

clearly defined and achievable objectives was to forfeit public support, thereby courting disaster. The implications were clear: never again.”

He further wrote, “Today, in contrast, the civilian contemporaries of those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan have largely tuned out the Long War. The predominant mood of the country is not one of anger or anxiety but of dull acceptance.” . . .

“To cite General Palmer’s formulation, the citizens of this country at present do appear willing to ‘stand still’ when considering the prospect of war that goes on and on. While there are many explanations for why Americans have disengaged from the Long War, the most important, in my view, is that so few of us have any immediate personal stake in that conflict.”

Madam Speaker, while America’s military personnel faithfully conduct their missions abroad, elected officials here in Washington should take seriously their responsibility to develop a viable, long-term strategy for these operations. I have spoken to many in the Army and in the Marine Corps who say that our Nation needs an end point to its war strategy. Many of these servicemembers have gone to Iraq and Afghanistan more than once, and their desire to serve this Nation is greater than ever, but the stress placed on our all-volunteer force and on their families cannot continue forever.

While the United States continues to devote its blood and treasure in Afghanistan, the Afghan Government has yet to purge itself of many who are funneling support to the Taliban.

Our men and women in uniform deserve to have the President work with his military commanders and with the United States Congress to develop the best strategy for achieving our goals and for wrapping up our military commitment in Afghanistan. I hope that many of my colleagues in both parties will join me in cosponsoring Congressman MCGOVERN’s legislation, H.R. 2404.

Madam Speaker, before I close, as I do every night on this floor, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child, dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I close by asking God to continue to bless America.

HUNTINGTON’S DISEASE PARITY ACT

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, May is Huntington’s Disease Awareness Month. I rise today with my colleague from San Diego, Congressman BILBRAY, in support of the 250,000 Americans affected by or who are at risk for developing Huntington’s disease.

This disease is a degenerative brain disorder for which there is no effective

treatment or cure. HD slowly diminishes the affected individual’s ability to walk, think, talk, and to reason. Eventually, a person with HD becomes totally dependent upon others for care. Because it is a genetic disorder, Huntington’s disease profoundly affects the lives of entire families—emotionally, socially and financially.

Over the last few months, several families in our San Diego area affected by HD have contacted us about the constant struggles they face. For example, Misty Oto lost her mother several years ago to HD. Her 40-year-old brother is now showing signs of the disease. Misty is also at risk for developing the condition as are her children.

If that weren’t bad enough, Misty and her family and countless others affected by HD are unable to receive the medical treatment and care they need. People with Huntington’s disease are continually denied disability Social Security benefits because of outdated medical guidelines. Once people with HD begin to receive disability benefits, they still must wait 2 years before they qualify for Medicare. As a result, thousands of families affected by HD are unable to receive the treatment and care they desperately need. Many wind up losing everything they own in simply trying to survive.

That is why Congressman BILBRAY and I have introduced H.R. 678, the Huntington’s Disease Parity Act of 2009. The bill directs the Social Security Administration to revise its criteria for determining disability, thereby making it easier for people with Huntington’s disease to collect disability benefits.

Mr. BILBRAY, I appreciate our joined support. I would yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join with my San Diegan colleague, Mr. FILNER, in supporting H.R. 678. This is really one of those regulatory guidelines that doesn’t work and that doesn’t address the issue at hand. HD is one of those situations where the regulation is absolutely absurd and inhumane. The fact is that for most people 2 years of waiting may not now be very much, but for those with HD it could be a death sentence.

I am honored to join with my colleague in the movement to address this inequity and deficiency in our regulation. I am happy to see that there are going to be Members joining us in correcting this situation. I thank you, Congressman, for taking the lead on this.

Again, I guess it’s really important to show that community and citizen involvement does matter. I would like to point out, as my colleague did, that Alan Rappaport and Misty Oto have worked tirelessly at trying to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to join with me and with, most importantly, my chairman, BOB FILNER, in sponsoring this bill. Hopefully, we’ll be able to bring up H.R. 678 as soon as possible.

Mr. FILNER. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from San Diego.

When we were both in local government, we worked together on numerous issues in San Diego, and I’m so glad we are working together here in the Congress.

As we said, there are two major parts of H.R. 678. Number one, the Social Security Administration must revise its criteria for determining disability to make it easier for people with Huntington’s disease to collect their benefits. It also removes the 2-year waiting period between receiving Social Security disability payments and their Medicare benefits. This will allow HD patients to get the treatment they need at the onset of the disease, when it’s most important.

This is not without precedence, Madam Speaker. In 2000, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services waived this waiting period for those suffering from ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. Huntington’s disease is tragic, but our bill, H.R. 678, will help those who suffer from this disease.

We urge the support of our colleagues for this bill.

THE WAR AGAINST TERROR

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, President Lincoln said, “Let the people know the facts, and the country will be saved.”

Today, I listened to former Vice President Cheney give the facts to the American people about the war against terror. I think my colleagues who didn’t get to hear it today really ought to hear some of the things that he has said that were very, very important and relevant to the war against terror.

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So I would like to read a few excerpts from his speech tonight so I hope my colleagues will take these to heart and hopefully put them on their Internet sites.

First of all, he said, “I was and remain a strong proponent of our enhanced interrogation program. The interrogations were used on hardened terrorists after other efforts failed. They were legal, essential, justified, successful and the right thing to do. The intelligence officers who questioned the terrorists can be proud of their work and proud of the results, because they prevented the violent death of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of innocent people.

