

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 2003*

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, some may think that my vote of "present" on this Resolution is a cowardly way out. In fact, a vote of "present" seems to me to be the only reasonable and logical vote to cast for the following reasons: I dare not vote "no" and express opposition to the two parts of the Resolution I so strongly support. Those two parts of the Resolution put Congress on record to express the "unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are carrying out their missions with excellence, patriotism, and bravery; and to the families of the United States military personnel serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, who are providing support and prayers for their loved ones currently engaged in military operations in Iraq." If the Resolution limited itself to these two parts, the Resolution would no doubt enjoy the unanimous support of the Congress.

On the other hand, I cannot in good conscience vote "yes" for the part of the Resolution that "expresses the unequivocal support and appreciation of the Nation to the President as Commander-in-Chief for his firm leadership and decisive action in the conduct of military operations in Iraq as part of the ongoing Global War on Terrorism." I have previously stated that I do not support the President's decision to pursue this war without having exhausted every possible alternative short of war. I have also expressed my firm belief that pursuing war to enforce a United Nations Resolution without having even majority support of the members of the United Nations and the UN Security Council will undoubtedly feed the perception of U.S. arrogance around the world and increase the prospect of terrorism domestically and internationally. While our military superiority will no doubt assure our military victory in the war against Iraq, we have no effective way to defend ourselves and innocent people against individual acts of terror. For me to express "unequivocal support" for the President to follow a course of action I believe is misguided would be both contrary to my own beliefs and contrary to the overwhelming sentiments I have heard and continue to hear from my constituents on a daily basis.

I applaud the efforts of those who sought to craft a Resolution supporting our troops and their families. I am in full support of their efforts and those parts of this Resolution. While I do not agree with them, I also respect the opinions of those who believe, in good faith, that the President's actions deserve "unequivocal support." I resoundingly reject the efforts of those who would use this resolution as a means of dividing Congress at this critically important time, especially those who would do so for political reasons or to make themselves appear more patriotic than those who intend to vote "no." I do not feel obliged to be put to such a choice on a Resolution that has no substantive or binding effect. Con-

sequently, having made this explanation, I am content to vote "present."

FLOYD SPENCE POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I loved Floyd Spence like a brother and he would be honored by the fact the House is honoring him in Lexington, South Carolina, by naming a post office to commemorate his life and service to the United States. He was a dear friend, a colleague, and a stalwart for our nation's armed services and the country.

In addition to his zeal and dedication on behalf of his constituents in South Carolina, I admired his outlook on life. Floyd was determined to squeeze every drop of life he could from his time on this earth . . . and he succeeded.

He was supremely dedicated to his duty to South Carolina, to our armed services, and to the United States of America. I know this because I traveled with Floyd to places on every part of the planet to inspect our military bases. Wherever we went, he and I were the ones who insisted we talk to the enlisted men, not just the generals. Floyd served in the military; he and I were among the few Members of this House who served in uniform.

Floyd was a great hero, and a great friend to thousands of people here on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon, throughout the services, and in his beloved South Carolina. I still miss that giant of a man with the funny laugh he was quick to share.

The camaraderie often noted as now missing in the House of Representatives has led our critics, and ourselves, to say that we lack either bi-partisanship or simple human trust. But because of my friendships with so many of my Republican colleagues, most notably my friend Floyd Spence, I know the trust we engender here is real and it works on behalf of the American people.

I thank the committee for honoring my friend, our colleague in this momentous way. Floyd would be so proud. I am proud for him and his family.

THANK YOU MR. ANTHONY MEYER

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Anthony Meyer for his volunteer service to the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community and congratulate him for his receipt of the NFL Community Quarterback Award.

Twice a week for the past five years Mr. Meyers has volunteered at the office of the Center of Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, COSAC, in Central New Jersey. His primary responsibility has been to create, then send autism information packets to the approximately 6,000 individuals who

contact the Center annually. Many who call are parents who have just received the devastating news that their child has autism. Through Tony's efforts, parents receive valuable information in a timely manner that short-cuts their delay in seeking necessary services for a son or daughter.

An addition, on a regular basis, Tony donates an evening for group work with autistic adults. He provides support for their job crises, he coaches them on searching for employment and he provides a social outlet for people who are sometimes branded as different. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for COSAC where he provides advice on all issues pertaining to autism, particularly on the needs of the adults with whom he has recently worked.

What makes this effort particularly remarkable is that Tony Meyer is himself autistic. He did fairly well in school, but never made friends. He held several jobs, but most were minimum wage positions that did not take advantage of his intellect or potential. It was not until Tony decided to turn his efforts toward volunteer work at COSAC that he discovered a place that appreciated his skill, needed his work and valued his perspective. As a result of their appreciation and respect, they nominated Anthony Myers for the prestigious NFL award.

I ask that all the Members join me in congratulating Tony as one of the ten recipients of the NY Giants Community Quarterback Award for making a significant volunteer contribution to a non-profit organization.

INTRODUCING THE AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONSISTENCY ACT

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation that will assist not only amateur radio operators, but society as a whole.

Organized amateur radio operators, or "hams," regularly provide emergency communication when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster. Hams have formal agreements with federal agencies such as FEMA and private relief organizations like the Red Cross. Hams are federally licensed volunteers and provide a variety of important communications services that protect lives while using their own equipment without compensation.

With the growth of developed communities, amateur radio operators have begun to fall under an array of inconsistent regulations, making it increasingly difficult for them to operate. Burdensome regulations are imposed on amateur radio operators making it difficult, and in some cases impossible, for them to erect antenna vital to their communications capabilities. We should remember that many of these antennas are stealth in nature. Hams can place antennas behind drainpipes or attach flexible antennas along the gutters of their own home. In some cases, when the homeowners associations have found these antennas, the Hams were forced to take it down.