

Whereas John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation, has provided outstanding leadership of the organization since its founding;

Whereas the mission of the National Arbor Day Foundation is to “inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees”;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation works to protect and enhance the global environment by promoting rainforest preservation, urban and community forestry, and the planting of trees throughout the world;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation manages the 260-acre Arbor Day Farm to serve as a model of environmental stewardship;

Whereas National Arbor Day Foundation distributes more than 8,000,000 trees annually through its Trees for America program;

Whereas the National Arbor Day Foundation has worked with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service since 1990, helping to plant nearly 4,000,000 trees in National Forests damaged by fire, insects, or other natural causes;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton recognized the need for trees in Nebraska and proposed a tree-planting holiday called “Arbor Day” in 1872;

Whereas it was estimated that more than 1,000,000 trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day in 1872;

Whereas the observation of Arbor Day soon spread to other States and is now observed nationally and in many other countries;

Whereas J. Sterling Morton once observed that “The cultivation of trees is the culmination of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man”;

Whereas National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, will be celebrated on April 28, 2006; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the National Arbor Day Foundation; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Arbor Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONFLICT IN SUDAN’S DARFUR REGION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-101)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) blocking the property of persons in connection with the conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region. In that order, I have expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan, to address the unusual and ex-

traordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Darfur, as described below.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1591 of March 29, 2005, condemned the continued violations of the N’djamena Ceasefire Agreement of April 8, 2004, and the Abuja Humanitarian and Security Protocols of November 9, 2004, by all sides in Darfur, as well as the deterioration of the security situation and the negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts. I also note that the United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned the continued violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sudan’s Darfur region and, in particular, the continuation of violence against civilians and sexual violence against women and girls.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 determined that the situation in Darfur constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region and called on Member States to take certain measures against persons responsible for the continuing conflict. The United Nations Security Council has encouraged all parties to negotiate in good faith at the Abuja talks and to take immediate steps to support a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur, but has continued to express serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Darfur in UNSCR 1651 of December 21, 2005.

Pursuant to IEEPA, the National Emergencies Act, and the United Nations Participation Act (UNPA), I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and have issued an Executive Order expanding the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 to deal with this threat.

The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States, or in the possession or control of United States persons, of the persons listed in the Annex to the order, as well as of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State,

—to have constituted a threat to the peace process in Darfur;

—to have constituted a threat to stability in Darfur and the region;

—to be responsible for conduct related to the conflict in Darfur that violates international law;

—to be responsible for heinous conduct with respect to human life or limb related to the conflict in Darfur;

—to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred arms or any related materiel, or any assistance, advice, or training related to military activities to the Government of Sudan, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, the Justice and Equality Movement,

the Janjaweed, or any person operating in the states of North Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur, that is a belligerent, a nongovernmental entity, or an individual; or

—to be responsible for offensive military overflights in and over the Darfur region.

The designation criteria will be applied in accordance with applicable domestic law, including where appropriate, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The order also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the activities listed above or any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. I further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any persons from the Annex to the order as circumstances warrant.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All Federal agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, was effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 27, 2006.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 27, 2006.

BROWNWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the Brownwood Texas Chamber of Commerce.

Brownwood began as a pioneer town in the 19th century. As the town’s population flourished, the cotton industry dominated. With the building of the West Texas District Alliance Cotton Yard and the establishment of the Freeman’s Journal, Brownwood became the center of the Farmer’s Alliance. In 1906, local farmers chartered the Brownwood Commercial Club, later renamed the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Brownwood Chamber is instrumental in helping the community

flourish. In 1940, they negotiated the home of Camp Bowie, a World War II training camp for the Army, housing 57,000 soldiers and civilians. After the camp closed, the Chamber created an industrial park that today houses 3M, Kohler, and other corporations which employ hundreds of people at their Brownwood facilities, greatly contributing to the prosperity of the community.

The Brownwood Chamber continues to serve as a vital organization within the community. I congratulate them on their centennial anniversary, and I am proud to represent Brownwood in Congress.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, just a few hours ago, I heard moving testimonials about the impact of the Iraq war on real people, real families and real communities, both American and Iraqi. I organized a forum precisely to get beyond the statistics, the strategy, and the abstractions, to understand the devastating human cost of this war.

