

Memphis, Tennessee, and I spoke to 40 soldiers who had been to the Middle East. They were being honored. I asked many of them if they wanted to return. Most, nearly all, said, "No. Why are we there and what are we accomplishing?"

I asked groups about their thoughts, and almost to a one, they said, "Bring the troops home; don't stay the course."

Mr. Speaker, I would submit to the President that he went to war under Donald Rumsfeld's opinion that you fight the war with the troops you have got.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President should support the troops with the bill that the Congress sends him. We have sent him a bill that supports the troops, supports the veterans and, yet, brings our troops home. We must end this foolishness in Iraq, the loss of American lives and the spending of our tax dollars in a country where we are not wanted.

HONORING SLAIN UTICA POLICE OFFICER THOMAS LINDSEY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 12, 32-year-old Utica police officer Thomas Lindsey was shot and killed in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop in Utica, New York, my hometown.

A 5½-year veteran of the Utica police force, Tom served for more than a year with an elite squad tasked with handling special assignments. Tom was the kind of guy that, as a teenager, he traveled to Mexico one summer just to build churches. And prior to his tenure as a Utica police officer, he served our Nation honorably as a U.S. Marine as an embassy guard.

As a former district attorney, I had the distinct privilege of working hand in hand with the dedicated men and women of the Utica Police Department. This loss affects those brave men and women and their families hardest of all.

Tom put his life on the line in the Marines and as a police officer, and he paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and the community. Losing someone like Tom is a great tragedy, but in this tragedy there is a lesson. We must learn from the way Tom lived his life and his commitment to public service, his community and his country.

My prayers are with Tom's mother, Carmella Lindsey-Schisler, his girlfriend, Lisa, and his family and co-workers.

I hope everyone can take a moment today to thank the men and the women in their local police departments who serve them so well.

ORWELLIAN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Orwellian democracy is alive and well here in Washington. Our friends on the other side seem to think that if they just say something, it is true.

Talk about the budget. We have heard this morning that they are going to balance the budget without raising taxes. Funny thing is, the budget that they passed will do this: Between 2010 and 2011 their budget will raise taxes on ordinary income from 35 to 39.6, capital gains from 15 percent to 20 percent, dividends from 15 percent to 39.6 percent, estate tax, 0 percent to 55 percent. Child tax credit goes from \$1,000 to \$500, and the lowest tax bracket goes from 10 percent to 15 percent. \$400 billion in new taxes.

Mr. Speaker, they may be saying one thing, but they are doing completely the opposite. They may be able to fool themselves, but they won't fool the American people.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF LIVIU LIBRESCU

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank God for Mr. Liviu Librescu.

Monday was Holocaust Remembrance Day, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Liviu Librescu was a teacher for 20 years at Virginia Tech. He was a husband and a father, 76 years of age, and a Holocaust survivor.

On Monday, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, he blocked the doorway to a classroom to protect the students in that classroom from almost certain death. And in so doing, he sacrificed his life. He survived the Holocaust and made the ultimate sacrifice. He gave his life so that others could live. Thank God for him.

May God bless his family and all of those who have suffered at Virginia Tech.

DEMOCRATS TAKE IRAQ IN A NEW DIRECTION WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH THREATENS TO VETO NEW COURSE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the new Democratic Congress has made good on its promise to change the direction of the war in Iraq while providing critical funding for our veterans and our wounded soldiers. Yet, the President is still threatening to veto a final conference report when it comes out of this Congress.

Why would the President veto a bill that requires Iraqis to take control of their country by meeting key security, political and economic benchmarks the President himself established?

Why would he veto a bill that provides greater protections for our troops

and our veterans than what was originally requested by the President?

The supplemental provides 1.7 billion more for military health care, which includes facility upgrades at Walter Reed and other hospitals that require renovation. We also provide an additional \$1.7 billion for veterans health care to ensure that they have access to quality care. The veterans I have met with from New Jersey have told me that this is one of their top priorities.

I have been opposed to the preemptive war in Iraq from the beginning because the administration has failed to explore diplomatic solutions. And therefore the stay-the-course strategy is wrong. And I hope that the President will sign and not veto this bill.

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD LISTEN TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GATES WHO SAYS CONGRESS' TIMELINES ARE USEFUL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the President prepares to meet with congressional leaders today to discuss the emergency supplemental, he should listen to his own Secretary of Defense, who said that Congress' timelines have been useful in forcing the Iraqi Government to make compromises that have been elusive in the past.

While traveling in the Middle East, Defense Secretary Gates said yesterday, and I am quoting, "The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited. The strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably have had a positive impact in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment."

And that is what Democratic Members of this House have been saying for weeks. It is time to hold the Iraqi Government accountable and pressure them to meet the President's own guidelines.

If President Bush refuses to listen to this Democratic Congress and leaders that he is meeting with today, it would be nice if he would at least listen to his Defense Secretary, who is saying that our efforts to change the direction of the war in Iraq are having a positive effect.

□ 1040

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 later today.