

Slaughter	Taylor (NC)	Vitter
Smith (MI)	Terry	Walden (OR)
Smith (NJ)	Thomas	Walsh
Smith (TX)	Thompson (CA)	Wamp
Snyder	Thompson (MS)	Waxman
Solis	Thornberry	Weiner
Souder	Tiahrt	Weldon (FL)
Spratt	Tiberi	Weldon (PA)
Stearns	Tierney	Weller
Stenholm	Toomey	Wexler
Strickland	Towns	Whitfield
Stupak	Turner (OH)	Wicker
Sullivan	Turner (TX)	Wilson (NM)
Sweeney	Udall (CO)	Wilson (SC)
Tancredo	Udall (NM)	Wolf
Tanner	Upton	Woolsey
Tauscher	Van Hollen	Wu
Tauzin	Velázquez	Young (AK)
Taylor (MS)	Visclosky	Young (FL)

## ANSWERED PRESENT—5

Brown, Corrine	Lee	Watt
Johnson, E. B.	Waters	

## NOT VOTING—33

Bereuter	Eshoo	Millender-
Brown-Waite,	Farr	McDonald
Ginny	Fattah	Myrick
Clay	Gephardt	Ortiz
Clyburn	Grijalva	Pombo
Conyers	Gutierrez	Rahall
Cox	Honda	Ryun (KS)
Culberson	Inslee	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Kucinich	Stark
Dicks	Langevin	Watson
Dooley (CA)	Lucas (OK)	Wynn
English	McCrery	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1911

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be present for recorded votes today due to health reasons. However, if I had been present, I would have voted in the affirmative on rollcall vote Nos. 12, 13 and 14.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2013

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER) at 8 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## THE DUTY OF LEADERS TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the most fundamental right that is guaranteed to us by the founders of our country is the right to speak freely. The Founding Fathers knew that public discourse is the backbone of a republic and must be inherent to a free society. As leaders, it is our job to raise the level of public debate in this country so that we can leave behind a legacy of sound decision enhanced by free-willed people. But we should never lower the bar of public debate to the point where baseless rhetoric is the standard.

It is our duty, Mr. Speaker, as leaders, to raise the level of public debate to a level where truth can be self-evident, where the lines of fact and fiction are clear and not blurred, and where it would be unimaginable for a public figure to blatantly deceive the American people.

We have a duty to all Americans, as leaders, to be responsible in our rhetoric, honest in our discourse, and truthful in our debate.

Mr. Speaker, I have been profoundly disappointed in some of the recent public discourse by some regarding President Bush's service to our country. On Sunday morning, Terry McAuliffe, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said that President Bush was AWOL from the Alabama National Guard. Furthermore, he said that President Bush, as a member of the National Guard, never served our country in the military. In my hands right here I hold President George Bush's DD-214, which is the official separation record of any service member. Let the record show that it says right here that President Bush, our Commander in Chief, served honorably in the National Guard and received an honorable discharge.

For those of the Vietnam era, like I was, who will remember the service of National Guard troops, they understand that a fighter pilot unit was not the best place to hide in the National Guard. My own personal recollection is that one morning as a copilot on a C-130, I had been held overnight at that base that was abandoned and was being reopened at Takhli Air Force Base in Thailand. When I got up and walked outside the tent that morning there was an F-105 pilot there. He was nervous and said, "Where am I? Twelve hours ago," he said, "I was teaching school in Kansas." He was in the Kansas National Guard. Twelve hours later, after teaching school, he is in the Southeast Asian conflict, flying wild weasel missions over the north.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard flying fighters was not a place to hide during the Vietnam conflict. It is next to impossible for the President to have received an honorable discharge if he was found guilty or even accused of

AWOL. McAuliffe's charges are to imply that the Guard would have given an honorable discharge to someone who did not show up for service.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this accusation is reckless, it is irresponsible, and it is false. These charges are slanderous and without merit. It is outrageous for a leader of a political party and a top surrogate of the Presidential forerunner to be making this charge in our public discourse.

Especially upsetting to me is that McAuliffe believes that serving in the National Guard does not constitute serving in the military. To imply that the National Guard is not military service is to dismiss the sacrifices of tens of thousands of National Guardsmen and women who have served before and are presently serving. And it is a slap in the face to their service and their families.

National Guardsmen in World War II landed at Omaha Beach. The New Mexico National Guard served in the Pacific, and still today we honor those members who survived the Bataan Death March, who were members of the National Guard in New Mexico.

Currently there are more than 193,000 National Guard members and Reservists currently serving our country in the war on terror. About 40 percent of the soldiers in Iraq are Guard and Reserve. In my district alone I have more than 1,500 National Guardsmen and women and Reservists currently serving on Active Duty.

And, Mr. Speaker, it would be a cold day in July in New Mexico before I would let anyone say that these men and women, the people that I represent in this fine institution, do not serve our country.

I went to Iraq, Mr. Speaker, and I met personally with young men and women who are serving there. Mr. Speaker, the National Guard and Reserves are steadfast servants to our country, serving to ensure that liberty for others is achieved. Some of these men and women are on the front lines. They serve as a wedge between terrorism and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard and Reserve soldiers are serving our country as we speak. As a member of the Air Force, I find Mr. McAuliffe's characterizations insulting and demeaning. Terry McAuliffe cheapens the National Guard by saying it is not military service. His baseless insinuations diminish the National Guard as an institution. He owes an apology to the men and women in the National Guard and Reserve uniforms who are serving our country and protecting their fellow Americans.

Mr. McAuliffe's comments represent the worst of election year politics. It must be a sad day to be a member of the political party whose leader publicly denounces, degrades, and dishonors the fighting force that is at this moment fighting for freedom and liberty and who have risked their lives to fight terrorism around the world.