

abroad for military training will be sent to military schools, colleges and training centres in the territories of His Britannic Majesty, provided that this shall not prevent him from sending to any other country such personnel as cannot be received in the said institutions and training centres. He further undertakes that the armament and essential equipment of his forces shall not differ in type from those of the forces of His Britannic Majesty.

7. His Majesty the King of Iraq agrees to afford, when requested to do so by His Britannic Majesty, all possible facilities for the movement of the forces of His Britannic Majesty of all arms in transit across Iraq and for the transport and storage of all supplies and equipment that may be required by these forces during their passage across Iraq. These facilities shall cover the use of the roads, railways, waterways, ports and aerodromes of Iraq, and His Britannic Majesty's ships shall have general permission to visit the Shatt-al-Arab on the understanding that His Majesty the King of Iraq is given prior notification of visits to Iraq ports.

F.H.H.
N.S.

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

(Mr. SNYDER 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TROUTMAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

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

Ms. FOXX. Last week, when I was home in North Carolina, I enjoyed celebrating our American freedom and independence in several parades and celebrations. One of the highlights of the many celebrations was the town of Troutman, North Carolina's Fourth Annual Independence Day Parade.

Thanks to the leadership of Parade Committee Chairman Dennis Cleary and members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 1091, as well as Troutman Mayor Elbert Richardson and many local citizens, this celebration was a tremendous display of American patriotism.

More than 200 Vietnam veterans served as grand marshals for this year's parade, as they led attendees through the streets of Troutman to the loud applause and cheers of their fellow citizens who welcomed them home with yellow ribbons tied along the parade route.

Many local organizations participated in this one-of-a-kind parade, led by many members of North Carolina's Rolling Thunder chapters, such as Ross

Moore; North Carolina Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 from Statesville led by Chapter President George "Mike" Keller, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran; North Carolina Rolling Thunder Chapter 6 from Winston-Salem led by Chapter President Bob Penn, a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran; as well as many veterans from the local American Legion, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the local Disabled American Veterans.

It was an honor to join one of America's true heroes in the parade, Medal of Honor recipient Rodolfo P. Hernandez. Parading through Troutman with heroes like Mr. Hernandez is a poignant reminder of why it has been such a pleasure to participate in the celebration for the past 4 years. After all, this is a celebration of what makes America great: Our love for liberty and willingness to make great personal sacrifice for the cause of liberty.

I thank also all those who worked behind the scenes to make this annual parade another great success. I give a special thanks to our veterans and current service men and women, without whom we would have little to celebrate this year. Their sacrifices are not forgotten and must not be overlooked as they put their lives on the line each day to secure our freedoms. We are the land of the free because they are the brave.

God bless our military men and women and God bless America.

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

PANIC AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, we are at what I think is a very refreshing moment of clarity on the national energy debate that is occurring right now in hamlets and towns and villages all across the United States. We have captured people's attention because we really are at a crisis point because, at least in my district, the Sixth District of Minnesota, people are paying close to \$4 for a gallon of gas. I know that the national average is at about \$4.11 a gallon. It's at historic highs and people are frantic.

When I was home over the break, I had met with people from all aspects of dealing with the energy issue. In particular, I met with some car dealers and they told me that people come into the dealership, this was Morrie Wagner Chevrolet, and they told me that they have people literally coming into the store with panicked looks on their faces saying, Take my truck, take my

SUV. It's a new car. Take my minivan. It's new. We still owe quite a bit of money on it but we can't afford to drive this thing. Sheer panic and trying to find anything else because they just don't know how much higher prices are going.

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But I say that we are at a refreshing point in this debate for this reason: We have clarity right now on the debate that we have never had before. Frankly, I have been baffled; baffled by how are we going to be able to get us back to \$2 a gallon gasoline or less? And I mean that sincerely. I know that we can be at \$2 a gallon again.

It wasn't that long ago when I took office, 18 months ago. I am a first-termer in Congress, Mr. Speaker. When I came in, gas was \$2 and change a gallon. Think of that. Eighteen months ago, gas was \$2 and change, and here we are topping out at over \$4 a gallon gasoline.

What happened in that amount of time, when we have seen a 76 percent rise in the price of gasoline? What happened? We have seen worldwide demand go up and up and up, so that worldwide demand exceeds the amount of supply. That has fed into the price going up and up and up.

Well, what do we do to deal with that? We need to get more supply so we can get the price down. Why isn't that happening? It is really clear to me now. And I was baffled about this. I couldn't believe it, but it is absolutely true.

The Democrats' position so far, Mr. Speaker, has been drive less, pay more. That is where they are coming from. I find that really hard to believe. I grew up a Democrat in a Democrat home, and I thought that just can't be. It defies commonsense. Drive less, pay more? That is your plan?

Well, that isn't just some Republican saying that. That is the Democrats' own words. There was just an aide of the Democrat leadership that just came out and said, "This is what our plan is: It is drive small cars and wait for the wind." That is actually true. This was not a tongue in cheek remark. It is "drive small cars and wait for the wind." Well, I don't know about you, but I think Members of Congress are going to be gone with the wind if we don't do something about the price of gasoline to bring it down again.

Not only that, I was reading on the Hill from Roll Call newspaper and another Democrat leadership aide had this to say: They said that the majority is confident they would be able to defeat the offshore drilling amendment.

