

I have one example, though, of a company. USAID, which is a foreign aid branch, it does a lot of good things, but it is going to let some humanitarian contracts go, and French and German companies will be eligible to compete for it. That bothers me a lot, that they will be able to profit from this war.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART. I could not agree with the gentleman more, if the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker. This is a two-fold problem. There is, first, the opposition to this effort to free the Iraqi people and to free the world from this very dangerous dictator, free the world from a dictator who is trying to get or obtain nuclear weapons, and who already has other weapons of mass destruction.

□ 2115

We are trying to free the Iraqi people while at the same time free the world from this incredible threat.

So we have to remember these countries that we are objecting to that, that even though unanimously, just a few months before, they said, hey, look, we are going to give this dictator one last chance, he has to disarm, but it is worse than that because not only are they objecting to the freeing of the Iraqi people, are they objecting to ridding of the world of this dictator who is trying to get nuclear weapons, who has ties with terrorist organizations and, by the way, including terrorist organizations that have assassinated Americans, but what is even more offensive is that at the same time they are selling this dictator high-tech equipment that he can use to further exploit, hurt, oppress, kill, murder his people and others because of his ties with terrorism.

One would hope that humanity has gone above and beyond that, and yet there are those that would like to profit even while selling high-tech equipment that they know they should not be selling because they have said it repeatedly in U.N. resolutions. So they know it, it is not by mistake, and yet they are doing so to earn a buck, to earn a buck?

Mr. KINGSTON. There is another example. Another company called Sedxho, S-E-D-X-H-O, it is a French company. It is a publicly-owned French company, but they have \$1 billion worth of food service contracts with the United States Department of Defense. Recently, they signed an \$881 million contract to feed the U.S. Marines in 55 different garrisons. We are working on a letter to the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, to say he needs to renegotiate this, he needs to cancel it, he needs to look into it. But can my colleague imagine, here is a French company, and France, I do not remember one division in the country of France in terms of their stance against America in the last 3 to 6 months. I do not remember anybody moderating.

In America we had division. We had a pro-war and an anti-war group, and the

world knew that. But, in France, it seems like they were all united against the United States and against this war.

Apparently, that is not a problem to Sedxho, because they are a French company. And yet here are the Marines, the brave and the honorable Marines who are the ones who discovered this hospital today, allegedly a hospital, and yet 55 different garrisons in the United States of America, when an 18-year-old Marine sits down for lunch, a French company is making a profit from that. That is unbelievable, and I call on the Department of Defense to cancel that contract.

Listen, there are reasons sometimes we have to buy from an enemy. There are reasons that somebody has something unique, but we are talking catering. I am sure there are good companies in Florida and Georgia and all over America that can do the catering service for the U.S. Marine corps, but a French company, it is unbelievable.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. If the gentleman would yield, I think we are going to find a lot of that. I think we are going to find a lot of companies that are profiting from selling goods to the United States, including to the United States Armed Forces and armed services, as the gentleman just pointed out, who, by the way, are probably also making a hefty profit selling products to Iraq, even though there are sanctions there and probably even some high-tech equipment to the tyranny in Iraq.

I think it kind of explains some of the ferocity of the argument, some of the aggressiveness of some of those that were objecting to the United States' noble stance to help free an oppressed people and also help rid the world of these weapons of mass destruction and the possible obtaining of nuclear weapons to this dictator. I think we are going to see a lot of that.

The thing that surprised me, and it does not surprise me anymore because we are starting to see why, and my colleague just mentioned it, we are starting to see why but, surprisingly, the ferocity of the argument and how France, for example, not only do they object to any resolution that was not of their liking in the U.N. recently and they said so, but, also, they went lobbying. They actually were talking to every nation possible to try to stop this movement to free the people of Iraq and to free the world from this dictator who has caused so much grief.

I think we are starting to see why, but it is sad, it is sad that it looks like one of the main reasons or at least one of the reasons may be because they are making a buck off of this dictator.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, also, are they not making a buck or profit, things like that, but they have had a lucrative oil contract in Iraq they did not want to disturb. That it is clear France is not after some noble or high ground about peace, but it simply boils down to profit.

If the gentleman would like to make any closing comments, I need to actually make an engagement.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the gentleman from Georgia. Again, I had to come to the floor today once I was hearing what he was talking about. I had to come here and thank the gentleman, thank him for standing up for our troops, thank him for supporting our troops, thank him for supporting the President of the United States, Commander in Chief in such a difficult time. Our troops are going to prevail because of their honor, their integrity, their decency and because they are the best people, best troops and the best human beings that this world has ever seen, and they are well led, and their cause is just.

I wanted to thank the gentleman again for his words. They were humbling, and they were touching, and I wanted to come here and thank him tonight for his words.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate everything the gentleman is doing.

