

Allan G. Komarek, Executive Director of Delano Regional Medical Center
 Dr. Bryant Cureton, President of Elmhurst College
 Kevin C. Martin, President & CEO of EMH Regional Healthcare System
 Lauren Rock, COO of Euclid Hospital
 Jim Tadvick, Senior Vice President of Farmers State Bank
 Gary Duncan, President and CEO of Freeman Health Systems
 George Irwin, President and CEO of Great Falls Bank a.k.a Greater Community Bank
 Carl J. Sorgatz, President of Hawthorne Credit Union
 Michael D. Means, FACHE, President and CEO of Health First
 Dr. Johnathan M. Astroth, President of Heartland Community College
 Norman F. Mitry, President and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System
 Thomas R. Martin, Senior Vice President of ITT Industries
 Father Edward Glynn, S.J., President of John Carroll University
 Steven Kazan, Managing Partner of Kazan McClain Edises Simon & Abrams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, 2003, I was recorded as a "nay" vote on roll-call No. 540. Please let the RECORD show that I intended to vote "yea" on this motion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONARD L. COLEMAN

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of a distinguished public servant, Dr. Leonard L. Coleman. To the people of Grimes County, in East Texas, Dr. Coleman is a living legend. Considered by many to be the father of modern medicine in Grimes County, Dr. Coleman's surgical skills have helped mend and save lives for more than 34 years.

Dr. Coleman's distinguished medical career, during which he touched the lives of thousands of East Texans, represents the very best American values of commitment, selflessness, and hard work.

Not only a fine doctor, Dr. Coleman has been a dedicated public servant as well. At a time when many physicians were moving to larger communities and increasing the sizes of their practices, Dr. Coleman remained committed to the community in which he was raised throughout his career. As part of this commitment, Dr. Coleman has been a community leader, serving in a variety of civic positions, including President of the School Board, City Commissioner, Elder in the Presbyterian Church, and school physician. He has been a lifelong public servant in the truest sense of the word.

Dr. Coleman was also a teacher. He mentored young men who thought they might be interested in a medical career. During

many summers, high school and college students assisted Dr. Coleman in surgery, while he made rounds and house calls, and worked with him in the Navasota Clinic laboratory. Dr. Coleman's charm, wit, and warmth enchanted everyone he met, including both his patients and his students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Dr. Coleman on a distinguished career and in thanking him for a lifetime of outstanding medical care and selfless service to the citizens of East Texas.

RECOGNIZING LUPUS INTERNATIONAL

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call this Congress' attention to a devastating disease that affects millions of Americans.

Systematic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease. It causes the immune system to become hyperactive and attack the body's own tissue, damaging vital organs which can lead to severe disability or death.

Research shows that 2.8 million people have been diagnosed with lupus in the United States—more than those affected by AIDS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Sickle Cell Anemia and Cystic Fibrosis combined. Although lupus can affect people of all ages, it strikes primarily women between the ages of 16–45, and is currently the fourth leading cause of disability in females.

To date, there is no known cure for lupus and there are still very few treatments specific to the disease. However, with increased public awareness, education, and innovative research, we are hopeful that this battle can and will be won. Lupus International, a nonprofit organization in Irvine, California, has been a champion in the field of lupus research since it was founded in 1983. Over 2 decades, Lupus International has worked to alleviate suffering for millions of patients through support services and early detection of undiagnosed cases through awareness promotion.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lupus International for its 20-year commitment to finding a cure for lupus, and its tremendous service to millions of Americans suffering from this devastating disease.

WHY WE NEED MORE MILITARY END STRENGTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, throughout my years of service, I have spent considerable time learning and understanding the complexities of our Nation's national security programs, and in particular our military personnel policies. It is with this experience and appreciation that I rise to share with my colleagues my deep concerns regarding the Nation's military end strength.

