

Then on March the 6th, 1836, which would be tomorrow morning, 13 days after defending the Alamo, these individuals were sieged by a force of military Mexican soldiers several times the size of the 187 defenders. Most of them knew that that would be their last night on Earth and that tomorrow they would see their fate because they were outnumbered.

You have heard all of their names throughout history. Probably the most famous are a Tennessee Congressman by the name of Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, famous from Louisiana, but there were others—Juan Sequin from Mexico, who was a scout, or William Barret Travis, the commander of the Alamo. Jim Bonham was a scout who was also a boyhood friend of William Barret Travis. In all, there were 187. William Barret Travis was a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina, then Alabama, and then he came to what is now Texas.

All of these individuals called themselves, not Texans, but Texians. Even Hispanic defenders of the Alamo referred to themselves as Tehanos, or Texians.

No one came to the help of the individuals who were at the Alamo, even though Travis had sent out numerous requests for aid, except for 32 men from the small town of Gonzales. They marched their way into the Alamo walls, and when they arrived, Travis made the comment, "These men came to die."

We all have heard about his famous letter that he has written, that is now in history, about how he had asked for aid and about how he was determined to sustain himself for as long as possible, which he did.

Some historians say and tradition says that, before the last day took place on March the 5th, in the evening, William Barret Travis drew a line in the sand with his sword, and he told those individuals who wanted to fight, and yet die for the Republic of Texas, to cross the line.

Historians say the first person to cross the line was a 26-year-old kid from Ohio. All walked over except an individual by the name of Moses Rose. Moses Rose was an individual from France, and he decided not to stay at the Alamo, and left over the Alamo wall. He later became one of the biggest sources for what took place at the Alamo.

That next morning, Santa Anna assaulted the troops, assaulted the fort, and after several hours of fighting, the fort was taken. What few defenders were captured after they surrendered were summarily executed, and the bodies were burned. William Barret Travis made the comment that victory would be more costly to the enemy than defeat. He was right. Ten times the number of Santa Anna's military and army were defeated and killed at that battle.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that we remember the men of the Alamo who fought for victory in the Republic of

Texas. It's important that we always remember anybody anywhere in the world who fights for liberty, and we honor those people tonight.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO THAT DIED MARCH 6, 1836, BY MARY ANN NOONON GUERRA, HISTORIAN

