

American flag on Iwo Jima. Later, this scene was recreated by the rising of a second American flag on Iwo Jima, forever to be remembered in our nation's history by Joe Rosenthal's Pulitzer Prize winning photograph and the famous statue in Arlington National Cemetery. Unfortunately, Cpl. Lindberg is the sole remaining survivor of this fearless group of initial Marines. However, as is the case with so many of our veterans, Cpl. Lindberg's dedication to our country did not end after the completion of his military service. Through his involvement in efforts to improve our country and the lives of soldiers, Cpl. Lindberg has and continues to be devoted to veterans, veterans' organizations, and his community. With much admiration, I salute this American patriot for his valiant spirit and actions on and off the battlefield.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BETA CLUB FOR ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the National Beta Club as it completes its celebration of its 75th anniversary. The organization was formed by the late Dr. John West Harris in 1934 in Spartanburg County, SC and is still headquartered there in the Fourth District of South Carolina.

Over the years, the National Beta Club has provided the catalyst for teenagers of good character to develop leadership skills and channel their energy into productive service to others. By maintaining its high standards and worthy goals and acting through its outstanding local chapters across the country, the organization has had a positive impact on the success and accomplishments of our great nation for the past seven decades.

The National Beta Club's celebration of its seventy-first anniversary is an occasion highly deserving of recognition. Therefore, please join me in honoring this organization and its efforts to lay the foundation for learning and leading early in the lives of the young people whose lives it impacts.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to passage of this bill.

There are large amounts of funding in this bill that I support for pressing commitments and to meet urgent national and international needs. For example, I absolutely support getting our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere all that they need and deserve in order to protect themselves and carry out their very difficult and dangerous missions. I was among the first to speak out and support legislation in 2003, when it became apparent that Secretary Rumsfeld and his advisors had seriously underestimated the types of body armor, up-armored Humvees and other equipment that would be needed by our forces in Iraq. I have voted for the additional funding in prior measures to correct for these miscalculations, as a matter of the utmost urgency, and I will continue to do so.

Similarly, I support the additional funding in this bill for enhancing nuclear nonproliferation efforts to help prevent weapons of mass destruction from getting into the wrong hands. I also support the additional funds for tsunami relief. There is also another down payment in this bill toward improving homeland security efforts in the Coast Guard, FBI, and other front-line agencies, but we need to be doing much more in this regard.

However, on balance I must oppose this legislation.

I've talked to many executive branch officials, civilian and military, and the simple reality is that they cannot plan in a coherent fashion when they are forced to deal with the uncertainty over how much money they will get and when they will get it. This bill denies them the ability to plan and the result is that our servicemen and women in the field are put in greater jeopardy. This is not a bill to support our troops.

By way of illustration, I serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. A substantial portion of the annual intelligence budget is now funded through supplemental and/or so-called "emergency" appropriations. Both civilian and military intelligence officials have told me and my colleagues on the committee that this process wreaks havoc with their ability to plan and execute their assigned responsibilities. There is simply no excuse for this state of affairs.

We have soldiers in the field, and we know that we'll be continuing military operations against al Qaeda and its surrogates for the foreseeable future. We know that as long as we're in Iraq at our current force level, we'll be spending about \$7 billion a month for the effort. That's not unforeseen. We should not be funding these operations through emergency supplemental appropriations. It certainly appears that the only reason the Bush Administration continues to try to fund current operations through supplementals is to avoid any kind of substantive review of its budgetary and procurement policies. The entire Haliburton episode is a prime example of how dysfunctional this process has become, and it's also why we must force the administration to provide us with honest budgets and honest estimates on what current and future operations are likely to cost. In fact, the leadership here turned down a bipartisan amendment that would simply have formed a commission to look at the awarding and carrying out of Government contracts to conduct military and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It has become painfully apparent that the path toward a free, democratic and fully reconstructed Iraq will be long and treacherous. If and when this bill is enacted, the cost for the war in Iraq and the ongoing military occupation of that country will exceed \$220 billion. In fact, the true costs of this effort are underestimated and masked, as evidenced by the fact that they are not accounted for in the new Fiscal Year 2006 budget that President Bush submitted to Congress last month. Some projections suggest that the cost will top \$300 billion before the end of this year. And as far as taking care of the wounds of war—physical and psychological—of our latest generation of veterans, neither this supplemental nor the administration's FY06 VA budget request come remotely close to meeting the expected need . . . undoubtedly one of the many reasons that most of the military services are falling short of their recruiting targets this year.

