

## HONORING THE U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER "MOHAWK"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the brave work and the supreme dedication of the command and crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*.

The *Mohawk* has just returned from a 2-month deployment and is now home at Coast Guard Sector Key West. During their deployment, they were diverted to Haiti in response to the earthquake that hit on January 12. The *Mohawk* was the second cutter on the scene and the first to have Coast Guard crew members on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

On behalf of our grateful Nation, I thank each and every crew member for their role in this humanitarian mission. My most supreme appreciation goes out to Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez. Corpsman Gomez will certainly be receiving commendations and awards in the coming months for his heroic actions in the gruesome scene that was Port-au-Prince.

Corpsmen Gomez set up a minihospital and triage directly in the streets of the capital. He set broken bones and he closed wounds, all the while having to create tools and making do with limited supplies. His actions were as resourceful, were as inventive and as innovative as they were lifesaving. Corpsman Gomez's "dirt medicine" was an example of American values at its finest. This great young American and father of four truly led by example, and I join with those whose lives he saved in thanking him for all that he has done.

Through efforts like those of Corpsman Gomez, the wonderful crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk* helped save countless lives and performed their mission in accordance with the best traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard. Their assistance was both essential and invaluable.

We have all seen the devastation that is present at the island nation of Haiti, and it is beyond words. The United States has a unique duty to protect, to defend, and to support freedom, and all peoples, around the globe. As proven by the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, this noble cause lives on in our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing service.

The efforts of the command and crew of the *Mohawk* have supplied a lifeline of humanitarian assistance to Haiti and will certainly help ignite the spirit of hope for recovery in that devastated island nation.

Every day, I give thanks to our local Coast Guard personnel, no matter how they serve. Their efforts are first and foremost to safeguard our Florida coastline. This fact is never lost on me or anyone else in south Florida. We feel their presence every day and take comfort in the fact that the men and

women of the Coast Guard Sector Miami, as well as the Sector Key West, truly lived their motto, "Always ready."

We as a nation can never repay those who serve, but we can take pride in knowing that those men and women have served not just our community but our neighbors in need as well. Their humanitarian mission reminds us all of what it means to be an American and why we should be so proud to say, every day, "I am an American."

The commitment of the U.S. Coast Guard is illustrative of how we must all do our part to help with continuing relief efforts in Haiti. To each and every crew member on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, I say thank you: Commanding Officer Robert T. Hendrickson, Executive Officer John J. Driscoll, Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez, and all of the crew as well as the families who support these heroes, thank you. Your works are testimony to our great Nation. "Always ready," and we thank you for it.

Thank you, U.S. Coast Guard. Thank you, Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*. Welcome home. Godspeed.

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

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

## ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IN WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, our Nation received a very vivid reminder that Islamic terrorists are still at war with our Nation and are bent on killing innocent American citizens. On Christmas Day, an Islamic extremist attempted to blow up Northwest Flight 253 as it was on its final approach from Amsterdam into Detroit Metro Airport with a sophisticated bomb that was smuggled onto the plane in his underwear. This terrorist had been radicalized by al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula and trained in camps in Yemen.

Following his capture in Detroit, he was only questioned by FBI agents for a total of 50 minutes. Then, after that initial questioning, the bomber was sent to the University of Michigan Burn Center, which is probably the best medical care in the entire world, all at taxpayer expense. Then Attorney General Eric Holder had to decide how to proceed.

Did Attorney General Holder and the Justice Department immediately share the information that they had gathered, the intelligence, with senior in-

telligence officials? No. Did Attorney General Holder declare this terrorist an enemy combatant and turn him over to the military for further questioning? No. Did Attorney General Holder have the FBI continue the questioning in order to obtain more actionable intelligence? No.

So what did Attorney General Holder have the FBI do? He instructed them to give full Miranda rights to this terrorist, including the right to remain silent, and gave him not one, not two, but actually three taxpayer-funded attorneys. And guess what? After he lawyered up, he shut up.

The Attorney General did this even though this terrorist had fresh, firsthand knowledge of al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula, even though he had previously given actionable intelligence. And now we have made it very difficult to obtain any further intelligence, intelligence that could have led to the disruption of other planned terrorist attacks or assistance in unwinding this terrorist network.

And we need to ask the question, "Why?"

I believe that Attorney General Holder has built a culture within the Justice Department that seems to put the rights of terrorists ahead of the safety of our Nation. Let us remember that prior to becoming the Attorney General, Eric Holder and his law firm represented many, many terrorists pro bono; that is, for free. These terrorists were held in the military justice system, and they argued for their transfer to the civilian justice system, wanting to give them full constitutional rights. As well, he has placed other attorneys who have also represented terrorists held by our government into high-ranking positions within the Justice Department.

The Attorney General, Mr. Speaker, has not answered questions as to why senior intelligence officials were not consulted on how to proceed or why this terrorist was not treated as an enemy combatant. Mr. Speaker, it almost seems like Attorney General Holder has gone into the Witness Protection Program with regard to the Christmas Day bomber. If this Congress is to do its duty to provide appropriate oversight in the handling of these issues, Attorney General Holder must answer these questions.

Unfortunately, the lack of his consulting with intelligence officials or senior national security officials is nothing new. Attorney General Holder did not consult with senior military or intelligence officials before deciding to try Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 conspirators in New York City. He did not consult with the police commissioner or the mayor about security concerns before making that decision. And now New York officials have finally come forward and objected to this trial being held just a few blocks away from Ground Zero because of