In February 1991, this Nation joined with our allies and went to war in the Persian Gulf. American service members were sent to the Middle East to help restore liberty and freedom to the citizens of Kuwait. The defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1991, provided the Army an end-strength of 702,170, the Navy 570,500, the Marine Corps 193,735, and the Air Force 510,000. When we went to war in 1991, the Army had 12 divisions, the Navy had 529 ships and the Air Force had 165 air wings.

The fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War, and the successful prosecution of the first Persian Gulf War all led to the demand and belief that our country should and needed to reduce its military end-strength. The pressure for a "peace dividend" became the popular call.

By 1996, we had reduced Army end strength to 495,000, a reduction of over 207,000. The Navy was cut to 428,340, the Marine Corps downsized to 174,000, and the Air Force lost 129,000 for an end-strength of 388,200. The "peace dividend" was fast becoming a reality—in 5 years the military end-strength had been reduced by more than a half million.

However, the world has remained far from peaceful. The end of the Cold War has brought its own challenges—nearly 100,000 American forces have been called to serve in Bosnia and Kosovo, and thousands of National Guardsmen and Reserves are still being called to serve today. The United States has also sent our men and women in uniform to other operations around the world, including humanitarian assistance missions to Somalia and Haiti, drug interdiction operations in South America, and training government troops opposed to insurgents in the Philippines. Unfortunately, as the number of military operations has increased, there has also continued to be a slow and steady decrease in the size of our military.

But starting in 1995, the harsh reality of the worldwide operational burden on our forces led to calls for more forces. In 1995, Army Lieutenant General Ted Stroup, then Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, testified that the Army's active end strength should be 520,000, not the 495,000 that was requested in the 1996 budget request. Army Chief of Staff, General Eric Shinseki, reiterated that position during a hearing before the Armed Services Committee in July 2001. He told us that the Army needs a force of 520,000 people.

However, instead of proposing to increase military end-strength, the Bush administration has sought to gain greater efficiencies in the current force. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed the services to find ways to convert military positions that were not on the tip of the spear to civilian positions or private contractor jobs. The services also have been conducting reviews of their own to find ways to convert non-combat units to units with missions more relevant to actually fighting wars in order to relieve the burden on the front line forces now deployed around the world.

While I agree that we need to support more efficient use of the force, the administration's solution to our operational dilemma is wrong, shortsighted and self-defeating. Failing to increase our end strength will only increase the pressure on our current force. There is simply no substitute for having enough people to do

the job—"boots on the ground" in military par-lance and all the organizational efficiency in the world is no substitute.

It is said that history often repeats itself. Our Nation has historically reduced the number of men and women in uniform following major conflicts, such as World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Korea, and the Cold War. As a result of this historical phenomenon, we had a relatively small force by historical standards when we were violently attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. In the days since then, hundreds of thousands of National Guard and Reservists have been called to active duty to provide security at our Nation's airports, bridges, nuclear power plants, and other important facilities. Thousands of men and women in uniform were sent to Afghanistan to remove terrorists and their supporters in Operation Enduring Freedom. And, in March of this year, Armed Forces personnel were sent to invade Iraq and remove a cruel and ruthless dictator from power, and are likely to be in Iraq for years to come. The message from these events is clear—because there are not enough troops to meet our worldwide military obligations, troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and even those guarding against terrorism inside the United States, face longer call ups, deployments and hardships than would be required if we had a larger force. We simply need more people in our military to do the job right!

On September 23, 1999, then presidential candidate Bush stated, "Frustration is up, as families are separated and strained. Morale is down. Recruitment is more difficult. And many of our best people in the military are headed for civilian life." Just four short years later, I say the same words to the President. Frustration is up, and families have been separated and strained more today than at any other time in recent history. Morale is declining. Although military recruiting is now satisfactory, many military leaders have expressed their fear that retention and recruiting will decline as troops rotate back home.

The time has come for Congress to ensure that our Nation has the military manpower that it needs to successfully execute the missions we ask our brave service men and women to perform. We need to increase our military end-strength, particularly in the Army, now. We need to ensure that the all volunteer force will continue to work as well as it has for the last 30 years. And that will only happen if we have enough people in uniform.

