

of the Act. Specifically, they have concluded that the U.S. advance approval for reprocessing or storage contained in the Agreed Minute to the proposed Agreement is not inimical to the common defense and security. An analysis of the advance approval given in the Agreed Minute is contained in the NPAS.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the period of 30 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 b., the period of 60 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 21, 2009.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE LONG LAMENTABLE DARKNESS OF WAR AND THE PATRIOTS WHO BRING THE MORNING LIGHT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it's been solemnly said that "the story of America's quest for freedom is inscribed on her history in the blood of her patriots." Those comments were made by Randy Vader.

America was born of war and has always had to fight to keep liberty's light shining very bright.

Monday is Memorial Day. We honor those of the military family who went somewhere in the world, fighting for America's ideals and protecting the rest of us, but did not return home. Their blood has stained and sanctified the lands of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the soil of America and places known only by God.

One of those warriors was Frank Luke. Madam Speaker, you may have never heard of him, but he is just one of the 4.4 million doughboys that went over there in World War I. He's an example of the young, tenacious American warrior.

This is a photograph of him taken shortly before his death in 1918. In World War I, in September of 1918, in just 9 days of combat flying, 10 missions, and only 30 hours of flight time, Second Lieutenant Frank Luke shot down 18 enemy aircraft. Let me repeat. Eighteen enemy aircraft.

On his last patrol, though pursued by eight German planes, without hesi-

tation he attacked and shot down in flames three German aircraft, being himself under heavy fire from ground batteries and hostile planes. Severely wounded, he descended within 50 meters of the ground and, flying at this low altitude in France, opened fire on enemy troops, killing six and wounding many more. Forced to make a landing, and surrounded on all sides by the enemy, he drew his automatic pistol, defended himself gallantly until he fell dead with a wound in the chest.

Frank Luke was 20 years of age. He had been in Europe less than 30 days. He won the Congressional Medal of Honor, and he was the first aviator in United States history to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was one of the 116,000 doughboys who died in the War to End All Wars that did not return home.

Author Blaine Pardoe referred to him as the "terror of the autumn skies."

That was 90 years ago. It has always been the young that give their youth so we can have a future. And we should always remember every one of them, every one that died in all of America's wars.

Now we are engaged in a war in the valley of the sun and the deserts of the gun, in Iraq, and the rugged, cruel, rough mountains of Afghanistan.

My congressional district area of southeast Texas has lost 26 warriors since I have been in Congress. Here they are, Madam Speaker. You notice they represent a cross section of the United States. They are all races. They're of both sexes. They are of all ages, and they're from all branches of the service. They're from big cities like Houston, Texas, and small towns like Hull, Sabine Pass, Beach City, Humble, Groves; yet, they're all American warriors who gave their lives in combat for the United States.

I will place the names and backgrounds of these 26 from the Second Congressional District of Texas who have been killed in Iraq into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ROLLCALL OF THE DEAD

Russell Slay, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Humble, TX. Russell played the guitar and he and his buddies started a band while in Iraq called the Texas Trio.

Wesley J. Canning, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Friendswood, TX. Wesley had a quick smile, a captivating personality, and loved wearing his Marine Corps T-shirt to class his senior year of high school.

Fred Lee Maciel, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Spring, TX. He is remembered as an athlete, a leader in the school's Naval Junior ROTC, and a role model for other students.

Wesley R. Riggs, a PFC in the U.S. Army, from Beach City, TX. Wesley liked four-wheeling and camping. He was also a member of the Houston Olympic weight lifting team.

William B. Meeuwssen, a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Kingwood, TX. Bill strongly believed that we all share a responsibility to serve on behalf of God and country, to protect freedoms we all cherish so deeply.

Robert A. Martinez, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Cleveland, TX.

Robert was a baseball pitcher at Cleveland High and dreamed of getting his degree in education and becoming a baseball coach.

Jerry Michael Durbin, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Spring, TX. He was a gifted artist with a special talent for original cartoon characters and superheroes. He actually designed his platoon's boot camp T-shirt when he entered the Army.