Abamillo, Juan, San Antonio (Mexico); Allen, Robert, Virginia; Andross, Miles DeForest, 21, Vermont; Autry, Micajah, 42, North Carolina; Badillo, Juan Antonio, San Antonio (Mexico); Bailey, Peter James III, Kentucky; Baker, Isaac G., 22, Arkansas; Baker, William Charles M., Missouri; Ballentine, John J., Pennsylvania; Ballentine, Richard W., 22, Scotland; Baugh, John J., 33, Virginia; Bayliss, Joseph, 28, Tennessee; Blair, John, Tennessee; Blair, Samuel C., 33, Tennessee; Blazeby, William, 41, England; Bonham, James Butler, 29, South Carolina; Bourne, Daniel, 26, England; Bowie, James, 40, Kentucky; Bowman, Jesse B., 51, Tennessee; Brown, George, 35, England; Brown, James Murry, 36, Pennsylvania; Brown, Robert, 18, Unknown; Buchanan, James, 23, Alabama; Burns, Samuel E., 26, Ireland; Butler, George D., 23, Missouri; Cain (Cane), John, 34, Pennsylvania; Campbell, James (Robert), 26, Tennessee; Carey, William R., 30, Virginia; Clark, Charles Henry, Missouri; Clark, M.B., Mississippi; Cloud, Daniel William, 24, Kentucky; Cochran, Robert E., 26, New Hampshire; Cottle, George Washington, 27, Missouri; Courtman, Henry, 28, Germany; Crawford, Lemuel, 22, South Carolina; Crockett, David, 50, Tennessee; Crossman, Robert, 26, Pennsylvania; Cummings, David P., 29, Pennsylvania; Cunningham, Robert W., 34, New York; Darst, Jacob C., Kentucky; Davis, John, Kentucky; Day, Freeman H.K., Unknown; Day, Jerry C., Missouri; Daymon, Squire, Tennessee; Dearduff, William, Tennessee; Dennison, Stephen (or Ireland), England; Despallier, Charles, Louisiana; Dickerson (Dickinson), Almeron, 36, Tennessee; Dimpkins, James R., England; Duvalt, Andrew, Ireland; Espalier, Carlos, San Antonio (Mexico); Esparza, Gregorio (Jose Maria), San Antonio (Mexico); Evans, Robert, Ireland; Evans, Samuel B., New York; Ewing, James L., Tennessee; Fishbaugh, William, Alabama; Flanders, John, Massachusetts; Floyd, Dolphin Ward, North Carolina; Forsyth, John Hubbard, 39, New York; Fuentes, Antonio, San Antonio (Mexico); Fuqua, Galba, Alabama; Garnett, William, Virginia; Garrand, James W., Louisiana; Garrett, James Girard, Tennessee; Garvin, John E., Unknown; Gaston, John E., 17, Kentucky; George, James, Unknown; Goodrich, John Camp, Virginia; Grimes, Albert (Alfred) Calvin, Georgia; Gwynne, James C., England; Hannum, James, Pennsylvania; Harris, John, Kentucky; Harrison, Andrew Jackson, Tennessee; Harrison, William B., Ohio; Haskell, Charles M., Tennessee; Hawkins, Joseph M., Ireland; Hays, John M., Tennessee; Herndon, Patrick Henry, Virginia; Hersee, William Daniel, England; Holland, Tapely, 26, Ohio; Holloway, Samuel, Pennsylvania; Howell, William D., Massachusetts; Jackson, Thomas, Ireland; Jackson, William Daniel, Kentucky; Jameson, Green B., Kentucky; Jennings, Gordon C., Connecticut; Jimenez, Damacio, San Antonio (Mexico); Johnson, Lewis, Wales; Jones, John, New York; Kellogg, John Benjamin, Kentucky; Kenny, James, Virginia; Kent, Andrew, Kentucky; Kerr, Joseph, Louisiana; Kimble (Kimbell), George C., Pennsylvania; King, William Phillip, 15, San Antonio (Mexico); Lewis, William Irvine, San Antonio (Mexico); Lightfoot, William J., San Antonio (Mexico); Lindley, Jonathan L., Illinois; Linn, William, Massachusetts; Losoya, Jose Toribio,

San Antonio (Mexico); Main, George Washington, Virginia; Malone, William T., Virginia; Marshall, William, Tennessee; Martin, Albert, Rhode Island; McCafferty, Edward, Unknown; McCoy, Jesse, Tennessee; McDowell, William, Pennsylvania; McGee, James, Ireland; McGregor, John, Scotland; McKinney, Robert, Tennessee; Melton, Elice (Eliel), 38, Georgia; Miller, Thomas R., Tennessee; Millsaps, Isaac, 41, Mississippi; Mills, William, Tennessee; Mitchasson, Edward F., Virginia; Mitchell, Napoleon B., Unknown; Moore, Robert B., Virginia; Moore, Willis A., Mississippi; Musselman, Robert, 31, Ohio; Nava, Andres, San Antonio (Mexico); Neggan, George, South Carolina; Nelson, Andrew M., Tennessee; Nelson, Edward, South Carolina; Nelson, George, South Carolina; Northcross, James, Virginia; Nowlan, James, England; Pagan, George, Mississippi; Parker, Christopher Adams, Mississippi; Parks, William, North Carolina; Perry, Richardson, San Antonio (Mexico); Pollard, Amos, 33, Massachusetts;