SALUTING OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, members of the Congressional Black Caucus wanted to take a moment to salute our troops. These are men and women who have voluntarily put on the uniform of the United States of America to make sure that we maintain our way of life, maintain our constitutional rights, maintain our privileges; and they have put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great sadness today to start off my remarks by having to pay tribute to a great American hero who died in the line of duty while serving his country in pursuing the American dream. Originally from my hometown of Baltimore, Marine Staff Sergeant Kendall Damon Waters-Bey, age 29, was one of the four U.S. Marines who died when their CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed near the Iraqi-Kuwait border.

I would like to start off by first expressing my deepest condolences to the Waters-Bey family during this very, very difficult time. I mourn their loss, along with the other members of the Maryland Federal delegation.

Our prayers are with Sergeant Waters-Bey's 10-year old son, Kenneth; his

wife, Belinda Waters-Bey of San Diego, California; his parents, Michael and Angela Waters-Bey; and four sisters, Shernell Waters-Bey, Sharita Waters-Bey, Michelle Waters and Nakia Waters.

This tragedy makes the war in Iraq more personal for all of us. I did not have the privilege of knowing Staff Sergeant Waters-Bey, but his story is one that is familiar to many of us in Baltimore.

Fellow Marine and Captain Ray Coleman said that Sergeant Waters-Bey viewed the military as a path out of the struggles and challenges of urban life. I understand these challenges, Mr. Speaker, as I live in an urban area in Baltimore City.

Not too far from the Capitol in which we stand tonight, many young people are confronted with violence, oppression, lack of quality health care and lack of equal access to the all-American dream every day. Their terror is as real as the terror that the Iraqi people are facing right now. For these Americans, it often takes a miracle to climb over the barriers.

Achieving the American dream is often out of reach, but the barriers did not stop Sergeant Waters-Bey from reaching his dream. In spite of a hard life, friends say that Sergeant Waters-Bey had a jovial spirit. He was known for making people laugh with his funny jokes and funny faces. While a student at Baltimore's Northern High School, he refused to fall into the wrong crowd and chose instead to be an athlete whose afternoons were filled with running track and swimming.

Upon graduation, Sergeant Waters-Bey was determined to make something of himself. Since he could not afford to go to college, he enlisted in the Marines and worked very hard to succeed as a Marine; and he did. He entered the service as a mechanic, but as a result of his determination he quickly moved up to crew chief.

The Marines took Sergeant Waters-Bey around the Nation from Maryland to Florida and then to Camp Pendleton in California. But distance did not keep him from his family. Sergeant Waters-Bey always made time for his 10-year old son Kenneth. Whenever father and son spent time together, they would go on fishing trips, watch cartoons or just play ball, according to family members. Unfortunately, that shall be no more, for he has given his life so that ours might be uplifted.

The evening before his father's death, young Kenneth was about to get a new computer so he could e-mail his dad in the Iraqi desert. Now, young Kenneth will never have a chance to send an e-mail to his father.

Last Thursday, tragically, the helicopter where Sergeant Waters-Bey served as a crew chief crashed and killed all who were aboard.

The other U.S. Marines killed in Thursday's crash were Major Jay Thomas Aubin, 36, of Waterville, Maine; Captain Ryan Anthony

Beaupre, 30, of Bloomington, Illinois; and Corporal Brian Matthew Kennedy, 25, of Houston, Texas. Our prayers go out to all of them and to their families.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I have to bring up the fact that Mr. Waters-Bey's family is asking why their son, father and brother died in a war that lacks an international mandate. I agree with the Waters-Bey family and also believe that our Nation should have continued to pursue diplomatic measures to disarm Saddam Hussein's regime before sending Sergeant Waters-Bey and other members of our Armed Forces to the Middle East.

I still stand behind our troops. They are our sons, our daughters, our fathers, our mothers, our friends; and I salute all of our men and women in Iraq and pray for their safe return.

□ 2130

Finally, I would like to say Sergeant Kendall Waters-Bey was not only a hero because he served this country in the Armed Forces, but also because he climbed over barriers that were placed before him, so many barriers that many of his neighbors were not able to climb. I applaud Sergeant Waters-Bey for not only what he did in Iraq, but because of what he did right here in the United States. By his example, he was not only on a mission to set the Iraqi people free from oppression, but also set on a mission to set himself free from the obstacles that keep so many Americans from achieving the American dream. God bless Sergeant Waters-Bey.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SALUTES
TROOPS

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I will now address the issues that the Congressional Black Caucus would like to bring before the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, at this very hour, this very moment, our servicemen and women are literally fighting for their lives. They are doing so with unbelievable courage and determination. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our military and pledge again tonight that while they are on the battlefield, they will have every resource they need to get the job done. We pray that they will return home soon to their families and loved ones.

But, Mr. Speaker, I worry about what kind of country our servicemen and women will be returning to after the war. What signal and what message is the Congress of the United States sending to our men and women in the military when we pass a budget like the one that the Republican majority passed last week? A budget that cuts veterans' benefits, a budget that cuts funding to address the health care needs in America, a budget that cuts loan opportunities for college students, a budget that cuts school lunch and child nutrition programs, a budget that cuts job training programs; and on top of that, the budget does nothing to create any new jobs or businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask what kind of America will our men and women serv-

ing in Iraq come back to and what kind of America will their families be living in while they are away? Mr. Speaker, we have to do better. We must do better. They deserve better. We must work to create an America that every American can be proud of, but most importantly, an America that invests in its people.

