

was to say to the Senate, "Please take a look at this and please look at this seriously because this is important to a large number of people in both the Navy and Marine Corps."

There is no cost to this. This does not affect the budget. It doesn't affect even the stationery. It would just make it so that in the future, as changes come about, it would be known as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell a story about a news conference. About 6 weeks ago, the Marine Corps League held a news conference in the Cannon Office Building to announce their support of this legislation. At the news conference we had Senator PAT ROBERTS, a retired Marine officer who serves in the United States Senate, who has put in a companion bill, S. 504. In addition, we had a former Commandant, Al Gray, to speak on behalf of this legislation. We had a four star Marine General, Anthony Zinni, to speak on behalf of this legislation.

In addition, we had a young man named Eddie Wright. Eddie Wright lost both hands in Iraq for this country. And he told a very compelling story. He is a Marine, and he said, "I love the Navy." He said, "I love the corpsmen who came on the battlefield and saved my life."

Then we also had a father named Dick Lynn from Richmond, Virginia. Dick Lynn's son was killed in Iraq. He was a Marine. And Mr. Lynn told the story of his father, who had served as a World War II Navy veteran, and the fact that in Culpeper, Virginia, his son, a Marine, is buried next to his grandfather. And Dick Lynn told the story of having the headstone that says "United States Navy" that identified his father who was deceased, and then beside his father was his son's headstone that had "United States Marine Corps".

I bring that up, Mr. Speaker, because we can see beside me is a poster of an actual condolence letter from the United States Navy to the family of a Marine captain who was killed in Iraq. And it says, "The Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.," with the Navy flag. I certainly took the names out of the condolence letter for this poster. Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine. "Dear Marine Corps Family: On behalf of the Department of the Navy, please accept my very sincere condolences."

Mr. Speaker, the Navy and Marine Corps are one fighting team. They deserve to be respected as one fighting team by carrying the name Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, if this bill is accepted by the Senate, what we would see in a condolence letter would be "The Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps," with the Navy flag and the Marine Corps flag. And it would say, "Dear Marine Corps Family: On behalf of the Department of Navy and Marine Corps, we extend our condolences." That's the story that Mr. Lynn tried to say at the news conference.

Why cannot the Senate understand the importance of paying the respects with the recognition to the Marine Corps which the Navy has, the Army has, the Air Force has? This is a very simple change of three words, with no cost to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say there is a national Web site. It's called MarineCause.com. Gunnery Sergeant Lee Ermey, a movie star who himself served in the Marine Corps, in the movie Full Metal Jacket, which is about Vietnam, he is the DI in that movie. He is also on the Military Channel with Lock 'N Load and Mail Call. He is our national spokesman on this Web site. So I hope that the American people would join in this effort.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I rise today to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the teachers across the country. This apple is but a symbol of my gratitude for all that teachers have given to me. I have been fortunate enough to live the American dream.

My teachers were ones who made it all possible, whether it was Ms. Barber, who taught me in my early years at Cleveland School; or Coach Bruce Coats, who taught me that it was not enough just to work hard, but that you had to work smart; or Coach Fred McCall, who helped me focus my hard work in college both on and off the basketball court; or any of those who came in-between. My teachers helped shape who I am.

I recently received a letter from a teacher in Johnston County who was worried about our children. And she said, "In these tough budget times, cutting funding in education now means shortchanging an entire generation of learners for the future."

I urge my colleagues today to join me in thanking teachers and working to support funding for the teachers who will shape our Nation's future. As Americans, let us work to make every day a day we say "thank you" to the teachers who mold the future.

FLYING PIG MARATHON

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize not only all of those who participated in Sunday's Flying Pig Marathon, but most importantly, our male winner from my area, Milford, Ohio.

Let me tell you the conditions 18,000 participants faced on Sunday. Six-thirty in the morning, torrential downpour, with a forecast of a 90 percent chance it wouldn't let up. And unfortu-

nately, they were right. But as 18,000 of us decided to go at least part of the distance, 6,000 of us decided to go the full 26.2-mile distance.

The Flying Pig Marathon was the brainchild of Bob Coughlin 12 years ago. Twenty-five thousand people participated in the weekend event. And it took an enormous amount of folks, including 3,000 volunteers, to help make that event happen. For all of us that participated, we want to say "thank you".

But I think this year's winner, Brian List, really wants to say thanks to those that helped because his dream came true. This young man, Milford High School graduate, cross country participant in high school, cross country participant in college, came back to his hometown to raise a family and to continue to pursue his dream of running. This was his fourth try at the marathon in Cincinnati. He never really thought he had what it took to actually be a winner. But on Sunday, he was. He posted a great time, 2 hours, 32 minutes, and 20 seconds. He followed his dream, his heart, and achieved his goal. And I am so proud of him.

I don't want to not recognize Lauren Arnold from Colorado, the female winner, but I do want to brag about Brian List, because as a runner I know what it takes to go the distance, and he certainly did that for us.

In conclusion, I would like to say that for most of us I think we adopted Barry Manilow's song, "I Made It Through the Rain." But I know that for Brian and Lauren they were more like Gene Kelly, because at the end they were singing in the rain.

I want to thank all of those that participated, especially the volunteers. And I really want to thank Bob Coughlin for putting this brainchild together and allowing all of us to have fun. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, in Cincinnati pigs do fly at least 1 day out of the year. And next May, the first Sunday in May, it will be our 13th running. Let's hope that the weather will compete as well as it has for 11 of the 12.

I again want to say "thank you" to Brian List for following his dream, keeping his pedal to the metal, and getting that crown.

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

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

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this month marks Jewish American Heritage Month. So now seems a fitting