Walter M. Moss Jr., a Tech. Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, from Houston, TX. After 16 years of military service, Walter had a reputation for excellence. Even though he was in the Air Force, the Navy and Marines honored him with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and he was also awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart.

Kristian Menchaca, a PFC in the U.S. Army, from Houston, TX. Kristian joined the United States Army with the goal of using his military experience to become a Border Patrol agent.

Benjamin D. Williams, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Orange, TX. Benjamin played football in high school and as soon as he graduated, he joined the United States Marine Corps.

Ryan A. Miller, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Pearland, TX. Ryan was so committed to a future defending others, he graduated from high school early just so he could enlist into the United States Marine Corps and follow in the footsteps of Dad and Granddad.

Edward Reynolds, Jr., a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Groves, TX. Friends knew Edward as the man that kept them out of trouble, pushing them to succeed in life.

West Point Graduate Michael Fraser, a Captain in the U.S. Army, from Houston, TX. Twice, Michael led his high school cross-country team to qualify for the Texas State cross-country meet.

Luke Yepsen, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Kingwood, TX. He was a graduate of Kingwood High School, and he was known for his big heart and ability to live life to its fullest.

Dustin R. Donica, a Specialist in the U.S. Army, from Spring, TX. Dustin loved to joke around with his family and his friends, and he was known by many for his unique sense of humor.

Ryan R. Berg, a Specialist in the U.S. Army, from Sabine Pass, TX. Ryan knew his calling after high school was to join the United States Army. He wanted to protect his country, like he had protected those he knew and loved all his life.

Terrance D. Dunn, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Houston, TX. Terrance was known as "Dunnaman" to his fellow soldiers. If something needed to be done, Dunnaman did it, and it was given to him to do because they could always count on him to get the job done.

Anthony Aguirre, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Houston, TX. During Anthony's senior year in high school, he achieved the rank of cadet captain. Even after graduation, Anthony stopped by the high school often to proudly talk with the Junior ROTC cadets about the Marines.

Brandon Bobb, a PFC in the U.S. Army, from Port Arthur, TX. Brandon thought that being a military police officer in the Army was the best job in the world.

Zachary Endsley, a PFC in the U.S. Army, from Spring, TX. Zachery enjoyed drawing and playing his guitar. He was so good at drawing he won several competitions while in high school.

Kamisha Block, a Specialist in the U.S. Army, from Vidor, TX. Friends say that Kamisha always knew where she was headed in life, that she had a big heart and genuinely wanted to help make other people's lives better.

Donald E. Valentine III, a Corporal in the U.S. Army, born in Houston, TX. Valentine joined the United States Army because of the 9/11 attack on this country proudly following in the footsteps of his father.

Jeremy W. Burris, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, from Liberty, TX. Jeremy survived the initial blast of an IED explosive and heroically helped save the lives of two other wounded Marines before a second bomb was detonated—taking his life.

Eric Duckworth, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Plano, TX. Eric's only two wishes growing up were that he serve in the military and serve in law enforcement. He was blessed to be able to fulfill both of his dreams.

Scott A. McIntosh, a Corporal in the U.S. Army, from Humble, TX. Friends say that Scott always had a positive outlook, his mission in life was to meet and make friends with every person he came in contact with—and he did.

Shawn Tousha, a Sergeant in the U.S. Army, from Hull, TX. During Shawn's first tour of duty in Iraq he decided to re-enlist in the Army and make the military his career. He ended up serving three tours of duty in Iraq.

It has been said that "wars may be fought by weapons, but they are won by warriors. It is the spirit of the men who follow and the man who leads that gains the victory." That was said by General George S. Patton, Jr. near the end of World War II.

These noble 26 are just some of the 4,962 that have been killed in the line of duty taking care of America in America's current wars in the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, this is a photograph of the cliffs of Normandy. This is in Normandy, France, where 9,347 Americans are buried, most of them young kids. They liberated and saved France and the rest of Europe in the great World War II. They never came home. The guns have long since been silent on Normandy's shores, but the sands are still stained with the blood of the fallen soldiers.

On the 40th anniversary of D-day, on June 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan stood at this cemetery and said "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared so we may always be free."