We still have an opportunity to do better. Over the next few days and weeks, the Congress will have a conference committee on the budget resolutions passed by the House and the Senate. This conference committee has the opportunity to right some of the wrongs passed by the House. In addition, the President announced yesterday that his fiscal year 2003 supplemental legislation would be in the amount of about \$75 billion. While we do not know all of the details, much of the money, and rightfully so, will go to ensuring that we win the war as quickly as possible. Some of the money will also go to helping rebuild Iraq and that is understandable, too.

However, I have a question: When are we going to rebuild America? Many of our cities and rural areas need rebuilding today. I am certain that Governors, mayors, city and county officials all around the country can give us a laundry list of infrastructure needs that the American people need right now.

That is why the Congressional Black Caucus will advocate for the inclusion in any supplemental bill monies to help rebuild America. Our citizens deserve the best we can give them, and we should do our very best.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, when our men and women return home from Iraq and any Member of Congress greets them in their State, city or neighborhood, I want us all to be able to say we have done our very best to invest in their future and in their families' futures.

Unfortunately, the budget that we passed last week does not invest in their future, but we can fix that and I hope that we will.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor and privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, our Armed Forces are now at war. They are performing the duties which they have been preparing for their whole careers. They are the best-trained and the best-equipped military in the world. We have no doubt that they will prevail, but we also have no doubt that their task is perilous and difficult. All of America supports them and we pray for their swift and safe return.

Last week, Members of Congress had the chance to cast a vote in support of our troops in the field. I do not refer to the resolution congratulating the President. Instead, I refer to the vote on the President's budget for this fiscal year. In fact, a vote against the President's budget was a vote for our troops. I find it shameful that at a time when our dedicated men and women of the

Armed Forces are in the field fighting, perhaps subjected to attacks from chemical and biological weapons, that the President of the United States and the Republican leadership have not felt it necessary to include in their budget one dime to support their efforts. I cannot think of a more stunning vote of no confidence, a bigger slap in the face of our troops than to send them into battle and then refuse to pay for it.

It is not that there have not been estimates of what this war might cost. Those estimates have been reported in the media for several months now, and we now belatedly have a request for this funding from the President; but the President pointedly refused to provide us with numbers last week so that Congress could include them in the budget and make sure the war is paid for.

Now, I personally find it hard to believe that last week we had no idea what the war would cost and that this week we suddenly have a full and accurate accounting. Does the price of ammunition fluctuate that much? Did the White House really have no sense of the cost of providing 300,000 troops with resources in the desert?

Or perhaps there is another more practical reason. Perhaps the President is afraid that if the budget reflected the cost of war, Americans might ask the President to hold off on a huge tax cut for his wealthiest supporters, tax cuts that by themselves cost more than 10 times what the President thinks it will cost to remove Saddam Hussein from power. I think it is scandalous that this administration will send our troops into the field and risk their lives and refuse to budget for it simply so they can justify huge tax cuts for the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, the right thing for us to do now is to reconsider this budget resolution to factor in the \$75 billion that the President estimates it will cost to remove Saddam Hussein from power. We owe nothing less to our troops who as we speak are being asked to put their lives on the line. If Americans do the numbers, they see that we cannot give a tax cut and pay for the war up to this point. I understand there will be subsequent proposals given to us to continue our efforts, and I understand just today, we are not looking for weapons of mass destruction, we are looking for a regime change. So what will be the cost of setting a new regime in place? Do we have a Marshall Plan? What is our policy? I think Americans should know what their hard-earned tax dollars must do in the future.

Mr. President, please give us the full story, please give us the amount that it is going to cost us because the cost in terms of the lives of our coalition members and Americans is just too high.

Mr. President, do the right thing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The Chair reminds Members to please direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

I want all people to know that the Congressional Black Caucus wholeheartedly supports our troops. When I move throughout my district and I have an opportunity to talk to the many men and women in the grocery store, the hardware store and simply stopping at a gas station and hear Americans talk about their sons and daughters and friends that are overseas now fighting for us, my heart definitely goes out.

