

held 520 enemy combatants. Now, an enemy combatant is not somebody that got picked up for shoplifting or for running a traffic signal. An enemy combatant is a person that has ties to known terrorist groups: the Taliban, al Qaeda. They are people that have participated in trying to tear us down. They are people that have participated in the September 11 attacks, the Khobar Towers, the first World Trade Center bombing. That is what we have at Guantanamo Bay.

We hear that we should send them back to their country. There is a reason we do not, and that is because an enemy combatant is not a uniformed soldier in an Army fighting for a country. An enemy combatant is a terrorist and, many times, we do not know what country they are from. The reason we do not send them back is because there is not a country that we are going to be sending them back to. It is an important distinction that we need to make.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through this week, as we talk about the President's remarks tonight, as we talk about the time at Guantanamo Bay, it is important to remember that it is our men and women that we need to thank for our freedom. It is their families we need to thank for their support.

AMERICA IS LOSING HER INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, some people have loosely thrown the word "freedom" around here tonight. Well, America's freedom is declining because we are so increasingly dependent on imported petroleum. As oil prices rise, for super it is over \$2.50 a gallon now at the pump and historic levels of \$60 a barrel, I must rise tonight to say how sick I am of imported petroleum governing this economy. Look what it has done to our beloved republic economically, politically, environmentally, strategically. Rising oil prices control this economy. The lack of growth, every time that price ticks up, the stock market becomes very uncomfortable.

Oil prices keep us strategically locked to dictatorships all across this globe. That causes limitation in freedoms. What about the impact that oil prices have binding us to China and Iran now, looking at what is happening there, and the proposed Unocal purchase by China right at the ankles of Unocal's investments in Afghanistan right next door, as we become players in this 21st century oil market. America, wake up. Look at who gets the profit from your expenditures out of your wallet. Rising oil prices makes our economy vulnerable here at home. We lose more jobs, and the stock market remains very, very unsteady.

Rising oil prices mean we knock points off economic growth. Think

about who gets those profits off those rising prices as our young men and women in the armed forces occupy the Middle East and Central Asia where most of our imported oil comes from. Now, over 60 percent of what we consume is imported from abroad; a majority of what is used in this country is imported. We are not free.

In fact, our soldiers are guarding more and more every day oil and gas pipelines from Afghanistan to Georgia to Turkey to places most Americans have not been very familiar with. U.S. foreign policy and military involvements in these areas parallel that of our global oil corporations. Unocal is not the only one. Chevron, Exxon, Arco, the names go on.

Now, this week, the Communist-owned oil company of China has decided it wants to pay more for Unocal than it is worth. Unocal does not drill anything in this country anymore; their investments are all over the world. Remember, Afghanistan was a key transit route before we got there with the military, the 18,000 of our soldiers who are stationed there now; Afghanistan was a key transit route from Unocal from the Caspian Sea Basin. They have been at this a long time. Sadly, U.S. foreign policy in that country has mirrored Unocal's satisfaction with the Taliban government there. They tried to be friends.

In fact, Unocal had plans for a new pipeline winding a far-ranging path from Turkmenistan's gas fields to the Arabian Sea. The giant oil company built cooperative relationships with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, as did the United States Government. When we supported the Taliban, as recently as 1999, U.S. taxpayers paid the salary of oil-hungry Taliban government officials. Ask yourself about that.

But as soon as the Taliban began making things a little difficult for Unocal, demanding more money for infrastructure and access to some of the oil themselves in the summer of 2001, well, our government's position began to change on the Taliban. Shortly thereafter, the Taliban became much more vulnerable after the September 11 attack, and the Bush administration was able to secure support for invasion of that country, but then maneuvered a former Unocal consultant named Khalized to be the first ambassador to Afghanistan and, guess what? Now he was just nominated and confirmed as ambassador to Iraq. Strange coincidence.

Ask yourself, who gets the profits off the rising gas prices you are paying for. China has raised its bid to purchase the U.S. oil giant Unocal, and what a twist of fate this is. It was U.S. oil dependency that drew us to secure Central Asia for oil, and now we find ourselves in the awkward position of having China buy us out. China is trying to trump our energy investments in that area because it is right next door to them, trying to buy Unocal to ac-

cess what the U.S. had hoped to gain by the Central Asian invasion.

China is also courting favor with Iran. They are trying to trump us there to gain an energy edge as the Bush administration creates more barriers with Iran. Ask yourselves, who is getting the profits and why has the Bush administration made us more dependent on foreign oil, up another 10 percent, up to 63 percent now.

Mr. Speaker, America is losing her independence.

HONORING THE LIFE AND FRIENDSHIP OF STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH BEYERS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, June 21, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), our distinguished subcommittee chairman of our great Committee on Armed Services, introduced H.R. 256 in remembrance of the brave servicemen who perished in the disastrous April 24, 1980 rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran. That was called Operation Eagle Claw.

I appreciate the gentleman for bringing this legislation to the Floor, mainly because it is such an important resolution, but also, Mr. Speaker, because it prompted me to call an old friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the selfless service of that old friend from my childhood and a true American hero, Air Force Staff Sergeant Joseph J.J. Beyers.

