

begin to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure with our tax dollars as opposed to a nation far across the sea. I urge my colleagues to support the American Parity Act.

FRANKIE MAYO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to a true American hero, Frankie Mayo. Frankie's son, Corporal Christopher Tomlinson, is serving in Iraq as part of the 300th Military Police Company, which is based in my district, Fort Riley, Kansas.

Frankie, like all military mothers, is proud of her son's service. What makes Frankie different is what she is doing to care for her son and the soldiers serving alongside him. In an e-mail to his mom, Corporal Tomlinson jokingly asked for an air conditioner to combat the scorching desert heat. Much to his surprise, a package arrived containing air conditioners, along with other units for others serving with him and his company. This news resulted in hundreds of requests for air conditioners. With the help of individuals and corporate donations, Frankie and her family have shipped hundreds of units to soldiers in Iraq.

I rise today to thank Frankie, but also point others to her example. Frankie's dedication is a perfect example of how we can make a difference in the lives of those around us.

2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago cowardly terrorists attacked our Nation, killing innocent Americans who were simply going about their daily lives, and the aim of those terrorists was to change America. Well, the terrorists did change America, but not how they had hoped, because they renewed our patriotic pride for our Nation and what it stands for. They steeled our resolve and commitment to defeat the enemies of freedom.

The true spirit of America is not to run away from a fight or wring our hands. Our true spirit was shown by the brave firefighters and police officers who charged into those burning towers to save fellow citizens. Our true spirit has been reflected by our men and women in uniform who have topped the Taliban and Saddam Hussein bringing freedom to Afghanistan and Iraq.

My message to the terrorists is this: You have failed. America's spirit has been strengthened, our purpose re-

newed, our dedication to freedom is stronger than ever. God bless America.

SUCCESS IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

(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, tomorrow is the 2-year anniversary of the most heinous act of war this Nation has ever experienced. The September 11 attacks were made against unarmed Americans by a sadistic terrorist network beginning the war on terrorism.

Today we are winning that war. Realizing the seriousness of the threat of our freedoms and liberties, our Commander in Chief, President Bush, has displayed true courage and leadership in hunting down terrorists all over the world and bringing them to justice. First by bringing down the barbaric Taliban in Afghanistan, and then by ending the evil regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the men and women of our Armed Forces have eliminated the terrorist breeding grounds while bringing freedom to millions. Today, over 90 countries are part of the coalition against terrorism. Although we cannot predict the end of the war, we are thankful in 2 years since the 9/11 attacks there have not been other major attacks at home. While our Nation's resolve will be tested, I have faith with the President and his cabinet, we will continue winning the war on terrorism. May God bless our troops.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, before September 11, 2 years ago, this Nation was unaware that terrorists were planning the most deadly attack in our history. Nearly 3,000 men, women and children were killed in an act of war, the most horrific act of violence many of us have ever seen.

Tomorrow we will honor their memory. We should never forget why they died, because the agents of evil could not stand the freedom that our country represents. These enemies of freedom believed that we lacked the will to oppose them. They attacked our country and declared war on our way of life. Their intent is not our defeat, their intent is our destruction. I am proud of the way this country responded. I am proud of our troops who fought bravely to bring freedom to so many, and I am proud of our Commander in Chief who has led us in the war against terror with a steady hand. On this second anniversary, let us renew our resolve to rid the world of terrorism.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

RESTORING OPERATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM DURING FISCAL YEAR 2003 TO SCOPE IN EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2595) to restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2595

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OPERATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) RESTORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 TO FISCAL YEAR 2002 LEVEL.—In carrying out the pilot program provided by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans, the Secretary shall during fiscal year 2003 carry out that program without regard to the proviso under the heading "Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account" in title I of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2003 (division K of Public Law 108-7; 117 Stat. 476), and such proviso shall be treated as being of no force or effect.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Any action taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of this Act that is inconsistent with the proviso referred to in subsection (a) is hereby ratified with respect to such inconsistency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during the current fiscal year to the scope of that program as it was in effect on September 30, 2002.

The Native American Veteran Home Loan Program was established in 1992 as a 5-year pilot program, and Congress has extended it twice, most recently through 2005. This program is intended to assist eligible veterans living on trust or equivalent lands to secure