Over the last few days we have seen a few of our men and women taken as prisoners of war; and every time I see those pictures, I cringe because I cannot imagine what they might be going through and what they might be feeling. So while we stand concerned about the budget situation in our country, while we stand concerned about our cities, many of which need that \$1.6 trillion like Iraq will need to be reconstructed; as we stand concerned about young children who are still reading from textbooks printed when Jimmy Carter was President; as we stand still concerned about children who can actually go through high school without ever looking through a microscope; as we stand concerned about so many elderly people who cannot afford prescription drugs; as we stand concerned about people who cannot get medical care because they simply do not have the insurance; as we stand concerned about the National Institute of Medicine's report on "Disparity in Health Care," that shows if one is African American you get one type of treatment and if you are white you get another type, and Hispanics gets another type, and that an African American if they have the same insurance, they have the same level of ailment, they are the same age, and if they have diabetes, for example, they have a four-times greater chance of having an amputation below the waist; as we stand concerned about the many homeless people in our Nation; as we stand concerned about the many people who unfortunately have tried their very best after being put off of welfare and because of our economy are unable to find a job; as we stand watching children who should have an opportunity to go into Head Start but because of budget cuts will not have that opportunity; as we stand looking at so many people who have over and over and over again begged us, begged us for the Hope VI program which would allow them to have decent housing; as we stand where there are schools not very far from here where children sit with rain falling on their heads; as we stand here tonight concerned about all those things and many, many others, I say we stand for our troops.

□ 2145

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to say this, that so often I think what happens is that we lose a

sense of balance. I have often said that it is extremely important that we protect ourselves from outside forces and that we protect ourselves from terrorists. I think that is extremely important, and I know that 9/11 and those planes flying into the Twin Towers is embedded in the DNA of every cell of America's brains. But the fact still remains, Mr. Speaker, that we must not only worry about outside forces and, by the way, some homegrown ones, but we must also worry about the implosion of our country from the inside.

So the Congressional Black Caucus comes tonight simply saying that we stand for our troops, but we also stand for America, and we stand for balance. Because we realize that on 9/11, that horrible day when some demented people flew planes into the Twin Towers and brutally and maliciously killed so many of our fellow Americans, we understand that we have to make sure that that never happens again. But, at the same time, we also have to make sure that all the people that I just talked about, that we take care of them, too.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), a young man who has come from Florida and has already made a name for himself and who is working very, very hard to uplift his district and to uplift the American people.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus for bringing voice to the real level of patriotism that our country is at at this particular time.

I think it is so very, very important, Mr. Speaker, that we make sure that all Americans understand the level of integrity when we look at our military. When we look at our military, not only the sacrifice they are undertaking right now in the theaters of war in other parts of the world but it is also the sacrifice that their families are paying. Their families are truly paying the ultimate price of giving a loved one the opportunity to serve their country and many of those individuals like two young men from Florida.

I just called home, Mr. Speaker, and spoke to my wife; and she shared with me that just today in the Miami Herald they had a story of a letter of one of our outstanding young patriots who gave his life on behalf of this country willingly. He was happy and thought it was a great opportunity for him, right out of college, to fight on behalf of his country.

I know in this Congress that many of us do not agree with the rules of engagement that we used, especially in Iraq, and we had a resolution here on this very floor and many Members were draped up in the flag, rightfully so, paying praise to all of our troops that are getting sand in their teeth right now. We all understand here in the

Congress that the sacrifice, the sacrifice of family, of friendship, the sacrifice of just being an American, few of us have the opportunity to put our lives on the line on behalf of this country, but we have thousands of Americans that are doing that. Some 43 percent of the individuals that are in the theater right now are what we may call our volunteer army, reservists, individuals that have given up their weekends from their families for years and now they have been called upon.

I think it is important since we have set the stage of saying truly that we are here to pay not only respect to those who are fighting the war now but it is important that this Congress and members of the Congressional Black Caucus feel very strongly about this, that we continue to respect those that put it on the line in the past. We know that we have a number of these individuals that are serving our country right now in a time of war that are going to return back to the United States and they are going to need adequate health care, veterans' benefits. They will be our new veterans. Some of them will be as young as 19 and 20 and 21. Some will be 55 and over 65.

It was very disheartening when the budget, this Federal budget that passed by a very narrow, narrow margin, that we would have a shortfall of some \$1.9 billion in the 2003 fiscal year. It is good for us to pay respect and cry and pray on behalf of those that will return and those that will not return. But I think words are inadequate to even describe the kind of, how would I put this, I am trying to be a distinguished gentleman here, but the kind of understatement, for us to undercut our veterans.

Veterans of wars past right now, in my district, the Miami VA hospital, those that have laid it down in different theaters of war, some of them in two different theaters of war, have to wait a year and a half to see an eye doctor. What do you think after this \$1.9 billion shortfall that is going to be given to the richest Americans here, how is it going to affect that veteran if we allow this huge tax cut that the President is trying to pass?

I commend the Senate for taking half of the responsibility and saying that in a time of war, just like in the past, we have never given a tax cut. Yes, times are hard, and it is important that we sacrifice.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The gentleman will refrain from casting reflections on the Senate.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The Senate did an outstanding job in their light. But I think it is important that we pay very, very close attention to what our priorities are right now. Our priorities right now should be making sure that our men and women return back to the States safely, making sure that the Iraqi people receive the kind of freedom that they yearn, and also making sure that we treat our veterans, even

when they return back, back here to the United States, treat them with dignity, the dignity that I know this Congress wants to treat them with. I urge my colleagues here in the Congress, and I am sure the Congressional Black Caucus would like to urge them, let us treat our veterans and let us give the dollars toward the veterans that we should give toward their health care and making sure that they do not have waiting lists as we have right now existing here in the United States.