RECOGNIZING BOB WENZEL

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary public servant, Bob Wenzel. Bob recently concluded 40 years of government service, 38 of which were spent with the Internal Revenue Service. I am privileged to say that I know Bob, and I commend him for dedicating his professional career to the betterment of our country.

A son of German immigrants, Bob's patriotism to our Nation began as a young child, when he would daily raise and lower the family's American flag. In his words, "[w]hat it in-

stilled in me was what this country represents."

Bob's interest in taxes was initially developed through his responsibility for calculating the family's taxes. This chore, coupled with a desire to contribute to his country, led him to join the IRS in 1963, turning down significantly more lucrative private sector positions. Bob has made serving his country a guiding principle for his entire working life, and has made his life choices based on what he could contribute. He rose up through the ranks, from a revenue officer in Chicago, to director of the IRS Service Center in Ogden, Utah, eventually rising to Deputy Commissioner and even Acting Commissioner. Bob's commitment to customer service won a presidential award for his quality improvements in Utah.

Bob's demonstrated leadership in customer service led former IRS Commissioner Charles Rossotti to name him as Deputy Commissioner during a time of great transition following passage of the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. Upon confirmation of Mark Everson as Commissioner earlier this year, Bob was again named Deputy Commissioner, where his efforts continue to result in a more favorable public perception of the IRS.

Bob leaves the IRS with the universal respect of his peers, including former Commissioners, front-line managers, and the union. His contributions will long be remembered at the IRS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, we pay tribute to Bob's service and wish him and his family good health and good fortune in his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL RICHARDS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Richards, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 9 years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop-Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, librarian, and Troop Guide. Michael is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow where he is a Brotherhood member.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael built picnic tables and hitching posts for two rest areas on the horse and hiking trail around Smithville Lake. His project will be enjoyed by many visitors and horseback riders.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Richards for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 15, if the voting machine was working properly, it would have recorded my vote in favor of H.R. 1828, the Syria Accountability Act. The Syria Accountability Act is extremely worthwhile legislation and I was proud to cosponsor it on May 22, 2003.

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the October 4, 2003, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News, which is entitled "More of a problem than a solution." Although this Member certainly is pleased that the United Nations (U.N.) Security Council unanimously approved a resolution which establishes a U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq, he continues to hold many of the concerns outlined in the editorial with regard to the failure of the U.N. to adapt to current realities.

Recently, this Member became a co-sponsor of the National Commission on the Modernization of the United Nations Act of 2003 (H.R. 3079). Through this measure, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), Congress would create an independent commission to explore how the U.S. could encourage structural changes in the U.N. Indeed, for the U.N. to remain relevant, the institution must be open and willing to reassess its structure, and the United States should lead the campaign for changes.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Oct. 4, 2003.]

MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN A SOLUTION

President Bush has asked the United Nations for help in rebuilding Iraq. But instead of responding with a loud "yes" and saying they will finally do the right thing for people in need, many members harrumphed and growled and once more demonstrated that the world organization may be on the road to irrelevance.

Kofi Annan, the U.N. secretary general, reminded anyone who would listen how the world body had "imperfectly" kept the planet peaceful for 58 years and that the current U.S. policy of pre-emptive action puts all of that at risk.

Someone should bring it to his attention that the imperfections have included round after round of genocide and incessant war in Africa.

A policy of pre-emption in the absence of clear, immediate danger is, in fact, a policy that could be pronounced unwise at one point in human history. That point was prior to the advent of weapons of mass destruction and multiple acts of catastrophic terrorism.

The Bush administration was awakened by the Sept. 11 terrorism to new realities that make some previous policies as outdated as would be the manufacturing of carriages instead of cars in Detroit. It is naive to suppose, as Mr. Annan does, that the U.S. example may lead other nations to protect themselves through aggressive action they would not otherwise have employed.