

signed a Treaty of Peace in Paris which recognized American independence and boundaries and declared the intention of both parties to “forget all past misunderstandings and differences” and “secure to both perpetual peace and harmony.” Great Britain also signed treaties of peace in Paris on September 3, 1783, with France and Spain and provisionally with the Netherlands to bring a cessation of hostilities between the nations.

Therefore, I call upon Congress and the American public to recognize the 225th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris that took place on September 3, 2008. We should remember and honor the men that served in the revolution; American, French, and Spanish. And we should recognize the enduring friendship between the United States and its first allies—France and Spain.

We should also recognize that it is the 225th anniversary of relations between the United States and Great Britain. While we fought many battles against each other in America's early years, we have fought side by side in far greater battles since those times. The Treaty of Paris 225th anniversary should therefore reaffirm the value of the deep friendship that has developed between America and Great Britain since that time.

History teaches us to hope. So let us recognize this date and hope that in the next 225 years America is stronger and more prosperous than it is now, and that its friendships with Spain, France, and Great Britain are as strong as they are today.

RURAL VETERANS ACCESS TO CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of our veterans and in support of H.R. 1527, the Rural Veterans Access to Care Act by my colleague from Kansas, Representative JERRY MORAN and the Members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we come upon the anniversary of that fateful day in September this Thursday, it is important to remember our men and women currently serving and our veterans who have returned home.

WAR COSTS

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has initiated three military operations:

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) covering Afghanistan and other Global War on Terror (GWOT) operations ranging from the Philippines to Djibouti that began immediately after the 9/11 attacks and continues;

Operation Noble Eagle (ONE) providing enhanced security for U.S. military bases and other homeland security that was launched in response to the attacks and continues at a modest level; and

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) that began in the fall of 2002 with the buildup of troops for the March 2003 invasion of Iraq and continues with counter-insurgency and stability operations.

According to CRS estimates, with enactment of the FY2008 Supplemental and

FY2009 Bridge Fund on June 30, 2008, a total of about \$859 billion has been approved for military operations, base security, reconstruction, foreign aid, embassy costs, and veterans' health care for the three operations initiated since the 9/11 attacks.

This \$859 billion total covers all war-related appropriations from FY2001 through part of FY2009 in supplementals, regular appropriations, and continuing resolutions.

Of that total, CRS estimates that Iraq will receive about \$653 billion (76 percent), OEF about \$172 billion (20 percent), and enhanced base security about \$28 billion (3 percent), with about \$5 billion that CRS cannot allocate (1 percent) or readily determine where it was allocated.

As of April 2008, DOD's monthly obligations for contracts and pay averaged about \$12.1 billion, including \$9.8 billion for Iraq, and \$2.3 billion for Afghanistan.

The recently enacted FY2008 Supplemental (H.R. 2642/P.L. 110–252) includes a total of about \$160 billion for war costs for the Department of Defense (DOD), State/USAID and Veterans Administration medical programs for the rest of FY2008 and part of FY2009.

In February 2008, the Congressional Budget Office projected that additional war costs from FY2009 through FY2018 could range from \$440 billion, if troop levels fell to 30,000 by 2010, \$1.0 trillion, if troop levels fell to 75,000 by about 2013. Under these scenarios, CBO projects that funding for Iraq, Afghanistan and the GWOT could reach from about \$1.1 trillion to about \$1.7 trillion for FY2001–FY2018.

As of August 2008 in the Marine Corps alone we have lost over 1,060 young men and women give the ultimate sacrifice for our country, (OIF 1,001 and OEF 59). This does not even include our men and women in the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard.

With all that we are spending to send our armed forces overseas, we need to be keeping in mind what they will need when they return.

HEALTHCARE

It is our duty to take care of those who have risked life and limb to secure our freedom and the freedom of others around the world. The World Health Organization ranked the U.S. health care system 37th in the world for quality and 55th for fairness. We are the only industrialized country that does not have universal health care.

That is why I have supported Congressman JOHN CONYER's Universal Healthcare legislation (H.R. 676). We need all Americans—parents, children, veterans—to receive healthcare. H.R. 1527 ensures this kind of access to care for our Rural Veteran's and I can only hope that we continue to look at this type of legislation for everyone in this great Nation.

TEXAS VETERANS

In Texas, we have the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) that was created in 1927. We have 9 medical centers and two regional centers with one in my great city of Houston, TX and one in Waco, TX. The Waco Regional Office serves over 942,000 veterans, as well as their family members, in the 164-county area that comprises the northern two-thirds of Texas. Each year, they process more than \$1.9 billion in VA benefit payments are issued to Texas veterans.

This is why I fought to get \$1 million to Riverside Hospital in Houston to help our vet-

eran's with their health care and their mental health issues. At this historic African-American hospital they work with our veteran's and assist with care for Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Our Veteran's in our urban and rural areas deserve the best care we can give. We should not hesitate to care for the men and women who fought so courageously for us.

CONCLUSION

We are facing rising food, gas, and energy costs. Our housing markets are still reeling and we are at high levels of unemployment. We must ensure that the Securities markets are secure and able to withstand our current economic climate. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS CHAPTER

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter. Today, Honor Flight is making its latest trip to Washington to bring Kentucky's World War II veterans to visit the memorials that honor their courage and heroism and those that celebrate the heroic military personnel who served before them and those who followed in their footsteps.

Today, the United States of America has, without question, the most powerful military in the world. But in 1941, when an unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor awakened a sleeping giant, America's military might was anything but certain. Though we did not have the larges or richest in the world, the United States' military was made up of warriors with unflagging courage and limitless dedication that followed in a tradition dating back to the Revolutionary War and continues to this day.

They are called the greatest generation and with good reason. By war's end, it was not only our military that went unquestioned. Following their efforts, the United States of America emerged from battle as a beacon of freedom and liberty.

Today, 63 years after their victory over Nazism, fascism, and imperialism, some of those heroes join us in the Nation's Capitol for the first time. As ever, we remain a Nation grateful for their sacrifice and indebted for their success.

Today's trip brings to Washington the following 38 Kentucky World War II veterans: Harold Ausmus, Ruben Avila, Fredrick Balke, John Beye, Hubert Wessel, Cynthia Phelps, Arthur Decker, Barbara Abbott, John Bruggensmith, Leslie Cohen, Clarence Crawford, James “Art” Cutoff, Wayne Tabor, Herman Sasse, Charles Dever, John Cook, Robert Kottcamp, Neal Puckett, Bernard Ohare, John Okeefe, Blond Puckett, Leslie “Dan” Stickler, Charles Tribble, Ernest Spencer, Harold Phillips, Joseph Riney, Kathryn Mattingly, Edward Peterson, Bill Brundage, Therese Comstock, Henry “Don” Donaldson, Matthew Flanagan, Robert Carrico, Robert Hall, Edward Jackey, Clyde Logsdon, Leonard O'Dell, and Edward Oechsli.

I urge my colleagues to join me in welcoming them to Washington, recognizing their