I came tonight, in closing, to be able to pay respect to those that not only are in the theater of war right now but on behalf of those patriots of the past. I think it is very, very important that we remember, Mr. Speaker, those individuals in such a time as this. On behalf of this Member of Congress from the 17th Congressional District of Florida, I think it is very, very important, all Americans, that we pray for the safe return and we respect and pray for those that have provided us with the very freedom that we enjoy this evening.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I listened to the gentleman from Florida very carefully as he talked about a person from Florida who gave his life. Before he came on the floor tonight, I had talked about a young man, not from my district but he lives very close to me, within actually about 10 minutes, Sergeant Kendall Waters-Bey, who was one of the young men who was killed in the helicopter accident, I guess almost in the first 24 hours of this war.

I am so glad that you said all the things you said. You are absolutely right. Our soldiers and their families, they do give a lot. Every time I see the news footage of our soldiers going off to sea and see the small children tugging on daddy's leg or mother is crying as she gets on the bus and has to leave her loved ones behind and not even knowing whether they are going to return, and if they do return, whether they will be disabled. Every time I see that, it just reminds me that we have a lot of truly, truly great Americans.

I just want to thank the gentleman for what he said, because I think so often as we watch what is going on on television in Iraq, that sometimes we have a tendency to forget about those families, but the gentleman is absolutely right. Those families still have to struggle here at home. They still have to do without a parent here at home. There have been some situations, I am sure the gentleman is well aware, where it may have been a single head of household who then had to have loved ones take care of the children.

To all of them, to the families and certainly to our troops and to all of those, as the gentleman said, who were there, we have so many veterans who have given so much. We see them all the time in our districts, at our town hall meetings, at our veterans meetings, and I always try to remind them that we shall never forget them be-

cause they stood up for this country, they stood up for us when we could not even stand up for ourselves so many times. I really appreciate what the gentleman said.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will tell the chairman, just watching some of the news accounts of many of these destroyers, our destroyers leaving to go to the Persian Gulf, as an individual that knows the sacrifice as it relates to many of my friends who I attended college with that were involved in ROTC, that are officers in our military right now, that have been shipped off, that e-mail me every now and then about their experiences overseas, and they are very proud to be there. I think it is very important that as we start to look at those families, someone is going to have to pick up the kid after school. Someone is going to have to read a story. Someone has to go and minister to a wife or husband that is having not only to take the burden on of the family but to also take the burden on of having their loved one overseas serving our country.

When we look at this, those families really understand that this is not a made-for-TV movie, that this is real, that the possibility exists that they may never see their loved ones again. We all pray for that not to happen. We had a good day yesterday in Iraq with no U.S. casualties.

But my heart goes out also to those other individuals in our world, the Iraqi children, the Iraqi people, that we are trying to provide freedom for. I am glad that this country has gone through great lengths in trying to preserve life. And so I commend those family members, sons and daughters, that are paying a mental and physical, emotional tax because a loved one from their family and not even to mention the single parents, that the aunt or grandmother or grandfather has to take care of the children now.

□ 2200

So tonight it was more than an honor for me to be a member of the Committee on Armed Services to come tonight to pay tribute to those families and to those troops and to those veterans that have provided the kind of freedom that we celebrate here today. I look forward to working with Members of the Congress and also members of the Black Caucus as we continue to be the conscience of the U.S. Congress and hopefully the world in the future as we start dealing with this new level of terrorism that we are having to work and fight against every day.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, it was the theologian Swindoll who said it is what you do when you are unnoticed, unknown, unappreciated, and unapplauded that means so much. And as I listened to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), I could not help but think about all of those people that he talked about, people getting sand in their

teeth, like he said, and sand blowing in their eyes and going through very difficult circumstances right now, and our prayers are with them.

There is another thing that the gentleman talked about, Mr. Speaker, and that is balance. And one of the things that we are always concerned about in our Nation is housing. Housing is extremely important for all of us, and when we look at again that balance that we are talking about, supporting our troops, but we also want that balance when it comes to making sure that Americans and those soldiers, when they do come back, that they have housing. And one of the sad things that has happened is that when we look at the President's budget, we have zeroed out under HUD the Hope VI program, zeroed it out; and what that means to Baltimore, we have been able in the city of Baltimore to tear down at least five high-rise public housing projects and replace them with beautiful low-rise neighborhoods, and as I said to a friend of mine the other day, when I ride through there, Mr. Speaker, I feel like I am on "Andy of Mayberry." They are so beautiful, right smack dab in the middle of the seventh congressional district.