Rather than continue the status quo on an open-ended, costly basis and to vote ever-increasing amounts in "emergency spending," Congress must demand much greater transparency in the management and spending for ongoing U.S. military operations in Iraq. Even more important, we need a thorough policy review that will help bring internal stability and security throughout Iraq and create the conditions under which the long-suffering people of Iraq can regain full control of their own affairs and make rapid progress in rebuilding their war-torn nation in a new era of peace, security, and democratic self-government. This supplemental request does not achieve that, and I urge my colleagues to work with me to craft one that does.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 67 pertaining to H. Res. 101, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I was absent at a previously scheduled commitment and missed the recorded votes on Roll Call Number 82, the Obey Amendment to H. Con. Res. 95; Roll Call Number 83, the Hensarling Amendment to H. Con. Res. 95; and Roll Call Number 84, on H. Con. Res. 32, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on Roll Call Number 82; "No" on Roll Call Number 83; and "Yes" on Roll Call Number 84.

PROTECTION OF INCAPACITATED
PERSONS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Madame Speaker, today, I rise before this House as a sad Floridian.

Along with millions of Americans, I am hoping and praying for the best for Terri Schiavo and her family.

Fifteen years ago, Terri and her family had so many things in life to look forward to. Never in their wildest dreams would they be able to foresee the tragic events that would raise a conflict so heated that the federal government would reach into their lives and alter their future.

As Terri's family works through their differences in court, one of the few things that could make this terrible situation worse is for Congress to turn this family's case into a political football.

But today, that is exactly what Congress is doing and it is exactly what the Florida Legislature is doing as well.

There are already laws in place dealing with both the guardianship rights granted to spouses under marriage and the terrible end-of-life choices that so many families must make. Since the beginning of our nation, our federal and state constitutions have provided the judicial branch the authority to determine if these laws are being fairly applied.

If the laws governing end-of-life cases needs to be improved, the Florida Legislature and Governor should have an open, honest debate about the issue and how any problems can be fixed for all families who struggle with these tough choices.

The U.S. House Republican Leadership only made the situation worse by refusing to hold hearings and bringing this bill to the floor before my colleagues have even learned who Terri Schiavo, her husband and her family are, let alone the impact of the bill on other families.

In what only can be described as a stunning abuse of power, with little debate and zero respect for families, Congress is about to set a precedent that could strip every spouse of the right to make end-of-life decisions for his or her spouse.

So today, I have to ask my colleagues, "Do YOU think Congress is better suited to make an end-of-life decision for your spouse?"

I've spoken to a lot of my fellow Floridians about this tragic situation, but I don't think any of them have a Living Will in place that states "I want the politicians in Washington or Tallahassee to make decisions for me."

With every fiber of my being, I oppose this legislation. Congress' job is to fix problems with the law for all Americans. If Congress intervenes in this family matter, where will they stop?

Sadly, regardless of what we do today, no one wins. A husband may lose his wife and parents may lose their daughter. My heart and prayers go out to Terri and her family.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the continued reluctance by the Bush Administration to openly deal with the government of Turkey's continued policy of denial of the Armenian Genocide. In the words of scholars and writers, genocide denial is the last stage of genocide, what Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has called a "double killing." The perpetrators first plan and commit the crime, then refuse to acknowledge responsibility. Finally, their political successors deny this crime against humanity. The present-day Turkish government must stop this shameful policy of denial.

