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The Caribbean National Forest, known in Puerto Rico as El Yunque, contains many significant ecological and biological assets. The Puerto Rican parrot, one of the 10 most endangered birds in the world, calls El Yunque its home. In addition, the forest has 240 species of trees and 120 terrestrial animals, four of which are listed as endangered species. El Yunque sees nearly one million visitors per year and is an important provider of environmental education for tourists and Puerto Ricans alike.

Mr. Speaker, this same bill passed the House last year, and I appreciate the support of my colleagues. I would like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia, and the other Members who have joined me as cosponsors of this legislation.

Wilderness is a fitting designation for these 10,000 acres of El Yunque, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Resources and my other colleagues to move this bill forward.

SADDAM'S REGIME DESTROYED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, 3 weeks to the day after operation Iraqi Freedom began, the larger-than-life statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Paradise Square was torn down amid celebration by Iraqi citizens, an event very similar to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. Promoted by President Ronald Reagan, this symbolic gesture signals the downfall of this totalitarian regime. The Iraqi people are certainly entitled to celebrate. Thirty years of brutal oppression are finally coming to an end thanks to the leadership and determination of our President, George W. Bush.

I applaud the coalition forces for their courage and a dedication beyond compare. The loss of American lives, though tragic, has been reduced, and our mission efficient and effective, as I saw in February when I was encouraged by visiting the troops in Kuwait.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered losses and our soldiers who continue to fight for the freedom of Iraq and an end to terrorism, which seeks to spread weapons of mass destruction against American citizens. It is our hope that the Iraqi people will be able to use the unique riches of their country to build a new life for themselves based upon the principles of freedom and liberty.

May God bless our troops, and may God bless the newly freed people of Iraq.

UNITED NATIONS MUST CONDEMN MISTREATMENT OF U.S. POWS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I was a guest on a Houston radio show earlier this week; and during the course of the interview, the host of the program, Chris Baker, pointed out that Congress, along with the United Nations, has been rather silent on the issue of the treatment of American POWs in Iraq.

While that is not all together correct, I know most of our attention here has been focused on supporting the troops and hoping for a successful and speedy conclusion to the conflict.

Now that it appears the end is near, and there is cause for great optimism and excitement, we cannot lose site of the atrocities we have seen during the past 3 weeks. I know all my colleagues agree that the treatment of captured allied forces has been outrageous, and we must continue to speak up and insist that those responsible be brought to justice following the war.

We must send a clear message that America and the world will not tolerate the mistreatment of our prisoners of war. We expect the same treatment for our sons and daughters that we afford enemy soldiers when they are captured. Please join me in calling for the United Nations to take immediate action to condemn these heinous acts of miss treatments against our POWs.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH GRIFFIN

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute executive councilor Ruth Griffin, who is a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and has been a long-time member of the executive council in New Hampshire as well as a dedicated public servant.

Ruth is receiving a lifetime achievement award tonight from the City Awards of the United States. Her long-time recognition in New Hampshire is unqualified by her success. She has served as a State senator, a State representative on local boards and commissions. She is a friend of many and has always been a dedicated servant of those less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of working with her for a number of years as a member of the New Hampshire legislature. I call her a friend and a mentor.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DIEGO F. RINCON

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we watch television today, we see the wondrous and joyous faces of Iraqi citizens who have been liberated. But we must pause now and never forget the precious price that was paid through our brave and courageous soldiers who gave their lives so that Iraq could be free.

Today, I rise to give some remarks about one of those noble heroes who gave his life, Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon, who was from the 13th Congressional District in Georgia and whose funeral will be held today, in just a few hours from now at 2 p.m., at the Seventh Day Adventist Church located in my district in Conyers, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second funeral in my district in the last 4 days, and not only from my district but from the same town in my district, Conyers, Georgia. Specialist Jamal Addison, on Monday, we funeralized; and I was privileged to be there. And today, again, Diego Rincon. Unfortunately, I am not able to be there, but it is very important that we pause for a moment and give our respect to this fallen, but great, hero.

Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon was the second Metro Atlanta soldier killed in the war in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, he was 19 years old. Private Rincon served as a member of the 3rd Infantry Division of the 3rd Army Mechanized. Private Rincon was killed in a suicide bombing attack at a U.S. Army checkpoint in Iraq on March 29, with three other soldiers from Georgia's Fort Stewart.

Private Rincon was born near Bogota, Colombia, and moved with his family to the United States when he was 5 years old. Private Rincon graduated from Salem High School in Rockdale County, Georgia, in 2001. He was a gifted actor, musician and cheerleader. A very creative and talented person.

Private Rincon has been awarded posthumously United States citizenship because, Mr. Speaker, this 19-year-old gave his life for this country, and yet he was not a citizen of this country. That is why we are here at this time putting legislation pending that will grant automatic citizenship for all foreign soldiers. What a great story.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with this: this great soldier fought the good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith. There is surely put up for private Diego Rincon an extraordinary crown of righteousness. God bless this great soldier, Private Rincon of the United States Army, a United States citizen, and God bless America.

ARMED FORCES CITIZENSHIP ACT

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)