We heard from Charlie Anderson, a former marine who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and now is a regional coordinator for Iraq Veterans Against the War. He spoke of the Government of the United States having failed the men and women it sent to war.

He said, "I was completely untrained and unprepared for what I experienced in Iraq."

He told us, "In the 7 years preceding my deployment to the Middle East . . . I had not set foot in the desert or had any training on how to fight or survive there. I had fired my 9-millimeter service pistol exactly once."

And this is the part that blew my mind, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Anderson added that after firing his weapon during one ambush, he said, "I was told I would not be issued replacement ammunition because there was none to be had. My platoon sergeant told me 'do not shoot unless your death is imminent . . .'"

Can you imagine that? The mighty United States military, the greatest

fighting force in the world, essentially rationing bullets?

Dahlia Wasfi, a doctor who is half Jewish and half Iraqi, offered a powerful historical analogy. She spoke of her mother's relatives being driven from their native Austria to avoid Nazi concentration camps. "Never again" is the refrain we use when talking about the Holocaust. She then spoke of her father's relatives who are "not living, but dying, under the occupation of this administration's deadly foray in Iraq."

She went on: "From the lack of security to the lack of basic supplies to the lack of electricity to the lack of potable water to the lack of jobs to the lack of reconstruction to the lack of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, they are worse off now than before we invaded. 'Never again' should apply to them, too."

An Iraqi civil engineer named Faiza also spoke to us. She fled occupied Iraq last summer after her son, a student, was detained for several days by the Ministry of the Interior without any charges being filed.

"He has a beard; so he was a suspect terrorist," she said.

Although they said he had committed no crimes, his family had to pay thousands of dollars to secure his release. How is that for the transformation of power to freedom?

Now she and her family are living as exiles in Jordan, driven away from everything that was once familiar to them. But the only other choice was to live in a country whose infrastructure has been completely torn down and never rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker, in the name of these three brave souls, for the sake of human decency if nothing else, it is time to end this war, bring our troops home, and give Iraq back to the Iraqi people.

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

(Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTITUTION CAUCUS

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am a member of several caucuses here in the House. I am very proud to be so. But none of those caucuses, I think, are

more important than the Congressional Constitution Caucus.

All of us when we came here took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. It is one of the greatest documents ever written, and one that has guided this country and stood us in good stead over the time that we have been a country.

The Congressional Constitution Caucus has a statement of its belief: We "will be an effective forum to ensure that the Federal Government is operating under the intent of the 10th amendment of our Bill of Rights."

Those of us on the Congressional Constitution Caucus are very much concerned about the overreaching of the Federal Government. I have spoken on this issue before, but I think it is important that we continue to highlight it for the American people. And I want to read the 10th amendment:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

These historic words penned by our Founding Fathers, some of the most ingenious political minds this world has ever known, set forth an important principle. The Federal Government may exercise its specific powers listed in the Constitution, and the States and the people may exercise all remaining powers.

Unfortunately, as the authors of the Constitution have long since passed, so, too, have many of their foundations for our system of government. Between an ever-expanding Federal bureaucracy that for decades has crept into many facets of traditionally locally controlled government to a Federal judiciary that time and time again completely ignores the intent of the 10th amendment, the Federal Government has become wildly inefficient and is hemorrhaging tax dollars.

Our caucus will point out that not only is State and local control over programs in line with the Constitution, it is a much more cost-effective and efficient way to provide many domestic services to American citizens. It is imperative that we highlight the need to return to a system intended under the reserve clause of the Constitution.

And I want to point out several bills that have been introduced in this session that are initiatives we hope that will move us forward in this regard. The first one is the Sunset Commission legislation. Congressman KEVIN BRADY has introduced two bills, both of which would establish a Sunset Commission to review the continued need for executive branch agencies and programs on a regular basis and make recommendations to the President to rein in the inevitable mission creep.

□ 1815

Federal consent decree legislation, H.R. 1229. Congressman ROY BLUNT has introduced this legislation, the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, that