN D. DICKS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, despite many reservations, I am supporting the bill before us today because I believe it is essential that this body unequivocally supports our troops in the field and their families here at home. By providing \$2 billion more than the President's request for equipment and munitions, this bill will help to ensure that soldiers in the field finally have the body armor, night vision equipment, and vehicle armor they should have had since military operations began in Iraq. Additionally, by significantly increasing the Military Death Gratuity and the Subsidized Life Insurance benefit, this bill will help to guarantee that the families of deceased soldiers will have adequate financial resources in their time of need.

While it is critical that this bill provides soldiers and their families with the protection and benefits they so rightfully deserve, I remain deeply concerned that it continues to leave the Administration and the Department of Defense unaccountable for the expenditures in Iraq. I am distressed by the alleged reports of waste, corruption and mismanagement of previous funds earmarked for the military operations and reconstruction in Iraq. Further, I am troubled to learn that, according to several studies, only a portion of every dollar spent on rebuilding Iraq has gone to improving the lives of Iraqis. Unfortunately, the efforts made by me and other members of Congress to insert accountability and transparency into the funding process, including the most recent bipartisan effort to establish a commission to investigate the costs of the reconstruction in Iraq, have been repeatedly rejected by the Majority in Congress.

I am similarly disappointed that this Administration insists on funding the war in Iraq using the emergency appropriations process—a process that should be reserved for true emergencies, like tsunami relief. While the Bush Administration claims that it excludes these costs from the annual budget process because it cannot anticipate future war costs,

the true reason for this exclusion is to make the already massive deficit look slightly, albeit artificially, lower. This Administration is therefore abusing the emergency appropriations process in order to help obscure and hide the extent of its fiscal recklessness from the American people. This is the same sort of fuzzy accounting that was employed by the likes of Enron and WorldCom, and yet, while those corporations were ultimately held accountable, this Administration continues not to be.

While I have significant ideological problems with this bill, I cannot in good faith turn my back on the courageous men and women who have so valiantly served to preserve the peace in Iraq. They deserve to enter the battlefield with adequate armor and equipment and are similarly entitled to an increase in benefits for them and for their families. However, I vote in favor of this bill with the sincere hope that this is the last time the Administration abuses the emergency appropriations process and comes to this body with such a request.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I voted against H.R. 1268 "The Emergency Supplemental Bill for Fiscal Year 2005." While it contained some good measures, humanitarian assistance for Darfur, funds for tsunami relief and aid to support the newly elected leadership of the Palestinian Authority, like many pieces of legislation these days, it also contained an egregious and completely non-germane addition, the REAL ID Bill. I already voted against this bill. It fails to make us safer and it does nothing to reform our immigration laws in useful ways. Instead of focusing on meaningful reform, this bill makes it much more difficult for an immigrant fleeing persecution to find asylum in our country, and essentially mandates a national identity card.

This vote was primarily about our ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. I supported the use of force in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime sheltered and supported al Qaeda terrorists who attacked our country and made plain its determination to continue. I wish we had committed sufficient troops and resources to complete our mission in Afghanistan, kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and commit to the country's reconstruction. I voted against the use of force in Iraq. I wish I had

been wrong, but all that I feared has come to pass. Weapons of mass destruction have not been found. Terrible slaughter continues and civil war may yet break out. But the ongoing violence in Iraq does not constitute a budgetary emergency and should not have been unforeseen. We were at war when the FY05 budget was proposed. Why then the pretense of a Supplemental Budget?

I honor the sacrifice of our soldiers and their families and the courage of the millions of Iraqis who risked their lives to vote in a free election. I hope that their elected leaders will deserve their trust and that they will negotiate an inclusive government and draft a constitution that respects human rights. I hope they can demonstrate a prudence and foresight that our own government has not shown. I voted for the FY05 Department of Defense appropriations bill and I hope that I will be able to vote for the FY06 Defense appropriations as well. My vote was a vote of no confidence in the President and in his conduct of foreign affairs.

REMEMBRANCE OF TILLIE K. FOWLER

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, along with my fellow Members of Congress, it is my honor to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague, Tillie Fowler. I extend my very deepest sympathy to Tillie's husband, Buck, to her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, and to Tillie's family on the great personal loss of their loved one. It was my privilege to call Tillie Fowler my colleague in Congress and know her as a friend.

Tillie always had her priorities in order. I always recall her first concern in all matters was for Buck, her husband, and her daughters. Tillie as I knew her also had a great love of our country. She ran for office to make her community, our State of Florida and our nation a better place for all. And she never stopped or hesitated in that effort.

Because of the public service of Tillie Fowler, many lives in the Jacksonville area and across our great land have been changed. Tillie and I were elected to Congress together in 1992. With Tillie's leadership the Congress was reformed, people who only had welfare as a choice had their lives changed and our nation's military found a new, strong advocate at their side. Many lives have been affected by the efforts and determination of Tillie Fowler.

It was my honor to serve with her for eight years and share borders of our Congressional Districts over the years. It was my honor to have her at my side during congressional redistricting in 2002, when I inherited a large portion of her old district and faced a formidable reelection challenge. Her support and