

Defense Secretary Robert Gates' announcement yesterday that all active-duty soldiers currently serving in Iraq would have their rotations extended by three months is the latest evidence that our military cannot meet the demands placed on it.

Furthermore, the Pentagon this week alerted four National Guard brigades for a second tour in Iraq, long before those units have had five years at home since their last deployment, as policy dictates.

Some active-duty units, such as the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, are serving their third tour in Iraq in four years.

They recently returned to Iraq after a shortened rest and re-training period. Newer soldiers have, in many cases, not had the time to train with their new comrades before being sent into battle.

Reserve units that have already served are woefully short on equipment and ammunition to properly retrain, either for the maw of Iraq or defending America itself. The Marine Corps recently announced that jungle training—a Corps mainstay—will be suspended as that service is forced to concentrate all resources on training for Iraq.

In the event of a major conflict erupting between the U.S. and another nation—Iran, North Korea and Pakistan come immediately to mind—America's ground forces, particularly the Army, are in no way, shape or form capable of responding appropriately.

Meanwhile, the current administration—particularly the vice president—continues to maintain that everything is progressing as scheduled in Iraq, and that anyone who begs to differ is a defeatist or unpatriotic. Trouble is, there was no schedule and little planning involved in the Iraq debacle.

The administration went to Iraq on a platform of lies, failed to heed the warnings of senior military officers and other warfare experts, and did not react appropriately when things started going bad in Iraq shortly after the invasion.

Indeed, under Donald Rumsfeld, the defense establishment followed the 'script' rather than act to prevent the looming realities that are obvious now.

Since 2001, America's military has been engaged full-time in two separate wars: The War on Terrorism (primarily in Afghanistan), and (since 2003) a second, unnecessary war that has only begotten more terrorism, further destabilized the Middle East and left America very vulnerable.

As an Army National Guard veteran of the Iraq War, I've seen firsthand the toll that a combat deployment will have on a unit, its equipment, soldiers and, their families. It takes years for a unit to properly recover and be ready to deploy again.

Sending units back to Iraq on a speeded-up schedule is a disservice to not only the soldiers and families affected, but America's long-term strategy (if there is one) in Iraq as well as America itself.

All the while, there has been no effort to expand the military or adequately address the equipment shortcomings of units after serving in the harsh climate of the Middle East.

The recent spate of Guard alerts, tour extensions and shortened rest periods are indicative of a problem that the Pentagon and administration utterly refuse to acknowledge: The United States Army is broken, and it will take billions of dollars over at least a decade to bring the Army back up to a fully competent readiness level.

THANKING DAVID (DAVE) FOLK
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on May 2, 2007, we rise to thank Mr. David C. Folk for 20 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. David has served this great institution as a valuable employee for the Chief Administrative Officer.

David began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in May of 1987 as a data communications specialist in the House Information Systems group. David's career at the House is one of consistent and steady contributions while meeting customer requests in voice and data wiring infrastructure. Specifically, David managed the rewiring upgrade of the House side of the Capitol and the Member Offices in all of the House Office Buildings.

He also was the Quality Assurance Evaluator on the original House Infrastructure contract and assisted in the development of differing voice systems such as the Member Paging System and the press secretaries systems for the broadcast media organizations. Finally, David managed the first Secure Communications program for the House and grew it from its infancy to where it is today.

David has been a key contributor to the CAO efforts on wiring infrastructure. His standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done is well noted by his colleagues.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to David for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish David many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING NICK POLIZZOTTO

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto is indeed a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated

from Indiana University with a degree in criminal justice. During his many years as a Southeast South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF PETER DELFINO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Peter J. Delfino, a man who was famous throughout the Monterey Bay area for his great gusto for life.

Peter was born in San Francisco to Nick and Angie Delfino on December 29, 1917. His family soon moved to a farm in Moss Landing where he and his brother Louie helped with the artichokes and other fresh vegetables they grew. Peter went to work for Bank of America after graduation from Monterey High School, but his heart remained on the farm. Ten years later, he joined the Odello family in growing artichokes on the banks of the Carmel River, and he continued to farm until he retired.

The Italian community in Monterey has always provided a busy social calendar, and Peter met his wife, Mary, through these activities. They were married on September 30, 1945. They had one son, Alan, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Peter's other passion was picturesque properties in Carmel and Carmel Valley, Big Sur and Lake Tahoe. Family and friends spent many memorable weekends at these places, especially at his famous wild boar and lamb BBQs in Big Sur.

Peter loved being with people and belonged to several service clubs. After retirement he took great pleasure in helping friends in the construction industry with their various projects as it kept him working outside and in their company. Throughout his 89 years he enjoyed life to the fullest, and was never shy about striking up conversations with anyone he met.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Peter Delfino, a man who worked hard and diligently at a job he loved, and who made the world a happier place as he passed through.

TRIBUTE TO VIVIAN BERRYHILL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vivian Berryhill, President and founder of the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses. In her role with NCPS and as First Lady of the New Philadelphia Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, Mrs. Berryhill has been a goodwill ambassador across the world, conducting global outreach on HIV/AIDS. In addition to her passionate charitable work, Mrs. Berryhill is also an acclaimed songwriter.