

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentleman from South Carolina who is the author of this resolution, we are pleased to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 465, recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (Waterway) runs from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, and has been in existence for more than seventy years. The once distinct channels and rivers that now make up the Waterway were brought together to create a continuous waterborne transportation network along the southeastern coast of the Atlantic.

The Waterway has enriched the lives of those in the southeast and served the greater United States by allowing for the safe and efficient transportation of commercial goods along the coast.

This resolution recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to the quality of life of the citizens in the United States, and to the thousands of recreational, commercial, and military vessels that use the system annually.

The resolution also acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This association has worked tirelessly over the last decade to keep the Waterway open and safe for navigation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 465.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 465 and to thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, for introducing this important bill. I have had the good fortune of working with the distinguished gentleman on other legislation, and I can say that on this and other issues, he serves his constituents well.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 465 acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, and it recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to recreational, commercial, and military vessels and to the history and quality of life of the citizens of the United States.

Having a congressional district with over 75 miles along the Intracoastal Waterway, I know firsthand its importance to South Florida. It serves as a crucial thoroughfare for the two ports in my district, the Port of Palm Beach and Port Everglades. In fact, the Army Corps of Engineers reported that over 2.5 million tons of freight traffic was shipped along the Intracoastal Waterway in 2007 alone, including commodities such as wheat, corn, and soybeans.

But the Intracoastal Waterway provides Americans with more than just economic activity. Just go out on the water any day of the week in my congressional district and you'll see recreational boaters traveling on the Intracoastal Waterway. Boating is an iconic symbol for South Florida, and the Intracoastal Waterway serves as an important part of that. Simply put: South Florida would not be the boat capital of the world without it.

I also want to take a moment and commend the work of the Florida Inland Navigation District, or FIND. They maintain our state's portion of the Intracoastal Waterway, from Jacksonville to Miami. Created in 1927 by the Flor-

ida State Legislature, FIND is a special taxing district charged with helping to maintain the Intracoastal Waterway with the Army Corps of Engineers. They are an important entity and perform an often unheralded job, so I wanted to take this moment to commend the men and women employed by FIND for helping to maintain one of Florida's most important natural resources.

In closing, I want to again thank the gentleman from South Carolina for introducing House Resolution 465, urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. NORTON. At this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 465, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

DALE WILSON—NATIONAL DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise Dale Wilson, a remarkable veteran from Troutman, North Carolina, who was named the 2009 National Disabled American Veteran of the Year by the Disabled American Veterans.

Dale Wilson lost both of his legs and his right arm while serving in the Marine Corps in Vietnam; but for a Silver Star recipient who paid such a heavy price for his country, Wilson demonstrates remarkable humility, good will, and an astonishingly positive attitude. He is well known for his strident belief that his life is rich and full despite what many could call a severe disability. His days are full of service to his community and his fellow veterans. He counts his family, his community, and his service to his country as dear blessings. And you won't catch him complaining about the hand that was dealt him.

Dale Wilson is the sort of marine that gives the Marine Corps such a proud reputation, and his recognition by the DAV is well deserved. I know that his example serves to inspire those who know and love him to remember their many blessings and to love the country that Wilson sacrificed so much for.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.N.'S REPORT ON ISRAEL

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, this week at the United Nations another assault is being launched on the democratic Jewish State of Israel, an assault that the United States must unequivocally oppose and defeat.

Predictably, this assault has its roots in the U.N.'s so-called "Human Rights Council," an institution that has been hijacked by dictatorships and gross human rights violators.

This past winter, in Operation Cast Lead, Israel defended its citizens—and its existence—against the actions of Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza. The Human Rights Council responded by passing a resolution authorizing a so-called "fact finding mission" to investigate Operation Cast Lead. This mission's mandate had nothing to do with fact finding and everything to do with persecuting Israel for defending herself.

The mandate prejudged Israel's guilt, authorizing the mission to investigate only assumed human rights violations by Israel. The mandate did not include or even mention the thousands of rocket attacks and mortar attacks spanning 8 years by Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza against civilian targets in southern Israel.

Then, last month this so-called "fact finding mission" released its report. It's a 575-page collection of distortions and double standards. The report made baseless accusations that Israel's military had deliberately attacked civilians. The report disregarded extensive evidence that violent extremist groups in Gaza used civilians as human shields, operating from schools, from mosques, from hospitals. It ignored the Israeli military's extraordinary efforts to target its operations in order to minimize civilian casualties. It gave a free pass to the Iranian and the Syrian regimes, which provide material and financial assistance to Hamas and other murderous groups in Gaza.

Finally, this report recommended further persecution of Israel through follow-up action by the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court, among others. In fact, today, the Security Council met at the request of the Libyan regime and considered this very biased report.

Later this week, with the blessing of the U.N. Secretary General, the Human Rights Council is expected to hold a special session on this report. What will they do? They will pass yet another resolution condemning Israel, and only Israel.

And what has the U.S. done in response to this anti-freedom onslaught? While acknowledging that the report and its mandate were biased, administration officials still claim that the report raised serious issues and should be

considered seriously by that rogues gallery known as the Human Rights Council. Is this how the United States supports Israel and counters the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bias that is present every day at the U.N.?