Reynolds, John Purdy, Pennsylvania; Robertson, James Waters, Tennessee; Roberts, Thomas H., Unknown; Robinson, Isaac, Scotland; Rose, James M., Ohio; Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland; Rutherford, Joseph, Kentucky; Ryan, Isaac, Louisiana; Scurlock, Mial, North Carolina; Sewell, Marcus L., England; Shied, Manson, Georgia; Simmons, Cleveland Kinloch, 21, South Carolina; Smith, Andrew H., Tennessee; Smith, Charles S., Maryland; Smith, Joshua G., North Carolina; Smith, William H., Unknown; Starr, Richard, England; Stewart James E., England; Stockton, Richard Lucius, New Jersey; Summerlin, A. Spain, Tennessee; Summers, William E., Tennessee; Sutherland, William Depriest, 18, Alabama;

Taylor, Edward, Tennessee; Taylor, George, Tennessee; Taylor, James, Tennessee; Taylor, William, Tennessee; Thomas, B. Archer M., Kentucky; Thomas, Henry, Germany; Thompson, Jesse G., Arkansas; Thomson, John W., North Carolina; Thurston, John M., Pennsylvania; Trammel Burke, Ireland; Travis, William Barret, 27, South Carolina; Tumlinson, George W., Missouri; Tylee, James, New York; Walker, Asa, Tennessee; Walker, Jacob, 37, Tennessee; Ward, William B., 30, Ireland; Warnell, Henry, 24, Arkansas; Washington, Joseph G., Kentucky; Waters, Thomas, England; Wells, William, Georgia; White, Isaac, Alabama; White, Robert, Unknown;

Williamson, Hiram James, Pennsylvania; Wills, William, Georgia; Wilson, David L., Scotland; Wilson, John, 32, Pennsylvania; Wolfe, Anthony (Avram), England; Wright, Claiborne, North Carolina; Zanco, Charles, Denmark; and John (last name unknown), Unknown.

IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN: AN OUTLINE FOR ACTION IN IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation has released a report. It's called "Implementing the President's Plan: An Outline for Action in Iraq."

This report, based on the Obama plan to redeploy U.S. troops and military contractors in 16 months, was written by retired military leaders Colonel Richard L. Klass, Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., and Brigadier General John Johns.

In a town full of reports, theirs is unique because it gives a clear outline of just how to execute the administration's original plan for a responsible and orderly redeployment from Iraq. Anyone who questioned the original proposal just needs to listen to those who know what it really means to carry out a military plan.

About the 16-month timeline, retired Army Lieutenant General Robert Gard says, "President Obama's plan to remove combat forces from Iraq is militarily workable and can be executed responsibly."

Echoing what many of us in Congress have been saying for years, retired Air Force Colonel Richard Klass said, "Redeployment of U.S. combat forces should be coupled with a diplomatic surge to help stabilize Iraq."

Mr. Speaker, instead of a residual force of up to 50,000 troops, this plan proposes a workable U.S. redeployment schedule that would result in, first, 100,000 total U.S. troops remaining in Iraq by the end of 2009 and 35,000 to 65,000 support troops remaining in Iraq up until 2010 when the President's 16-month timetable would end, if it is initiated by April 2009, and less than 1,000 troops remaining by December 2011 when the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement mandates that all U.S. forces be out of Iraq.

Not only would this plan redeploy troops and military contractors, but it would ensure that the United States will not have any permanent bases in Iraq. Even though the report comes from former military brass, they readily acknowledge that there is no military solution to the situation in Iraq.

The report calls for a strong diplomatic surge. It goes on to say, "The United States needs to undertake an all-fronts diplomatic initiative to engage the nations of the region to help stabilize Iraq."

The evidence keeps mounting up, Mr. Speaker, and the extended occupation of Iraq is not in the interest of the United States, of the international community or of the Iraqi people. I encourage our military and foreign policy leaders to look closely at this report and to heed the American people. We must redeploy all troops and military contractors from Iraq, and we must do it as soon as possible.