Now, just think of that for a moment, Mr. Speaker. The Democrats are confident they would be able to defeat the offshore drilling amendment, which means what are we supposed to do for energy? We have got to go get it. We have got to drill for it. They want to kill being able to drill offshore to bring on line the energy that we need so we

can get the American people back to \$2 a gallon and so we can get the economy back on track. But they are confident that they can kill this bill.

They have no intention of bringing more energy supplies on line. In fact, this aide was quoted as saying, "We have defeated that amendment before, and we will defeat it again." They are proud of it. They admitted, at least I give them credit for that, yes, it is true, the Democrats are responsible for defeating drilling to get the energy that we need, and they are confident they are going to defeat it again.

It is almost unbelievable to me, because, as this chart says, what we need to do is bring it on. If we are short on energy, we need to bring it on. We need to bring the onshore oil on line, we need to bring the offshore oil on line, and the new refineries on line, because we are the Saudi Arabia of oil. We have more oil in three States, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, we have more oil in those three States than all of Saudi Arabia. We have 25 percent of the world's coal in this country. We can be the Saudi Arabia of coal. We have more natural gas. We have 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico, and we can't get it.

Now, why is that? It is because of Congress. Congress created this problem. We are about the only country in the world that has made it illegal to access our own energy. Congress created this problem. Congress can solve this problem by making it legal to access our own energy reserves.

Well, that can't be done. We hear, Mr. Speaker, from the Democrat presidential nominee, Senator OBAMA, it will take 20 years before we can get any of this energy on line. Are you kidding? That is balderdash, so-to-speak. Of course, we can.

I have a bill that I am introducing this week that will fast track the permitting so we can have the Secretary of the Interior start immediately to get it online. We need to do this, the American people want us to do this, and we can get back to \$2 a gallon gas.

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.)

THE CARMELO RODRIGUEZ MILITARY MEDICAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the circumstances of Sergeant Carmelo Rodriguez and the series of extraordinary mistakes the military made which led directly to his death.

In 1997, when Carmelo Rodriguez enrolled in the Marines, a physical performed by U.S. military staff concluded that Carmelo Rodriguez had melanoma present on his right buttock. No action, however, was taken.

In March of 2000, Carmelo marked "no" on a medical report indicating he was not aware of his melanoma.

On February 5, 2003, during a prescreening for foot surgery, another military doctor made note of a so-called "birthmark" present on his right buttock. Again, no action was taken.

During March of 2005, while Carmelo was deployed in Iraq, he saw another military doctor for a growth or sore on his buttock. He was told to keep it clean and visit the doctor again when he got back to the United States, which would be 5 months later.

On November 11, 2005, Carmelo saw the same doctor and was directed to dermatology to have the so-called birthmark removed for cosmetic purposes.

The next year, several months later, April 2006, while several referrals were "lost in the system," Carmelo's so-called birthmark was bleeding and pussing constantly. He finally succeeded in seeing an appropriate doctor and was told he had stage III malignant melanoma.

Carmelo had three surgeries, received radiation and chemotherapy, but it was too late. The cancer had spread to his lymph nodes, to his liver, kidney and stomach, throughout his body. The doctors told him that if it had been caught earlier, it would have made a big difference.

Carmelo Rodriguez was a young, strong man and a dedicated member of the Armed Forces. At the age of 29, he died of a skin cancer that should have been caught much earlier by the military he was counting on. He left behind a family who loved him deeply, including his 7-year old son.

His family, like so many service men and women and their families, have been left with many unanswered questions. How could the military health system fail in such a significant and painful way? Why, after such a critical failure in health care, has the military not conducted and completed a full investigation into the circumstances that led to Carmelo's death? And how could it be possible that of all Americans, members of the military and their families are left no recourse in the face of such medical negligence?

In California, the wife and two small children of Staff Sergeant Dean Witt want to know why the military can't be held accountable when he died after routine appendicitis surgery.

Christine Lemp, whose husband, James, died after receiving questionable medical care for a stomach virus in Missouri, deserves to know why there is no recourse to holding the military accountable for his death.

Eight National Guardsmen and their families from New York City deserve

answers in the face of the medical negligence that occurred after their exposure to depleted uranium.

The Ferres Doctrine was a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court nearly 60 years ago that denies service men and women the ability to hold the military accountable for acts of negligence, including medical malpractice. Under the Federal Tort Claims Act, Federal prisoners and even illegal aliens in the United States have the ability to seek damage from the Federal Government for medical malpractice, but members of our Nation's military still do not.

What I have done is crafted a piece of legislation to allow members of the military to seek just recourse in cases of military medical malpractice. This bill is about holding our military accountable for its actions and for its responsibility to our military members.

Carmelo's situation and this legislation speak directly to the fact that our military, including the military's health system, is spread thin by the occupation of Iraq. Our military is facing shortfalls of doctors, nurses and other health care staff across-the-board. This highlights just one of the many consequences of the decision to invade Iraq on false pretenses.

Service men and women must be on equal footing as all American civilians. I think Americans will agree that anything to the contrary contradicts the fundamental principles of our Nation. As a military veteran and Member of Congress, I believe we must match the dedication and sacrifice of our soldiers with the adequate health care they deserve and a fair avenue of recourse in the case that they do not receive that adequate health care.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will also agree and join me in support of the Carmelo Rodriguez Military Medical Accountability Act of 2008.

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

(Mr. SHERMAN 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 New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey 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 Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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