

way. And right by his side is Donald Rumsfeld and, of course, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs who has been mentioned, General Myers. And of course we have that great American, very sharp, very smart, very effective in strategy and tactics, General Tommy Franks, leading this operation in the theater. With that team and with the team of all of the folks that wear the uniform of the United States, we are going to win this contest.

Once again, I want to thank this gentlewoman for bringing out not only the military operational effectiveness of this present campaign in Iraq, but also the campaign of goodwill that people in uniform are bringing to the people of that country, the good old GIs who by their values and by their demonstrations of kindness are winning a lot of folks over even as we speak.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. I thank the chairman. And maybe the way for me to at least close my participation in this 1-hour Special Order that we are having tonight is with another e-mail. I think it shows the goodness of the American military. It is one thing to be great. We have a great American military who can do things that no other military in the world can do, the overwhelming power. But we also have a very good American military. And sometimes I think it is more important to be good than to be great.

This is an e-mail that was forwarded to me by a master gunnery sergeant. And master gunnery sergeants are not necessarily known for their soft-heartedness, although I think that is actually a myth. I think some of them are the softest-hearted guys. They are kind of like chocolate-covered marshmallows, tough on the outside but marshmallows on the inside.

It says, few things move me to get misty but there are a few, and this one did. He saw this and described it this morning on CNN. And he wrote it down in an e-mail, what he saw. He said, Martin Savage of CNN, embedded with the 1st Marine battalion, was talking with four young marines near his foxhole this morning live on CNN. He had been telling the story of how well the Marines had been looking out for and taking care of him since the war started. And he went on to tell about the many hardships that the Marines had endured. And he told them that he cleared it with their commanders to call home, for each one of the four to call home. And he turned to the first marine next to him, a 19-year-old kid and said, Who would you like to call? And he said, Well, sir, if you do not mind, I would like to allow my platoon sergeant to use my call. I would like to give my call to him to let him use it to call his pregnant wife back home who he had not been able to talk to for 3 months.

Savage was stunned. And the young man ran off to get his sergeant. And then he turned to the other three who were still there and he asked which one would like to call home first. And the

marine closest to him responded, Sir, if it is all the same to you, we would like to call the parents of a buddy of ours, Lance Corporal Brian Buesing of Cedar Key, Florida. He was killed on the 23rd of March near Nasiriyah. We want to see how his parents are doing.

At that, Martin Savage was close to tears and unable to speak, and all he could say before signing off was, Where do they get young men like this?

I will tell you where we get them. We get them from Palestine, West Virginia and Saint Charles, Indiana; we get them from Sherwood, Oregon; Queens, New York; from Midland, Texas; from San Diego, California. We get them from Lee, Florida; from Adams, Colorado, and Mountainair, New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for letting me join him here this evening.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. The USA will prevail.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1559, EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-57) on the resolution (H. Res. 172) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I come with a heavy heart and come with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and some members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

We come, Mr. Speaker, at a time when our country is at war; and we want to say from the outset that we support our troops with all our heart and that we spend our days and our prayer time praying that they will be kept safe.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, on next Friday, it will be my sad duty to be with a gentleman named Michael Waters as he parts with his son Kendall Waters-Bey, Sergeant Kendall Waters-Bey for the last time. His son was one of the first young men to die in the Iraq war. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I was supposed to be meeting with the father of Kendall Waters-Bey tonight; but he, I am sure, would have preferred that I join the Congressional Black Caucus this evening in not only

lifting up the name of his son but also lifting up the names of all of our people who are in our military who are giving their blood, sweat and tears and, in his case, his life.

So our sympathy goes out to all of those families who have lost loved ones. Our prayers go out to all of our military personnel and others who may have been harmed. Our prayers go out to all of those who find themselves in harm's way.

As I sat here, Mr. Speaker, listening to the previous hour, I could not help but think about the fact that the Republican budget cuts \$28.3 billion in veterans benefits over 10 years, compared to the amount needed to maintain purchasing power in at the 2003 level. It hurts my heart. Of this \$28.3 billion, \$14.2 billion are cuts in health care, and there is a 3.8 percent cut in overall benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I ask how we could possibly, with a clear conscience, deny the tens of thousands of veterans that we just heard about. They will be veterans, too. How can we deny them these benefits?

So it gives me great pleasure to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), who has been a fighter with regard to standing up for what is right and has consistently been a conscience for this Congress and for the United States of America.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me express my appreciation for our Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this hour tonight.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes when I hear the comments about the troops that we all strongly support, we forget that if they survive this war they will be veterans; and it is the veterans that we owe a great deal to for our freedom, but we really have left them behind in this budget.

So I rise to express my opposition to the Bush budget, because despite President Bush's pledge to leave no one behind, the budget has proposed leaving out over half of African Americans and Hispanic families; and this really is not compassion with conservatism, conserving resources for a very, very few.

Can my colleagues just imagine in less than 2 years, 2.5 million private jobs have been lost since January 20, 2001? The unemployment rate for African Americans has climbed 28 percent from 8.2 percent indicating really how African Americans will be disproportionately impacted by this budget. The employment rates for Hispanics is up by 33 percent.

I am from Dallas, Texas, where we have lost many jobs because we are very high tech in our employment. For every job lost in the high-tech field, there are three other jobs lost in low-income jobs because they are hired for cleaning homes, doing the yards, keeping the children; and we have a record number of foreclosures, not of poor people, but working people because they have lost their jobs.