

PIRATES OF THE SEA: DÉJÀ VU
OF 1801

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the pirates are back. These are not the Blackbeard, eye-patched, hook-for-a-hand, peg-legged kind of pirates from the Hollywood movies. The modern-day pirates are skilled, rich, violent, armed with automatic weapons, and are driven by a business that is generating up to \$7 billion a year.

My constituents from Texas, Bill Rouse and his wife Judy, have navigated the oceans for years. Recently, they and another group of international navigators and sailors decided that Somalia and the Somalian pirates had made the seas too dangerous to sail in that region, forcing them to transport their ships and boats by barges to safer ports. Bill said that we cannot allow a bunch of thugs to take an entire ocean away from the world. And that is exactly what these pirates are trying to do. They have taken control of parts of the ocean and are trying to mock the most powerful nations on Earth, including ours.

Days before the ill-fated American ship *Quest* left for their journey, Bill asked Scott Adam to join them in transporting their boats. Adam, the skipper, said of the *Quest*, the *Quest* was circumnavigating the globe, and it was a lifelong quest. And they continued on their trip, although it turned out to be doomed, in the Indian Ocean. Just a week after Scott Adam and three other Americans were captured, they were executed pirate-style after Somali pirates captured the ship the *Quest*.

Pirates have also hijacked and kidnapped a Danish family. Bill Rouse has also met with these people on this doomed ship. This family, including small children, is now on the Somali mainland, still held hostage. Their captors have arrogantly warned that any military effort to save them will result in their immediate execution.

Bill has told me of other stories about the tight-knit community of people sailing in that region from all over the world. And they have been forced off of the sea because of the pirates. There are not enough resources to respond to these constant threats; and these pirates not only kidnap, murder, and hold for ransom small boat owners, but attack freighters and other commercial vessels as well.

In just 2010, Somali pirates hijacked 53 ships and held a total of 1,100 hostages for ransom; and pirate attacks have increased dramatically in recent months. Here is a drawing of the recent attacks of the pirates in the Indian Ocean. The red represents all of the pirate attacks between March of 2009 up until October of 2010. But the blue, which you see just as much of, represents the attacks by pirates in the Indian Ocean in just the last 4 months.

Piracy is a growing business because nations pay the ransom. Every dollar

paid in ransom is helping the pirates of the seas finance their cause, expand their reach, and their thirst is even getting greater for more bounty and loot. Despite an increased international naval presence, the Somalian pirates are getting bolder, and they are getting more violent.

America has been dealing with the threat of pirates since the days of our Founding Fathers, over 200 years ago. During the youngest years of America, the Barbary states would blackmail American ships and the United States by demanding money in return for the safety of U.S. ships that crossed the Mediterranean Sea. For years, the United States and European governments paid the humiliating tribute to protect the ships, but then in 1801 the Barbary pirates felt the wrath of the United States when Thomas Jefferson sent the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps to take care of business with the Barbary pirates.

This was the most famous action of the marines during this time. And the phrase, "from the shores of Tripoli," has been immortalized in the marine hymn. Jefferson sent a clear message to the Barbary states and their pirates: don't mess with the United States. And they didn't for 200 years. The Somalian pirates should study a little American history. If they would, they'd find out that there will be a day of reckoning that will eventually come to them and their evil ways. Thomas Jefferson destroyed them. We will see what happens now.

Our Constitution gives us the authority in article I, section 8: "To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas." These ocean lines are essential to American commerce and travel, and we must do everything in our power to stop the pirates off the Somalian coast. These pirates of the seas must find out that if they continue to mess with the United States, they will find themselves in a déjà vu of 1801. And they, like the pirates before them, will disappear in the ash heap of history.

And that's just the way it is.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. I rise today as the Democratic cochair of the Women's Caucus to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so pleased to join millions in our Nation and around the world in commemorating this International Women's Day. We celebrate courageous women in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, and elsewhere, who continue to fight the good fight at great risk to their own lives in the face of being ostracized and persecuted by their families and communities, for women's abilities to be included in the societies in which they live.

We celebrate tremendous women here at home in the United States who have done much to advance the ability of women to work, to vote, to go to school, and to run for and hold elective office. As a woman who is able to serve in Congress today, I know that I stand on the shoulders of these women giants who have sacrificed so much in the past.

But we must also recognize that much needs to be done right here in the United States. In our country, women make only 77 percent of the paycheck that a male would make doing the same job. We know that even after 100 years it is too soon to declare: Mission accomplished.

Recent news reports in Afghanistan show efforts in Afghanistan to pass legislation that would shut down domestic violence shelters. Turning our attention closer to home, in Haiti, we find that after the devastating earthquake, UNICEF has found that the rapes in Haiti are at an all time high. But we've also been fixated in recent weeks by the protests and push for democracy sweeping the Middle East. And women have been leading the charge.

We must also acknowledge the shameful plight of hundreds of thousands of mothers-to-be around the globe who die because of pregnancy or child-related complications. It's shameful that the simple act of childbirth remains a death sentence for hundreds of thousands of women and girls around the world.

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We must recommit ourselves to the Millennium Development Goal to reduce dying from pregnancy or childbirth.

Last, I had the honor of attending the State Department's Women of Courage ceremony to honor 10 women.

They were:

Maria Bashir, a prosecutor general in Afghanistan. She handles cases on behalf of women victims of domestic abuse.

Nasta Palazhanka, who at age 20 has led peaceful protests and called attention to the plight of families of political prisoners.

Henriette Ekwe Ebongo from Cameroon, a political activist and publisher of *Bebela*, she spent a lifetime advancing press freedom, human rights, good governance, and gender equality.

From China, Guo Jianmei, a lawyer. Founder of the Women's Law Center at Peking University, she helped to create a corps of lawyers to defend public interest cases, especially affecting women and other vulnerable groups.

From Cuba, Yoani Sanchez. She has an international following for her blog to provide insight into life in Cuba and to expand information flow and free expression throughout Cuba.

Agnes Osztolykan, elected to the Hungarian Parliament in 2010, the only female Roma Member of Parliament in Hungary.

From Jordan, Eva Abu Halaweh has dedicated her career to advocating for