So, Madam Speaker, when the sun comes up Monday morning, we should fly the Flag, stand outside, look to the heavens and thank those who took care of America in the long, lamentable dark night of the hour of war.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1815

A PEACE PLAN FOR MEMORIAL DAY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, next Monday is Memorial Day, when we honor the sacrifices of the men and women who have died in our Nation's wars. The American people will remember our fallen heroes in many,

many ways. We will pay tribute in our houses, in our houses of worship, in our community centers, in our veterans' buildings, and in our cemeteries. There will be family gatherings. There will be parades. Veterans will hold memorials across this Nation, and countless Americans will simply bow their heads and say a silent prayer of thanks.

Sadly, there are more fallen heroes to remember this year. Since Memorial Day last year, 394 of our brave troops have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and by this time next year, I fear there will be more brave dead to remember and more military families who will be grieving; but Memorial Day should be more than a time to remember the bitter harvest of war. It should be a time for our Nation to seek peaceful alternatives to war so that no more of our brave troops will die. That's the best way to honor those who have given their lives for their country.

To accomplish this, however, we must make the military option the very last option that we would choose when we develop our national security policies. We've tried the military option. Where has it gotten us? We're still bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our foreign adventures have cost us over \$1 trillion so far, and they have contributed to the economic meltdown that we're experiencing now. In Afghanistan, anti-American feeling is spreading, and it has become a major recruiting tool for those who would harm our country.

I know that these problems were dumped into President Obama's lap when he came into office, and I know that he is a peacemaker. On Monday, in his meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel, he called for talks with Iran, and he called for a two-state solution to the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I applaud him for both of those positions, but I voted against the supplemental funding bill for Iraq and Afghanistan because it will only continue the policies of occupation, the policies of war that have failed us.

Instead, I urge my colleagues to support a different approach, an approach that will give us a real chance to succeed. I call this approach "Smart Security Platform for the 21st Century."

The Smart Security Platform would help to eliminate the root causes of violence in the world by increasing economic development aid and debt relief to the poorest countries. It would further address the root causes of violence by supporting conflict resolution, human rights, and democracy-building.

It calls for the United States to work with the international community to promote diplomacy and to strengthen international law.

It calls for reducing weapons of mass destruction, and it calls for reducing conventional weapons by supporting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions. It calls for ade-

quately funding the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to secure nuclear materials in Russia and in other countries and to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

It would invest in renewable energy to end our addiction to oil and to stop the flow of hundreds of billions of dollars to irresponsible regimes.

It includes strategies to strengthen international intelligence and law enforcement to capture individuals involved in violence, while respecting at the same time their human and civil rights.

Madam Speaker, Smart Security will show the world that America stands for peace once again. It will help protect the lives of our brave troops, and it will keep our country safe and free. That is the best way to honor the memory of our fallen heroes on Memorial Day.

U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

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. Madam Speaker, last week, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN introduced H.R. 2404, legislation to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress, outlining the exit strategy for our United States military forces in Afghanistan.

I am an original cosponsor of this bill, which now has 78 cosponsors. I became a cosponsor of this bill because it has been nearly 8 years since the United States began its military operation in Afghanistan, and I am concerned that there is no clear strategy for victory or end point to our efforts in that country. Without focused and targeted objectives, adding more manpower to an effort in Afghanistan could cause the United States to go the way of many great armies and leave our troops in a never-ending, no-win situation.

I have heard from many Vietnam veterans who are concerned that Afghanistan could become the next Vietnam. For example, Andrew Bacevich is a West Point graduate, a retired colonel, a Vietnam and Gulf War veteran, and a professor of military history. He is also the father of a son who died in Iraq in 2007.

In an article published on May 18, 2009, in the American Conservative, entitled "To Die for a Mistique: The Lessons our leaders didn't Learn from the Vietnam War," he wrote, "In one of the most thoughtful Vietnam-era accounts written by a senior military officer, General Bruce Palmer once observed, 'With respect to Vietnam, our leaders should have known that the American people would not stand still for a protracted war of an indeterminate nature with no foreseeable end to the United States commitment.'"

He further wrote, "General Palmer thereby distilled into a single sentence the central lesson of Vietnam: To embark upon an open-ended war lacking