**TAKING CARE OF OUR NATION'S
VETERANS—LCPL JEREMY
SMERUD**

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. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has asked many of its military personnel to serve in Iraq and in Afghanistan to fight for freedom and for the protection of the American people. Unfortunately, many of these servicemembers are returning home with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder—PTSD—and other mental health challenges.

A 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have symptoms of PTSD or major depression. This study also found that many servicemembers say they do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they fear it will harm their careers. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

One disturbing example involves Lance Corporal Jeremy Smerud, a marine who is stationed in my district at Camp Lejeune.

Last month, I received a letter from his mother, who is very concerned about how the Marine Corps is treating her son. Mr. Speaker, for the second time, I would like to read the letter from Jeremy's mother:

"My son joined the Marine Corps while still in high school. I remember him as a little boy, looking in awe of his grandfather in his Marine Corps uniform and telling me that was what he was going to be when he grew up.

"Growing up, Jeremy was the son every parent could be proud of. He never got into any trouble in school. He was always there to help with his younger siblings, held a job after school, and was extremely active in the Boy Scouts. He earned his rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 16. Because of his Eagle Scout status, he entered the Marine Corps as a PFC and quickly rose to the rank of sergeant within his first 3 years in the Marines. He was an exemplary marine and an exemplary young man.

"If you review his military records, you can plainly see that Jeremy had no problems with behavior or performance prior to his deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has had a very difficult time readjusting to life after the conflict. He came home to a 'Dear John' letter, has had several friends injured and killed, and has seen more destruction than most of us will in a lifetime. Having no one to turn to for help because of the stigma and the fear of losing his career, he started drinking to self-medicate and to be able to sleep.

"Congressman, do you know what it is like to listen to your once strong son cry like a baby at 3:30 in the morning 3 or 4 times a week because he cannot handle what he has been through? Wanting to kill himself because he doesn't feel he is worthy to live because his brothers were shot? Do you know what it's like to be 1,500 miles away and not have the ability to help him through this, all the while wondering and asking why the Corps he so proudly served and willingly has written him off as worthless and weak and has offered no help to prevent him from faltering further?

"I am so desperately disappointed in the way the Corps has treated my son. My son left the Marine Corps 100 percent intact. He will be leaving the Marine Corps with two feet that are fractured, back and knee problems, de-

creased hearing, decreased vision, and PTSD that will carry a life-long burden for him.

"Yet, according to the Corps, he has disgraced them by his behavior and is no longer worthy. The way I see this, they used him, abused him, now will discard him and find some fresh, young man who isn't tainted, and they will mold him and ask him to sacrifice himself for their cause, and when he is no longer of use to them, they will discard him as well.

"I hope with all my heart the Marine Corps will find the moral courage to do the right thing when it comes to not only Jeremy but all other young men and women who need their help and guidance."

Mr. Speaker, I along with Congressman TOM LATHAM have written the Commandant of the Marine Corps about this marine who is pending Involuntary Administrative Separation due to misconduct. Lance Corporal Smerud's fitness report proved that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployments. His medical board report states, "His service in the Marine Corps caused his PTSD and indirectly his incidents/legal problems. The Marine Corps' failure to treat him in the past and treat him appropriately has done nothing but worsen the problem."

Mr. Speaker, it will be difficult for this marine to succeed in life if he is administratively separated from the Service. He will not be eligible for TRICARE benefits; he will have difficulty obtaining a job, and it is unlikely that a university will accept him as a student. This is a story of one marine, but this is not an isolated problem. The culture within all branches of Service must change to recognize that PTSD is a real concern that must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I want to say that I have great faith in the Marine Corps and in all of our Services. I ask the Marine Corps to please look into this case and all cases of those who have PTSD. They deserve the love, and they deserve the treatment of this Nation. With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform, to bless the families who have given their loved one in Afghanistan and in Iraq—those who have died—and to bless the wounded, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

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

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

THREE CUPS OF TEA

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