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I was reminded of my friend JJ because he was part of that rescue attempt, and he was one of the fortunate few who lived to tell about it. I had pretty much lost track of JJ after high school, although I knew, Mr. Speaker, that he was part of that rescue operation and I knew that he had been injured severely, burned severely, in critical condition for months, but that, thank God, he survived, and he recovered. But we had really lost track of each other for these many years until last week, after Mr. SAXTON introduced his resolution. I had an opportunity to track JJ down and to give him a call and to spend about 45 minutes talking to him about that operation and his life and what it meant to him and what it has meant to this country.

I want to share, Mr. Speaker, a little bit of JJ's life, our life as kids together growing up in North Augusta, South Carolina. We were both altar boys at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. JJ and I went to school together from the first grade.

Back in those days, Mr. Speaker, there was no pre-K or kindergarten. Everybody just showed up when they were 6 years old in the first grade. That is how long I have known that great American hero.

And a little bit later on, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, JJ Beyers and myself actually played in the same pony league baseball organization. He was a great athlete. He was a wonderful baseball player, an all-star in that pony league. We had some great athletes, and I would be remiss if I did not mention one who, like JJ Beyers, is another American hero, our age, our contemporary who gave his life for our country in another conflict, Vietnam.

But JJ Beyers and I went on to high school together to St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia where again we were both playing baseball and football. But after that, I went off to college. I went to Georgia Tech to college; and JJ joined the Air Force and was in the process of spending his entire adult life in the Air Force. He was a C-130 radio operator and had been assigned to Eglin Air Force Base in 1980, when Operation Eagle Claw was planned.

JJ volunteered for that duty, Mr. Speaker, to take the place of someone who had to drop out because of a sick parent. And JJ Beyers at that time was a single parent who had custody of his five children. And yet he stepped up to the plate and volunteered to fill in the gap to go on this dangerous mission, telling his commander at Eglin that his neighbors would take care of his children; that he wanted to go and do what was necessary to rescue these hostages in Iran. That is the kind of guy JJ Beyers is, and this opportunity tonight to share that with my colleagues, I think, is of tremendous importance.

Mr. Speaker, JJ, as I say, lived through that infamous collision between a Navy helicopter and that C-130 cargo plane. But he was trapped in that fuselage by raging flames after the crash and pulled to safety by two Delta Force pilots. And JJ has severe burns today and little use of both hands. He has been totally disabled. But here is what he says: "There is no doubt in my mind everybody involved would have gone again."

JJ is remarried now. He lives in Niceville, Florida. I just want to say one thing, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion. Something that happened in high school, I was a snapper for punts. I rolled that snap back to JJ Beyers in the biggest game of the year, the punt was blocked. The coach chewed my good friend JJ Beyers out. He never said a word. He took it like a man. I did not own up to the fact that it was my fault. JJ was a true hero then. He was a true hero in 1980, he is a true hero as we speak today, and I want to take this chance to thank him for his friendship and sacrifice.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

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

There was no objection.

APPRECIATION TO AMERICA'S TROOPS

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time. And just having returned from Fort Bragg, the epicenter of the universe, home of the 82nd Airborne, I want to relate to you and others the speech that the President made tonight. And let me begin by saying that our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go out to the men and women in uniform everywhere tonight: Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever they may be. The President outlined very clearly tonight that this is a war against terror and terrorists that we are winning, that we must win, and that we will win. His resolve, as well as his appreciation for the troops, was most apparent.

Mr. Speaker, interestingly, I received a message early this morning from a good friend, 82nd trooper in Iraq, in which he said, we are winning. We will win. We must win. But he also cautioned us, the American people, that this is a difficult fight and we must be patient. His closing words were, a time line is a terrible idea and we must not rush to failure. Patience, honoring the sacrifice and the men and women who have given their lives so that Iraq could be a free and sovereign Nation is vitally important.

As we look at the upcoming drafting of their Constitution, starting on August 15, followed by ratification October 15 and then elections held by and for Iraqis on December 15, it is very clear that what we are doing is the right thing.

As I shared the night with Senator DOLE, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), Senator BURR, and those wonderful troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, it was just so clear to me how vitally important this mission is. The Western way of life and freedom itself is at stake in this war against bloodthirsty, ruthless, ideologically incredibly wicked killers. That is the stake.

We are winning. We can win. The timetable is clear. We owe it to the members and to the families with whom President Bush spent several hours tonight consoling, praying, and, yes, shedding tears with them for the sacrifices they made so you and I and all Americans and others around the world can be free.

So, Mr. Speaker, my sincere love, gratitude, and appreciation to the men

and women in uniform who serve us now who have given their lives to the families that support them, the heartfelt thanks of a Congress, a grateful Nation, and freedom-loving men and women around the world. God bless these men and women.

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

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

THE HISTORY AND WORKINGS OF THE PRIVATE CALENDAR

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the five House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows' seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee of the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 22, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills: first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as