

home and around the world are also protecting us from harm and defending our freedoms. We honor all of them today for their dedicated service to our country.

Two weeks ago, I was proud to join my colleagues in voting for a resolution to commend our troops. The resolution was passed unanimously.

With the outbreak of war upon us, we should send another clear message to the troops that we stand united behind them. I am very disappointed, however, that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to use this resolution not simply as an opportunity to express our gratitude to the troops, but also as a political tactic to bolster the President's war agenda. This resolution contains political praise for policies that have brought us to war. This language was unnecessary in a resolution designed to commend our troops.

Last fall, I joined over 120 of my colleagues in voting against authorizing the President to use military force against Iraq. The concerns that led me to oppose that authorization remain.

I continue to be troubled by the policies that have led to this war, particularly the doctrine of preemption and the lack of broad international support. We need to repair our diplomatic relations with our allies and countries with which we have had good relations.

We will need a strong coalition of allies to rebuild Iraq. These partnerships are also valuable to our global war on terrorism.

In my home state of California, over 8,000 National Guard members and 10,000 reservists have been called to duty. These individuals have left their Jobs, postponed their education, and said goodbyes to their loved ones to serve their country in a time of war. They've put their lives on hold to go to serve their country during a time of war.

Recently, I visited some of these reservists who were being deployed from my district. They were men and women from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Men and women who never imagined that they would find themselves being deployed to fight war. I could see the fear of war in their eyes. I also saw determination, the strength of a soldier ready for battle.

Tonight, I think of these men and women and the thousands of others that have left their homes and families to serve their country. They're our husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, and granddaughters and grandsons.

We must let our loved ones know that we support them, especially at this critical stage in this military conflict. That is why I will support this resolution despite my strong disagreement with some aspects of it. I want the troops to know that I stand behind them and commend them for their commitment to defending freedoms here and abroad.

I hope and pray that this military conflict will be brief and with the least possible loss of human lives. I extend my special prayers to men and women in uniform and their families during this difficult time, and I look forward to welcoming them home soon.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN JOINT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 134, which elects Members of the House to serve on the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library and the Joint Committee on Printing, as provided for in the applicable statutes relating to these two entities.

All of these members also serve on the Committee on House Administration, except in the case of the Joint Library Committee, where we will again be joined, pursuant to a new statute enacted in 2000, by the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.

The House and Senate will each have three Majority and two Minority members on both panels. The Senate passed a resolution, S. Res. 84, electing its members to the two joint committees on March 13.

The subject matter under the jurisdiction of the joint committees requires bicameral oversight which neither chamber can exercise alone.

The Joint Committee on the Library, created originally in 1802, currently oversees the Library of Congress, the Congressional Research Service and the Botanic Gardens. It operates much like a "board of trustees" in relation to the Librarian of Congress, who is a presidential appointee, and other key Library personnel.

It supervises the Architect of the Capitol in his administration of the Botanic Gardens.

It supervises works of fine arts, including the National Statuary Hall Collection in the Capitol, and directs the Architect in his role in administering fine arts issues within the joint committee's jurisdiction.

The Joint Committee on Printing, created in 1846, establishes rules for congressional printing and generally oversees operations of the Government Printing Office (GPO).

In the 107th Congress, the JCP held hearings on the Administration's misguided proposal to allow executive agencies to bypass GPO and procure printing elsewhere, in violation of Federal law. Congress subsequently moved to block implementation of this proposal, and I anticipate further oversight on this subject during the current Congress.

The two joint committees do not have authority to receive or report legislation. However, both can hold hearings, issue reports and directives, and take other actions which have a substantial impact on the entities within their control, including matters relating to the expenditure of funds.

Mr. Speaker, since the three Minority members of the House Administration Committee are all new to that panel, none of us has ever served on a joint committee of Congress. I look forward to serving as ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on the Library once the joint committee has organized itself and, as expected, chooses Senator STEVENS of Alaska to once again serve as the chairman under the traditional rotation between the two chambers.

Rep. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will also serve on the panel. As a former city councilwoman, mayor, and state assemblywoman with a professional background in education, she brings a significant breadth of experience to the committee's work. I have also served with her on the Digital Divide Caucus in the House, and look forward to working with her to support initiatives the Library of Congress has taken to make information more broadly available to the public.

On the Joint Committee on Printing, where Rep. NEY will again be chairman in the 108th Congress under the rotation, I will be joined by Rep. BOB BRADY of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who succeeds another Member from that city serving on the panel, Rep. FATTAH.

It is fitting that we will have BOB on the JCP since he represents Philadelphia, where Benjamin Franklin established an innovative printing business at age 22, publishing newspapers, pamphlets and cartoons. BOB BRADY is a cross between Ben Franklin and Rocky Balboa.

WOMEN'S CANCER RECOVERY ACT

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the Women's Cancer Recovery Act, a bill I introduced today with my colleague, Representative SUE MYRICK. This important piece of legislation would provide a significant measure of relief for women across our Nation who are confronted by breast cancer. We introduce this bill on behalf of women who are now fighting the battle against breast cancer, and for any friends and relatives who may have lost a loved one to this terrible disease.

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, this year 182,000 new breast cancer diagnoses are expected in the United States. Fortunately, with increased early detection through mammography and improved surgery options, the past two decades have seen large improvements in the treatment of breast cancer. However, although some of the trauma associated with breast cancer treatment has been reduced, in recent years there has been a sharp rise in the number of outpatient, or "drive-through," mastectomies. Of particular concern to me is that insurance plans, rather than the patient and her physician, have been determining the appropriate length of postoperative hospital stay.

Specifically, our legislation would address these concerns by requiring insurance plans that provide breast cancer medical and surgical benefits to guarantee medically appropriate and adequate inpatient care following a mastectomy, lumpectomy or lymph node dissection. This legislation will help to end the practice of "drive-through" mastectomies and will also protect doctors from any penalties or reductions in reimbursement from insurance plans when they follow their judgment on what is medically appropriate and necessary for the patient.

Most importantly, group health insurers will not be able to provide "bonuses" or any other financial incentives to a physician in order to keep in-patient stays below certain limits, or limit referrals to second opinions.