So when we have a situation where we have a budget that zeroes out programs that allow that to happen, it certainly concerns the Congressional Black Caucus, and I think it should concern all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and privilege to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus very much for yielding, and I appreciate very much the opportunity to share with my colleagues what I think is a very crucial debate. I appreciate very much the leadership of the gentleman from Florida who serves us very ably not only on the Committee on Armed Services but on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, and he has brought a great insight because I know the State of Florida, similar to the State of Texas, has a large number of individuals who in years past either are drafted but volunteered. That does not leave out my good friend from Baltimore, Maryland, one of the founding colonies, and certainly no stranger to fighting the wars of this Nation.

I think it is important for some of us to clarify where we have been on this question of war and why it is important to have this discussion with our colleagues because for some reason there has been an effort or an impression that the Congress has become marginalized on these very crucial issues. I can assure the Members that members of the Democratic Caucus who reached out to our friends on the other side of the aisle, members of the Congressional Black Caucus, have been persistent in our viewpoints that we should raise our voices even in the

specter of war as the war winds are raging because that is democracy.

And I heard one of the generals comment just 24 hours ago, and they said that the military does not oppose dissent. The military in fact respects dissent. They just want to have it acknowledged, that dissent should be thrust toward the policymakers because our brave men and women are following orders and risking their lives on behalf of all of us. So I would simply say let the word go out, let a clarion call reach the ears of all who might hear that there is not one single divide amongst us on the love, affection, and respect for United States troops who have offered their lives on our behalf so that our values in this Nation might be promoted. There is not one single difference in our support for those families in terms of our commitment, but there has to be a question on our practices.

I think democracy is all about practice as opposed to words. So I think it is important that personally I acknowledge that I have spoken quite continuously on my view that war should be the last option, that we should have chosen or could have chosen other options other than war. But I come to the floor tonight to join the gentleman in my concern that we not be silent on issues dealing with the budget, issues that will have a devastating impact on the young men and women who are now facing harm's way, who we have lifted up in our prayers and where we have stood steadfast to interject our respect and our resolve that they come home safely.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today on the floor as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 118, the POW resolution that demanded that the Iraqi Government comply with the Geneva Conventions and as well demand that the Red Cross be able to see these individuals and as well to hold the Iraqi Government responsible for any inhumane treatment of our POWs. I stand resolved that the Iraqi Government hear us, that we will not tolerate this inhumane treatment that we have perceived is occurring.

As the chairman well knows, there are a number of POWs, a number of them from Texas, a number of them from around the country. One in particular happens to be a woman, happens to be a single parent. I know the families of these individuals, the families of the missing in action, the family of the lost Marine corporal in my congressional district; and when I say lost, who lost his life in valor, in bravery. We owe them something.

We owe them our undivided commitment, but we also owe them the respect to come to the floor and be able to question our colleagues as to why they would cast a budget that would in fact cut 28 percent from veterans services. Having a veterans hospital that I hope to name after Dr. Michael DeBakey, one of the warriors who fought in World War II, and when I say fought, was an outstanding physician in World

War II. In my own congressional district, as we speak today, there are veterans who are being de-enrolled or not enrolled. My fear is that some of these very brave young soldiers, sailors, and others of all the branches will come home and look to the services that are necessary not only for them but for their family members, some of them will be veterans as they leave this action, and out of being veterans, there may be a matter of any number of ailments that they may encounter. We are not far away from the Gulf War disease where there are thousands of veterans still suffering from an undiagnosed, to some, and diagnosed, to some, disease. How many of us remember Agent Orange, and yet we took so long to be able to remedy those veterans who had suffered in the Vietnam War and now the Persian Gulf.

Let me say why I am concerned about a budget that barely passed and it barely passed, Mr. Speaker, because it should not have passed. The budget fails to have a meaningful prescription drug plan. My seniors have been waiting and waiting, and this budget only provides \$400 billion. The tax cuts, even what my good friends in the other body did, and I applaud an outstanding, very brave Senator, but I would say that we do not need any tax cuts, \$726 billion with a raging war, with the needs of those who are left behind in education and Medicare and Medicaid. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that when we are in times of war, I remember it well in the history books, of course, that Presidents before us indicated that we must rise to a mutual sacrifice. I think the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), my good friend and colleague, coined that phrase, "mutual sacrifice." Mutual sacrifice does not pretend to have \$726 billion in tax cuts when we have a \$283 billion deficit expected to implode into \$1 trillion. The tax cut is expected to go to \$1.3 trillion, and we are expected that the war really is costing \$100 billion right off the bat and may even cost us \$1 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, where are we getting these funds? That was not even included in the budget. We know for sure that the Congress is being accused of being marginalized, but we are disrespecting the concept of the three branches of government. Let me say that what was reported in The New York Times, the administration's request, this recent request, places most of the war funds in a discretionary fund that would allow money to be moved around at will by the Department of Defense. I have made a commitment, as I review the emergency supplemental, that I am not going to leave the troops that I love and respect without the resources that they need; but what we are doing with this discretionary fund is turning 200 years of constitutional and congressional oversight mandated by the Constitution, and remember now I have argued vigorously that only the Congress as pursuant to the Constitution can declare war under article I, section 8.

