

of military personnel in Iraq, after the United States and the United Kingdom. South Korea has currently deployed 3,300 troops to Iraq, performing important functions in the northern part of the country, freeing up U.S. forces for operations elsewhere.

The South Korean government, through legislation passed by its National Assembly in December 2005, extended the time period of deployment of their troops for another year, despite political pressures to withdraw altogether. The extension of the stationing of troops is an expression of South Korea's deep and abiding support for the U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq and establish a permanent peace there. By its actions, South Korea demonstrates its firm commitment to a rapid reconstruction of Iraq and to establishing stability as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, South Korean troops have been stationed in Iraq since they were first dispatched in August 2004. Named the Zaytun Division, derived from the Arabic term for "olive" and symbolizing peace, the unit has been actively involved in rehabilitating civilian infrastructure facilities for local residents and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The South Korean National Assembly announced that there will be a gradual reduction of the Zaytun troops by one-third to 2,300 over the course of the coming year. It will be a phased reduction in close consultation with the U.S. and dependent on the Iraqi police force's readiness and the situation on the ground. It is important to note, however, that while there will be a gradual reduction in presence, the role of Zaytun will be enhanced.

In fact, the South Korean troops will soon provide security service for the Irbil Regional Office of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), protecting UNAMI's middle ring and its convoys. Additionally, the USAID office will now be stationed within the Zaytun compound and protected by South Korean forces.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that our South Korean friends have not been thanked loudly or frequently enough for this contribution to the stabilization of Iraqi society. It is a genuine shame that the news media in the U.S. missed this significant story, which was widely reported in the Korean press.

On January 18, 2006, a letter from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was delivered to the commander of South Korean forces in Irbil, a city in northern Iraq, expressing our country's appreciation for their peacekeeping efforts. The letter said, in part, "The humanitarian and reconstruction activities your troops have undertaken have made lasting and substantive contributions to the quality of life for the people of Irbil."

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for their lasting contribution to the coalition forces in Iraq and for their commitment to playing an important and responsible role in the international community. As a staunch ally of the United States with a mutually comprehensive alliance partnership that has spanned over fifty years and four major conflicts since the end of World War II, South Korea deserves our recognition and expression of support.

COMMEMORATING MESA VERDE'S
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I will join the people of Colorado at Mesa Verde National Park to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

On June 29, 1906, Congress designated Mesa Verde as a national park unique for its archaeological treasures, spectacular views, and abundant wildlife. Located at the intersection of four states, Mesa Verde is a tremendous resource to the entire nation and a jewel in my congressional district.

Every year, 450,000 people travel to Southwest Colorado to visit the park. For those who have hiked the trails carved out by the Anasazi Indians, they know that Mesa Verde is truly a special place and one of the finest National Parks in our country. As the first cultural and historic national park in the history of the world, Mesa Verde helped spur Congress to preserve other important historical and archaeological sites.

I am proud to represent Mesa Verde National Park—Colorado's first national park—and its surrounding communities in Montezuma County here in Congress.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS
WHO SERVED ON THE U.S.S.
"DORCHESTER"

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of the four chaplains who gave their lives in service of our nation while serving on the U.S.S. *Dorchester* during the Second World War. The *Dorchester*, known as the 'Grey Ghost' by U-boat crews, carried nearly 1 million U.S. troops to Europe during her tenure, which came to a tragic end 63 years ago today.

At 12:55 a.m. February 3, 1943, a German U-boat launched a torpedo that struck the *Dorchester*, killing many of the 902 aboard instantly, injuring hundreds of others, and creating chaos as the ship took on water.

Captain Hans J. Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. As men struggled amid the turmoil to board life boats, the ship's four chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, offered solace and counseled courage.

As the supply of life vests dwindled, each chaplain removed his own life vest and handed it to a soldier. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, one of the 230 survivors.

Survivors recount their last glimpse of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* in the icy waters off the Newfoundland coast: The four chaplains linked arms in prayer and went down with the ship. We mark their heroism today, February 3, as "Four Chaplains Day."

I want to thank Commander of the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois Victor

Cibelli and event chairman John Bigwood for arranging a tribute to the four chaplains at the Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation in Morton Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, this tribute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual strength, patriotism, and dedication to their fellow sailors exhibited by these four chaplains as they made ultimate sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of the four chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester*.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King's passing is a tremendous loss for our country and for all who have worked to uphold America's promise of equal justice under the law. She led with great passion, integrity and with a spirit that should be a guiding light for all of us.

When Americans visit our Nation's Capital, they are overwhelmed with beautiful monuments honoring the great leaders of our country. From the Jefferson Memorial to the Washington Monument to the U.S. Capitol, every building and statue is in place to remind Americans of the legacy left by these leaders and their contributions to the framework of our Nation. There is no monument or building dedicated to the heroic actions that mark Mrs. King's life in the Nation's Capital, but I believe her legacy lives on in ways that cannot be adequately honored with a statue. Mrs. King's legacy is honored when African-American women join their neighbors at the local poll to vote on Election Day. And she is honored when children read for the first time a sign that says "Whites Only," not in their community, but in a museum.

Mrs. King, who was faced with the tragic and early loss of her life partner, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., did not act bitterly towards the violence that interrupted her life, but continued to spread the message of peace and equality to all corners of the world. As founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Mrs. King spent her life furthering the Civil Rights Movement, and later, creating the largest archive of documents from this era. With this collection in place, future generations will have the ability to educate themselves beyond what is read in textbooks, and will have the opportunity to experience firsthand the sacrifices that were made to build the world we live in today.

Like all who have sacrificed for the most fundamental American value—that equality and justice are the birthright of everyone in our society—Mrs. King has left us a country that is better today than when she arrived. However, there is still much work that remains to ensure that every American has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and we must uphold her legacy by continuing her work.

I hope that all Americans will pause to remember the values for which she stood and to