The award-winning writer and Harvard Professor Samantha Power in her recent book on genocide recounted how the United States and the world's other powers have too often been bystanders to Genocide, most recently in Rwanda and as you hear these words, once again in Sudan. Power argued that "The Armenian Genocide of 1915 set the stage for a gruesome 20th century." The international community's failure to properly condemn the attempted annihilation of the Armenians led Hitler to famously declare "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

The Turkish government spends millions of dollars annually to lobby other governments to advance its revisionist cause, claiming that the subject is "sensitive" and that acknowledgment would undermine relations with Turkey. To compound this assault on the truth, Turkish leaders and media accuse U.S. and Israel of genocide, respectively in Iraq and Palestine. These policies are abhorrent and must be confronted.

Mr. Speaker, while President Bush has issued annual statements on April 24, the day of remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, he has refrained from using the proper word. Moreover, as the leadership of the House confirmed last year, the Administration remains opposed to a congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide due to Turkish objections. This approach sends absolutely the wrong signal to Turkey and to the rest of the world. As we promote relations based upon shared values, the United States must never forget the essential value of facing history directly.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLINT
EASTWOOD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Mr. Clint Eastwood, on his recent Oscar awards. His film, Million Dollar Baby, was nominated in six categories, and won four: himself as Best Director, the film as Best Picture, Hilary Swank as Best Actress, and Morgan Freeman as Best Supporting Actor. Any one award would be a testament to Clint's art and the talents of his team, but four awards is an amazing achievement!

This year Clint celebrates a 50-year career in show business. We all know and have enjoyed his work over the years. Each movie seems to build on the last, and they keep getting better.

This year's awards are not his first Oscars. In 1992, Unforgiven took Best Director and Best Picture, and he was nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role. Here in the 17th District, Clint's most famous role may be his term as Mayor of Carmel, and tourists still come to town hoping for a glimpse of "The Mayor."

Mr. Speaker, today I applaud Clint Eastwood not only for his most recent accomplishments, but also for his life-long dedication to his art. This Nation is richer for his creations. I wish him and his wife Dina all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PETTY OFFICER
ANDREA BISIGNANI

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer (FSO) Andrea Bisignani.

FS2 Andrea Bisignani, a Food Service Specialist on the Coast Guard Cutter James Rankin, is being honored as the 2005 Baltimore Area Coast Guard Person of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani has consistently demonstrated a high level of performance throughout this past year in her job as a Food Service Specialist. Her untiring efforts and steadfast commitment to her shipmates on the CGC James Rankin has made her a prime candidate for this honor. Those that nominated her for this award cited her leadership and high level of performance as a key factor in the CGC James Rankin being selected for the Dining Faculty of the Year (Afloat-Small category), and also resulted in her selection as Food Service Specialist of the Year.

FS2 Bisignani's accomplishments this year have gone above and beyond the criteria for election of these prestigious honors in the food service rating alone. Her professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm have had a significant and positive impact on the degree of mission success and high state of morale that exists on board the CGC James Rankin.

FS2 Bisignani has risen to the demands and challenges of the working environment aboard the CGC James Rankin, and has not only excelled tremendously in the food service area, but has also lived up to the high standards, which are expected of every crewmember on board. She has thrived in her demanding role as FSO and has been able to accomplish a great deal because of that.

FS2 Bisignani has volunteered much of her time and energy to the members of the CGC James Rankin. She assists and encourages every member in maintaining a healthy lifestyle; is 100 percent customer focused and concerned for the well-being of all crew members; and has taken on more responsibilities than required in order to ensure everything runs well on the ship. FS2 Bisignani has gone above and beyond in her responsibilities to ensure the members on board the CGC James Rankin are happy and healthy, and her dedication is evident to all that have the privilege to work with her.