The Constitution also dictates that the Congress raises up armies and the Congress, the House in particular, has a hold on the purse strings. How can that be done with all of this money being put into discretionary funds, marginalizing a third branch of government duly qualified under the Constitution to be able to assess how these funds are used so that we know that if our troops encounter nuclear activity, radioactive activity that we should be assured that they have the highest quality equipment shipped in immediately, preceding that they have enough battalions while we are in this midst even though I am one who is advocating peace and would welcome a cease-fire right now and will be pressing forward with my position on peace but recognizing where our troops are.

Does this make any sense that we put all these moneys in discretionary funds in violation of our duty? It includes \$150 million for the DOD to fund indigenous forces, Mr. Speaker, throughout the globe without any input from Congress; and while the administration may argue that it will require such latitude, the fact is that during World War II, Mr. Speaker, with D-Day about us, with Pearl Harbor behind us, with troops raging all over the European theater, Congress passed 11 supplemental requests in just 2 years, thus preserving the oversight vote. How can we do this in this time when our troops need us to eliminate the authority and responsibility of Congress?

Mr. Speaker, I think this budget also fails because it calls for at least \$265 billion over 10 years in cuts to mandatory public benefits. Right now in my State with a \$12 to \$15 billion deficit, we are looking for ways to cut people off Medicaid, the most vulnerable people. Mr. Speaker, right as I speak, we have closed doors with the mental health services, hundreds of employees laid off, but more importantly 1,500 clients or patients not being able to be served or married into another clinic that now serves 3,000 clients.

□ 2215

Nine thousand people calling in for help on the help line, and 2,000 people on the waiting list in my community trying to get mental health services.

This budget fails to address the mutual sacrifice that is needed, Mr. Speaker. While I believe that this Congress and Members should still be engaging in ways of resolving the conflict, working with the administration, talking prospectively about how we keep the peace; we must support our troops, and that includes ensuring that they have the resources.

To do that, Mr. Speaker, it includes their families. We do not know the magnitude of need. We do not know how many will come back not able to work. We already know that we have lost young lives. We already know they are resolved to fight on our behalf.

But as we do that, Mr. Speaker, we have another challenge; and that chal-

lenge, of course, is to ensure the safety of the home front. I believe it is extremely important that the supplemental is not addressing the amount of money that we would need for grants.

Already my first responders are looking for the money that they were promised in 9/11. New Yorkers are looking for the money promised after 9/11. And the way to get money to the local cities and governments is to ensure that we have dollars for grants to our local responders, to our HAZMAT teams, those hazardous material teams.

Likewise, let me say that we have a lot of money missing out of the Coast Guard, the Customs Service, the border community, meaning the border security that is needed. We were meeting today with members of the Canadian Government, and they are concerned that we are treating our neighbors differently. We can do better than this. We can have a joint partnership on security and must not be discriminatory with our northern neighbors and our southern neighbors.

We can be secure without violating civil liberties or requiring Canadian citizens, one white, one Muslim, the Muslim fingerprinted, the white not fingerprinted. The Canadians are raising their voices. They are saying we are all Canadians. The same thing with civil liberties in this town.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the gentlewoman, I cannot help but think about the fact that we do have to make sure that during this time of war and this time of terrorism, since 9/11, that we make sure that we preserve the rights that are granted to our citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America.

I have often said that although we are facing very difficult circumstances, we do not want to be in a situation where, when all the dust settles and the war is over, that we have given up so many rights that we, the country, do not even look like a pre-9/11 country.

So I agree with the things the gentlewoman has been talking about and bringing to bear. The gentlewoman has been a staunch supporter of the Constitution and making sure that we stick to it and that we do not allow it to be set aside in these difficult circumstances to collect dust, and then later on, for generations yet unborn, they look back and say, what did you all do under your watch.

I just want to applaud the gentlewoman for that.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman for his leadership, because most people would be frightened to raise such a matter during this time of raging war. When I say these matters, issues that the Nation and the Congress should be addressing, civil liberties, civil rights, the question as to whether or not homeland security has been fully funded.

The gentleman was brave enough to bring us to the floor to announce our

dedication to the troops, to announce our patriotism, to announce the fact that we have lost constituents, neighbors, that there are family members we know that are mourning now; and we do not want to make light of the very seriousness of this and the sensitivity of it. I hesitate. I have not called the name of the constituent that I lost. I will not do so until I share with the family. I have not called the name of the young woman who is a POW on the floor of the House, out of respect for those family members.

But it is important, because they are risking their lives, that we come and argue for them now, so that they do not come back broken and beaten, if that is the case. Some will come back valiant and standing, God bless them, but others will need us.

I want to applaud the gentleman for coming down to Houston this weekend to talk about an issue that has to do with this country's values, civil rights, affirmative action. Some would fault us for raising these issues now; but I believe, as a general said, that our military does not want us to be silenced. They are not afraid of dissent. And I have said this once before today, Hubert Humphrey said we need critical lovers of America, the kind of patriots who will work to improve America.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, the interesting thing is that that is what I hope, and I know that they are fighting for. They are fighting for that Constitution. They are fighting for the things that this country is all about. They are trying to make sure that those rights that we have are protected, not just for us, not just for our children, but for generations yet unborn.

