

Nevertheless, to achieve these wonderful levels, giants like Washington, to hear him tell it, meant that a 100% effort was required in the study of law. Greatness may be defined in many ways, our law school has graduated many great people, and many more will come and leave this law school that will and who have prepared themselves to be leaders and successful lawyers in communities they will serve. Mayor Washington was one of such students. He will be missed, but he has left with us, particularly our law school, seeds that will grow many others like him.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE MEMORIAL TO NONCITIZEN PATRIOTS ACT"

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from California, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, to honor our nation's veterans with introduction of the "Memorial to Noncitizen Patriots Act."

George Washington once said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Honoring our veterans is a process that begins on the battlefield through ensuring that our troops have the best training, equipment and other support. It continues as we welcome them home upon returning from war, when we fly the POW-MIA flag, when we care for them and their families and, ultimately, when we lay them to rest with appropriate remembrance and tribute.

Our country, while divided in its views on specific military actions, is united in its support for our service men and women who are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedom.

Many American military heroes, past and present, were born outside of the United States. From the thousands of noncitizens who fought for the Union Army during the Civil War, to the 36,177 noncitizen members of today's Armed Forces, these men and women have sacrificed for our country and the preservation of our precious freedom.

To date, we have lost 17 noncitizen service members in Iraq. Marine Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez from Lomita, California, in my Congressional District, was born in Guatemala and lost his life this spring. Like Corporal Gutierrez, all of these men and women have fought just as bravely as their American-born counterparts and have dedicated themselves to serving the country they are proud to call their own.

It is time that we appropriately recognize their bravery, valor, and patriotism.

I am pleased to pay tribute to Corporal Gutierrez and other foreign-born noncitizen patriots who died in combat with the introduction of the "Memorial to Noncitizen Patriots Act." This legislation would authorize construction of a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery honoring the service and sacrifice of noncitizens killed in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Arlington, the nation's premier military cemetery and shrine honoring the men and

women who served in the Armed Forces, is a particularly fitting place for this tribute. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF SEEDS FOR SOLDIERS ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Seeds for Soldiers Act, a bill intended to help our veterans jumpstart new small businesses.

This bill contains two main components. First, it creates a specialized loan program for veterans through the Small Business Administration. This program provides veterans with loans up to \$3 million, allows for debt refinancing, and permits borrowers to defer payments for up to one year without any accumulation of interest. To encourage lenders to provide capital, the program will carry reduced costs and a higher government loan guarantee.

Second, the bill establishes a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans specifically designed to assist in the transition out of service to become entrepreneurs. The program will be established within the existing Small Business Development Centers and will provide both technical and vocational assistance to assist veterans in transforming their skills learned in military training to areas where there is market demand. In addition, the program will provide the entrepreneurial assistance for veterans to set up their own business. It will provide these veterans the tools to move from the workplace to the marketplace. The program will authorize \$25 million with minimum grants of \$500,000.

As a member of both the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Small Business Committee, I strongly support assisting our Nation's veterans in establishing their own businesses. As a Nation currently welcoming home our newest veterans, we must act in every way possible to assist those heroes in their success upon return. This bill provides the seeds for veteran-owned businesses, so that they may grow into sustainable entities.

I thank Representative Sue Kelly for her support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting both our veterans, and the benefits that small businesses contribute to our economy, by cosponsoring this bill.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S REMARKS AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President George W. Bush for his extremely important and inspirational remarks at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy on November 6, 2003.

The National Endowment for Democracy was formed 20 years ago to answer President

Ronald Reagan's ground breaking speech before the British Parliament in London on June 8, 1982. President Reagan said:

The objective I propose is quite simple to state: to foster the infrastructure of democracy—the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities— which allows a people to choose their own way, to develop their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means.

Since its inception at the height of the Cold War, the National Endowment for Democracy has been a bipartisan, non-profit organization with the singular aim of promoting democracy and freedom throughout the world. The National Endowment for Democracy has lived up to its mission of "supporting freedom throughout the world."

Yesterday, President George W. Bush renewed America's commitment to the cause of freedom with these stirring words:

The advance of freedom is the calling of our time; it is the calling of our country. From the Fourteen Points to the Four Freedoms, to the Speech at Westminster, America has put our power at the service of principle. We believe that liberty is the design of nature; we believe that liberty is the direction of history. We believe that human fulfillment and excellence come in the responsible exercise of liberty. And we believe that freedom—the freedom we prize—is not for us alone, it is the right and the capacity of all mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Bush for his vision, steadfast commitment and leadership in the advancement of freedom throughout the world.

It is now my distinct privilege to ask unanimous consent that the full text of President Bush's remarks at the 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this time.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

The PRESIDENT. Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome, and thanks for inviting me to join you in this 20th anniversary of the National Endowment for Democracy. The staff and directors of this organization have seen a lot of history over the last two decades, you've been a part of that history. By speaking for and standing for freedom, you've lifted the hopes of people around the world, and you've brought great credit to America.

I appreciate Vin for the short introduction. I'm a man who likes short introductions. And he didn't let me down. But more importantly, I appreciate the invitation. I appreciate the members of Congress who are here, senators from both political parties, members of the House of Representatives from both political parties. I appreciate the ambassadors who are here. I appreciate the guests who have come. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit, the nonpartisan spirit of the National Endowment for Democracy. I'm glad that Republicans and Democrats and independents are working together to advance human liberty.

The roots of our democracy can be traced to England, and to its Parliament—and so can the roots of this organization. In June of 1982, President Ronald Reagan spoke at Westminster Palace and declared, the turning point had arrived in history. He argued that Soviet communism had failed, precisely because it did not respect its own people—their creativity, their genius and their rights.