“Attorney General Holder and others have admitted that the United States will be compelled to accept a number of the terrorists here, in the homeland,” in America, “and it has even been suggested U.S. taxpayer dollars will be used to support . . .” the terrorists here in America.

“The administration has found that it’s easy to receive applause in Europe

for closing Guantanamo. But it's tricky to come up with an alternative that will serve the interests of justice and America's national security.

"Now the President says some of these terrorists should be brought to American soil for trial in our court system. Others," he says, "will be shipped to third countries. But so far, the United States has had little luck getting any other countries to take hardened terrorists."

I think only one of them has been given to another country.

He says, "The administration seems to pride itself"—the Obama administration "seems to pride itself on searching for some kind of middle ground in policies addressing terrorism. They may take comfort in hearing disagreement from opposite ends of the spectrum. If liberals are unhappy about some decisions, and conservatives are unhappy about other decisions, then it may seem to them that the President is on the path of sensible compromise. But in the fight against terrorism, there is no middle ground, and half-measures keep you half exposed. You cannot keep just some nuclear-armed terrorists out of the United States, you must keep every nuclear-armed terrorist out of the United States. Triangulation is a political strategy, not a national security strategy. When just a single clue that goes unlearned, one lead that goes unpursued can bring on catastrophe—it's no time for splitting differences. There is never a good time to compromise when the lives and safety of the American people are in the balance."

He went on to say, "It is much closer to the truth that terrorists hate this country precisely because of the values we profess and seek to live by, not by some alleged failure to do so. Nor are terrorists or those who see them as victims exactly the best judges of America's moral standards, one way or the other. Critics of our policies are given to lecturing on the theme of being consistent with American values.

"But no moral value held dear by the American people obliges public servants to sacrifice innocent lives to spare a captured terrorist from unpleasant things. And when an entire population is targeted by a terror network, nothing is more consistent with American values than to stop them.

"Somehow, when the soul-searching was done and the veil was lifted on the policies of the Bush administration, the public was given less than half the truth. The released memos were carefully redacted." They crossed things out "to leave out references to what our government learned through the methods in question. Other memos, laying out specific terrorist plots that were averted, apparently were not even considered for release. For reasons the administration has yet to explain, they believe the public has a right to know the method of the questions, but not the content of the answers."

And the bottom line, Madam Speaker, is our intelligence agencies have done a great job in protecting this country for the past 8 years ever since 9/11. We should not be hamstringing those, and today I think former Vice President Cheney really told the story the way it ought to be told, and I hope all of my colleagues and every American is paying attention.

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

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

THE DEATH OF SPECIALIST MICHAEL YATES

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

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, today a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Specialist Michael Yates, was laid to rest. Specialist Yates, of Federalsburg, was killed in a senseless act of violence that should serve to shine a brighter light on the mental health of those serving our Nation. Specialist Yates, along with four colleagues, reportedly was shot and killed by a fellow serviceman on duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Liberty in Baghdad.

Growing up on the Eastern Shore, Specialist Yates was an avid hunter and fisherman and like many of my constituents held a deep love for his country and a desire to serve in defense of freedom. At the young age of 17, Specialist Yates joined the Army where he was sent to Ft. Knox, Germany, and then to Iraq, where he served as a cavalry scout.

Specialist Yates had recently returned to Federalsburg where he was able to visit with family and friends one last time before returning to Iraq and ultimately to a counseling center at Camp Liberty. It was here that a fellow soldier whom he had reportedly described to his step-father as "a fairly decent guy who had some major issues," shot and killed Specialist Yates.

The death of Specialist Yates and his fellow soldiers must serve as a warning sign that the time is now, especially with an influx of returning veterans to make soldiers' and veterans' mental health a priority and heed Secretary Gates' recommendation to support funding for traumatic brain injury and psychological health exams for our servicemen and -women. Honoring our commitment to those who serve our Nation means offering them not only top-notch medical care for physical injuries, but also first-rate mental health services to help fight the alarming rising trend of suicide and mental illness among veterans.

Honoring our commitment means more than waving our banners and flags at parades. It means putting our money where our collective mouth is. We owe this to Specialist Yates, as well as the friends and families of those involved in this tragic event.

I have introduced a resolution along with fellow colleagues from both sides of the aisle who lost constituents in this incident honoring their service and calling for a greater focus on mental health issues among servicemen and veterans. I urge my colleagues to sign on and support this resolution when it reaches the floor.

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

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

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

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

REMEMBERING RICHARD WARREN OF PAT'S COFFEE SHOP

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, there is a coffee shop in my district and Richard Warren owned that coffee shop, and to every veteran that walked in the door, he said, Welcome home. And today, tonight, on Memorial Day, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Richard Warren of Mooresville, North Carolina.

He was the owner and operator of Pat's Coffee Shop and a Vietnam veteran. Richard Warren served in the 68th Attack Helicopter Company of the United States Army, and for the last 14 years, Richard ran Pat's Coffee Shop in Mooresville. Now, this is not your ordinary coffee shop. Pat's became known as the most patriotic coffee shop in America. In no time, that little coffee shop became exactly what Richard had envisioned: a gathering place for local veterans. Veterans from all across Iredell County and around the region, even, would come together every day to share their tales and stories—boy, were there some stories—over coffee and a bite to eat.

Before long, veterans started bringing mementos from their time in the service. Richard hung those pictures and memorabilia on the wall and acknowledged every veteran—as I said every veteran who walked in that door got a very honest "welcome home" from Richard Warren. Pat's Coffee Shop became a living shrine to the men and women, the veterans, who risked their lives to defend America.