

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

MONGOLIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIGHTING THE WAR ON TERROR

(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, I rise to thank the country of Mongolia for its contributions in fighting the war on terror. After 9/11 the government of Mongolia expressed its strong support for the United States and offered training opportunities for coalition forces and valuable overflight clearances.

Mongolia has supported coalition operations by contributing troops to both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In fact, Mongolia has deployed four rotations in each country. And even though prior to 2000 Mongolia had not had a national policy of deploying forces beyond its borders, it became the first coalition country to contribute an infantry battalion in Iraq.

The Mongolian military is participating in peacekeeping, providing security to a logistic base in southern central Iraq, escorting convoys, constructing military barracks, medical facilities and local schools. The Mongolian soldiers have proven their bravery and skill over and over, even preventing a suicide attack that could have killed hundreds. For a small country of two and a half million people, these contributions are indeed significant and greatly appreciated, and we thank this important ally.

SUCCESS STRATEGY FOR IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to one of my constituents, he offered to tell me that his son was a member of the United States military and had just returned from Afghanistan and was a willing member of this great and wonderful dedicated military ready to go back and do his duty.

As I listened to him with a sense of pride, but also a parental sense of doubt, I could understand because we are looking now at 115 killed by a bomb outside an Iraqi clinic.

Let me read for you a quote: "I am afraid," said Qasmin, 34. "This place should have been well protected. How could the police or Army not recognize that? Don't they know this country is full of terrorism?"

Mr. Speaker, this administration owes us an explanation or a statement regarding the so-called success strategy that will allow our troops to return with dignity.

We want success in Iraq. But the constant bloodshed, the loss of lives of young men and women, the children of our American families going overseas with no road map, no design, no success strategy that will bring them home. We are owed a debate on the floor of the House to determine how we can resolve this matter to bring our troops home and have a success strategy and peace in Iraq. My sympathy to those families who lost their love ones.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL DAVID PAYTON

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Lance Corporal David Payton, a 21-year-old Marine who was injured while serving our country in Iraq.

On January 30, the same day that millions of Iraqis voted in the country's first free and successful elections, Corporal Payton's compound in Fallujah was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, which left him with severe burns and scarred lungs from chemical inhalation. He was released from the hospital last week and is continuing his recovery at home in Powder Springs, Georgia, in my 11th Congressional District.

I had the opportunity to visit with Corporal Payton on Friday, and I was impressed by his courage and commitment to this country. Corporal Payton is a former high school wrestling champion; and let me tell you, he is a fighter. He exemplifies what it means to be a soldier, willing to put your life on the line so others can be free.

The Iraqi people are now on the path of freedom and democracy, and Corporal Payton and all of our war fighters deserve our deepest gratitude for the work they have done to secure America and to spread liberty throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members join me in wishing Lance Corporal David Payton a speedy recovery.

PROVIDING BETTER RETIREMENT CHOICES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, I strongly believe that all Americans deserve a strengthened retirement. Our current Social Security system is financially broken, outdated, and unable to meet our future retirement needs.

In 1950 there were 16 workers to support every beneficiary. Today there are only 3.3 workers per beneficiary. If Congress does not act soon, Social Security will be unable to meet its obligation to our children and grand-

children. Yesterday, I discussed this issue with fellow South Carolinians and many agree that our Social Security system faces significant problems.

President Bush is boldly leading the way to solve these problems by providing younger Americans with retirement choices and strengthening benefits for today's retirees. Reform offers younger Americans the opportunity to invest their Social Security funds in voluntary personal accounts which will provide higher benefits and allows them to build a nest egg for retirement that the government cannot take away.

As Congress continues to consider Social Security reform, I urge my colleagues to fix our system and provide better retirement choices to the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And we will never forget September 11.

INTERNATIONAL CLONING BAN

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last month a U.N. committee approved a resolution calling on nations quickly to adopt and implement legislation "to prohibit all forms of human cloning inasmuch as they are incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life." Further, the declaration, introduced by Honduras, also called on countries to "prevent the exploitation of women." Cloning requires harvesting eggs from women.

This is significant. While not binding, I find this a hopeful statement about an emerging view towards respecting the sanctity of human life.

In early January I introduced my legislation, which, besides prohibiting Federal funding of human cloning, also expresses the sense of Congress that foreign nations should establish total prohibition on human cloning as well. The U.N. resolution will soon advance to the high court, and our Congress should lend our confidence to them. Please join with me in cosponsoring my bill H.R. 222.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF SARAH WINNEMUCCA FOR NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 5) providing for the acceptance of a statue of