I think it is quite appropriate that we stand here and make sure that they are not fighting in vain.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. The gentleman is absolutely right. I have been among veterans and the military personnel. Many of us had the honor, and I call it the honor, of visiting our troops on their respective bases in Germany, in Italy, Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan; and I have saluted, as I have been instructed, and I have indicated to them that we have the greatest respect for what they do.

I think there should be other words we could capture out of the dictionary to express the affection we have for these young men and women. These are young people who have volunteered.

I happen to be supporting the reinstatement of the draft, and I have a young man in my family, my son, 17 years old. That is a challenge for me to even say it. Probably I would want to step away from those words. But I do think we should let these volunteers know that we know what a sacrifice they are making, and that we believe in mutual sacrifice.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I say to the chairman, I am hoping that we can fight together against this tax cut and that we can work to bring dollars home

to the homeland security frontline individuals. We need to be able to have a system where we can all communicate together. Just imagine in the course of our work of securing the home front that we have difficulties because we have systems that are different. Work needs to be done in this area, and we cannot do it with a budget that clearly does not give credence to the two important responsibilities we have now: the home front juxtaposed or right next door to the raging winds of war, and then the domestic agenda of people who are now suffering with, I understand, some 200,000 service jobs being cut, unemployment still at a peak, and people in need.

This is an important discussion. I am hoping that this budget process that shows such enormous cuts, and allow me to say two others, the veterans benefits, billions have been cut from pensions and safety net programs, such as SSI, where \$62 billion over 10 years has been cut from the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is one that we have been very supportive of. Then the environment has been cut, and health care.

So I would simply say, Mr. Speaker, that our voices need to be heard, because we need to get to work and uphold the constitutional duty of this Congress to have oversight over war spending and the constitutional duty as well to be engaged in the budgeting process as we lift up monies for armies; but we need to deal with this budget to help the people we represent all over America.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I just wanted to say this to the gentlewoman: I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus stands behind our troops, but we also stand for a very strong America. We stand for our Constitution, and we want it to be well. We also stand for that flag that is up there behind you. We stand for the little children that tomorrow morning will put their little hands up to their little hearts and say, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God."

That is why we have come here today, to just remind America, and beg America, to pray for our troops, to lift their families up in their prayers, but also to be vigilant, to be vigilant for the rights and the privileges that we have as Americans.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just to close, I would simply say we were praying in our churches this past week. I was at the Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Willie Davis; and we prayed, and we prayed across Houston and the Nation. I believe we have the freedom to pray. No one is forced to pray. We wanted to pray, our different faiths. And I agree with the gentleman, we pledge ourselves to a united Nation, and we pledge our resolve for our troops to come home. But we also pledge, as the youngsters at Forest

Brook High School said, will there be an opportunity for me to be educated? That is why we are here on the floor today, to insist that we stand united for the troops, but also united for the people of America, for the opportunities for them in the future.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me to be here this evening.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of our troops.

Today, American men and women are putting their lives on the line in the service of their country. I deeply mourn the deaths of our troops and hope and pray for the safe return of all of their comrades in arms. I mourn as well the deaths of innocent civilians, especially children, who have been or may be caught in the crossfire of this conflict.

Some Americans are now held as prisoners of war and they hold a special place in our thoughts and prayers.

As the daughter of a career army officer, my heart goes out especially to the families of our service men and women as they anxiously await word from their loved ones. That waiting is its own kind of torment.

Thousands of National Guards and Reserves are serving in the Middle East today, honoring their commitment and abandoning their civilian lives to answer this call.

We honor their service and sacrifice as well as that of all the personnel in our armed forces.

It is my deepest hope that our troops will soon be home with their friends and families. I wish them Godspeed and hope that peace is both rapid and lasting.

In closing, let me once again reiterate my support and admiration for our troops who are in harm's way.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 1:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

Mr. PUTNAM (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today until 4:00 p.m. on account of accompanying the President of the United States to visit the troops at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today until 4:30 p.m. on account of accompanying President Bush on a visit with U.S. troops at MacDill Air Force Base.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ISRAEL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ISRAEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PEARCE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HEFLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CRANE, for 5 minutes, March 27.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PEARCE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 27, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1433. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Folpet; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0075; FRL-7296-2] received February 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1434. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0036; FRL-7292-8] received February 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1435. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Customer Protection—Reserves and Custody of Securities Delegation of Authority to the Director of the Division of Market Regulations [Release No. 34-47480; File No. S7-20-02] (RIN: 3235-AI51) received March 12, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1436. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance (RIN: 1601-AA04) received February 28, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1437. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Enforcement of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Department of Homeland Security Programs or Activities (RIN: 1601-AA05) received February 28, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1438. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating