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RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as of today, H.R. 346, my legislation to designate the Department of Navy as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps, has 60 cosponsors.

The language of this bill has already passed the full House of Representatives last month as part of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. This is the sixth year in a row that the House has voted to support this change.

As a Member of Congress, I have heard for 14 years that the Navy and Marine Corps are one fighting team. If this is true, should not the team carry the name of both the Navy and the Marine Corps? The Marines do not serve beneath the Navy, they are coequal partners.

I was very pleased to read a comment by the new Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, CARL LEVIN, in an article by The Hill newspaper last month, May 24, 2007, and I quote, "When asked, LEVIN said he would 'keep an open mind' on whether to support [language in the House bill to change the name of the Navy to the Department of Navy and Marine Corps]."

Mr. Speaker, there is no cost to this change. Renaming the Department is a symbolic gesture, but is very important to the team. It is the right thing to do for the team.

Let me quote the Honorable Wade Sanders, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs between the years 1993 and 1998. He voiced his support for this change, and I quote, "As a combat veteran and former Naval officer, I understand the importance of the team dynamic, and the importance of recognizing the contributions of team components.

"The Navy and Marine Corps team is just that, a dynamic partnership, and it is important to symbolically recognize the balance of that partnership."

I will also quote Admiral Stansfield Turner, United States Navy, Retired, former Director of Central Intelligence, who said, and I quote, "I think this change in title enhances the prestige and pride of the people in the Marine Corps. And it does not necessarily take away anything from the Navy in that process."

Mr. Speaker, last year, an editorial in the Chicago Tribune on April 21 of 2006 also supported the change stating, and I quote, "No service branch shows more respect for tradition than the United States Marine Corps does, which makes it all the more ironic that tradition denies the Corps an important show of respect: Equal billing with the other service branches."

That again, Mr. Speaker, is from the Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Speaker, to further state the importance of this, I have beside me an enlargement of the orders for the Silver Star for a Marine from Camp Lejeune who was killed in Iraq. It says, "The Secretary of the Navy Washington, DC., Navy flag, the President of the United States take pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to the family." I will not read in its entirety.

But Mr. Speaker, I'd like to show you what, if the Senate will accept the House position, what this does. With the same orders for the Silver Star for this brave Marine who gave his life for this country, it says, "The Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, Washington, DC.," with the zip code. It still has the Navy flag on one side and the Marine flag.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the Senate accept the House position. This is the right thing to do for the fighting team. The team is the Navy and Marine Corps fighting team. And I hope that the Senate, and I'm very encouraged by Chairman LEVIN that he said, "I'm open to the thought of this possibility."

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and to please bless the United States of America.

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

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EDUCATION IS CRITICAL FOR TODAY'S YOUTH

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss the important issue of education. Obtaining an education is critical for today's youth. An individual's prosperity and quality of life will be directly affected by the education they receive.

We all know the phrase, "The more you learn, the more you earn." In addition to increased earnings, individuals with higher levels of education are less likely to be unemployed, less likely to need public assistance, and less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, today's communities will also benefit by increased education. Those communities will suffer lower crime rates, have fewer people on welfare, and will benefit from a better economy.

In fact, we have found that in this global economy, our competitive advantage is in education because we can't compete on wages. There are people in countries around the world who work for pennies and a few dollars a

day. We're not going to compete with that.

We can't compete because people don't have to be in the United States to work. If you can work with your coworkers from across the hall, you can work with your coworkers across the globe. All you need is a cell phone, a computer and a modem, a fax machine, you can work anywhere in the world.

You don't need to be close to your customers. You can manufacture your goods anywhere and send them anywhere else in the world almost overnight.

And you don't need to be in the United States to finance a new plant. Used to be you had to be here to finance a plant. With worldwide banking you can have that plant located anywhere in the world.

The competitive advantage we have is the fact that businesses know that they can get well-educated and well-trained workers if they locate in the United States. But unfortunately, we're losing that competitive advantage.

In a recent measure of high school achievement, we found that students in the United States ranked below dozens of other countries in math and science. And so we're losing that competitive advantage. And the Education and Labor Committee is, therefore, focused on improving our international standing.

Earlier this year, the House passed the bill to renew the Head Start program with renewed emphasis on early Head Start. These programs are critical to getting our children on the right path early in life and the earlier, the better. At the K-12 level, the committee is also working towards renewing the No Child Left Behind Act. We will be addressing issues in that bill, for example, finding ways to meaningfully measure and reduce the achievement gap; ensuring that all students have access to high-quality teachers, and to effectively improve those schools which fail to make adequate yearly progress.

One of the most critical issues that must be addressed in No Child Left Behind is the fact that approximately one-third of all high school students in the United States fail to graduate with their peers. And in some communities, as many as half of the students fail to graduate and find themselves on the path to hopelessness.

The Education and Labor Committee will also consider renewing the Higher Education Act, which is primarily focused on access to college. Last year, approximately 1 million qualified students did not go to college because they could not afford the cost. Since the 2001/2002 school year, tuition at a public 4-year college has risen 55 percent. But during that same period the maximum Pell Grant only went up about 8 percent, and in the last 4 years didn't go up at all.

Unfortunately, this means that many of today's students, unlike previous