We must recognize what is at stake here. If the democratic political and military leaders of Israel can be hauled before an unaccountable court for defending their nation against violent extremists in Gaza, then how long before U.S. officials and those of other NATO countries will face the same for defending our Nation against al Qaeda and other such threats? Ultimately, this report is an effort by the enemies of freedom to deprive democracies of the right of self-defense, making it open season for global jihadists to come after Israel or the U.S. and other free nations.

As the leadership of the Simon Wiesenthal Center stated in a recent letter to our ambassador, Susan Rice, consideration of this report is a prescription for disaster not only for Israel, but for the United States and every country that fights violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, we must oppose any effort to grant consideration or legitimacy in any forum to this irredeemably biased U.N. report. We must support the right of Israel, the right of the U.S., the right of all democracies to defend ourselves and our citizens.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the U.S. to lead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

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.)

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Next month, the government is going to go to the expense of sending out a letter to well over 40 million Social Security recipients telling them they are not going to get a cost-of-living adjustment, but they didn't experience inflation this year. Now, the only problem with that is the way we measure inflation is heavily oriented toward nonessential consumer goods of which seniors do not buy a lot.

Seniors have to buy certain essentials; pharmaceuticals, up double digits in the last year. Seniors buy health insurance, Medigap policies up high single digits in the last year. Seniors have rent, utilities, probably also up depending upon where they live. But they are not entitled to a COLA because of a defect in the way we calculate COLAs.

I have tried to fix this for years by having a special calculation for seniors

and not one for younger consumers, which is essentially what the CPI is oriented towards. It isn't even very reflective of the cost of average American families. It is very skewed. It was skewed beginning in the Reagan years, and it has never been fixed to try and understate real inflation to real Americans.

In this case, we have an opportunity. We could fix this injustice to our seniors and help those most in need, many of whom are either principally or totally dependent upon a Social Security income. We could give them a one-time \$250 payment, which would equate to almost a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment. That would cover the increase in their Medicare part B premium, maybe some of their Medigap insurance, maybe a little bit of what they're having to pay in higher pharmaceutical costs. For many seniors it could avert a disaster in terms of their personal budgets.

So I have introduced legislation, along with 14 of my colleagues—today, I reintroduced it—which would give a one-time \$250 payment to 48.9 million people who are on OASDI, that is Social Security and disability, 5.1 on SSI, 1.4 million veterans, and 200,000 railroad retirees.

Now, I want to be fiscally responsible; I don't want to take it out of the Social Security trust fund which is looking toward problems some 37 years down the road or so, or starting in 2037. So I would pay for this, and it's quite simple: in order to give this benefit to over 50 million people, something for them to make ends meet and scratch by, all we have to do is ask that that select group of Americans—many of whom work on Wall Street—who will earn over \$1.4 million this year, that for their earnings over \$1.4 million they pay the same Social Security tax as every working American who earns less than \$106,000. The tax now is only applied to income up to \$106,000. After that, you don't pay it. That means if you earn \$1.4 million, your tax rate is about 7 percent of someone who earns \$40,000 a year.

Let's make it fair. I hear a lot about flat taxes and fairness. Let's make it fair; let's make it flat. Let's ask those people who are earning over \$1.4 million to pay the same percentage of that income in Social Security tax as people who earn less than \$106,000. And if they did that just for 1 year, we could give those 50 million seniors and disabled and veterans and railroad retirees a small, \$250 one-time cost-of-living adjustment. I think it's only fair in this tough economy that those at the absolute tiptop just do a little bit more to help those most in need.

I recommend this legislation to my colleagues.

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

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

THE RULE OF LAW IS BEING IGNORED

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the open borders crowd is at it again, pushing for amnesty for people that are illegally in the United States.

It is bad public policy to give a wink and a nod to people who continue to advocate the exploitation of American border laws for their own personal agenda. A nation cannot survive in freedom without just following the law. The very future of any civilization rests upon the rule of law.

Now, we are a self-governing people. That means we are a Nation of laws. We don't get to choose what laws we follow and what ones we don't. That would mean complete chaos. If people want to come to the United States legally, by all means let them come legally. Sign the guest book at the port of entry so we know who you are, so we know the purpose of your visit and whether or not you mean harm to American citizens. That means everybody who comes here, not just a select few.

The push to reward illegal behavior today by granting amnesty only encourages more of the same illegal behavior. A new Zogby-Washington Times poll in Mexico found that 56 percent of Mexican nationals surveyed said that if we pardon illegal immigrants here, it will encourage more of them to come across the border illegally.

The poll also showed that most folks in Mexico think their countrymen who come here still owe their loyalty to Mexico, not America. Now, these are things the open borders crowd won't tell you. Many people come here and don't want to become Americans; they just want the personal benefits of being in the United States without any obligation to the country. And amnesty will only encourage more illegal entry.

□ 1630

Anyone who comes to this country permanently owes this Nation the respect of learning what it means to be an American—embracing the melting pot concept. They should honor the sacrifices of the men and women who have made our history great in these 200-plus years. This mighty Nation is the beacon of liberty, and it did not happen by chance. It came through hard work and sacrifice in the name of freedom. It came from following a set of principles and ideals, and it came from following the rule of law—laws passed by our representative form of government with the consent of the governed.

The American dream is not about money; it's about liberty, and those