

which, in turn, has improved our productivity and our efficiency.

We are all painfully aware of the economic crisis in Asia. We will likely have a spirited debate on what the United States should do to help out our troubled allies and trading partners in that region. Regardless of whether we vote to use more American money to replenish IMF accounts, we are already the largest contributor to the fund. As such, it is our obligation to speak up for what is right.

My bill does not focus on what role the United States should have in the Asian recovery. My bill is focused on what the Asians should do to help themselves by upholding their trade reform commitments and ensuring fair trade. Many of the so-called Asian tigers have enjoyed dramatic growth by focusing on exports.

They have insulated their markets from foreign competition and often subsidized their exports to undercut the world price. This lack of real competition has weakened their domestic economies to the breaking point.

As the world struggles to deal with the Asian crisis, we ought to take responsibility as the world leader in trade and democracy. The bill I have introduced would use our voice and vote as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to insist that promised marketing-opening reforms are carried out in Asia.

For too long we have been shut out of these growing markets. For too long we have faced Asian goods unfairly dumped into our markets, hurting our factories and our workers.

Now is the time to make the changes that will help. We can help our workers and businesses by requiring that the Asians allow fair trade, and fair markets, for U.S. goods.

I urge my colleagues to support the Asian Trade Reform Implementation Act. It will send a strong and firm message to Asia: Open up your doors to U.S. products.

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

(Mr. GOSS 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 Texas (Mr. BARTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HOMELESS VETERANS

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, from the first bullet fired at Lexington to

the jungles of Vietnam and the sand dunes of the Persian Gulf, this Nation has asked its citizens to step forward and defend the ideals and principles upon which representative self-government is founded.

Those who responded honorably to this summons have earned the privilege to be considered veterans. Their courage is not only measured in battle, but by their willingness to leave their homes, families, and their dreams behind and fight in defense of these principles.

Many of our citizens have paid the ultimate price in Europe, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf. For some, the battle continues as they try to deal physically, emotionally, and mentally with scars that will not heal. Many have turned to drugs and alcohol for solace while others still suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder.

To these veterans, our Nation owes gratitude and respect, but words are simply not enough to convey this message. Our actions must speak louder than our words. We must continue our commitment to our veterans.

One area where improvements are needed is the housing and shelter for homeless veterans. Last year, I introduced legislation to address the plight of homeless veterans. H.R. 1754, the Robert Stodola Homeless Veteran Assistance Act, will require a 20 percent set-aside for homeless veterans under the Stewart McKinney Act program. For far too long, our veterans have not received adequate funding and services to help them transition back into mainstream society.

Earlier this week, we passed H.R. 217, the Homeless Housing Programs Consolidation and Flexibility Act. This legislation will consolidate current homeless programs and create two new block grants. The goal of this legislation is to give local communities greater flexibility in developing a wholistic plan to assist our homeless population.

H.R. 217 also includes an amendment that I offered with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY). This amendment will give veteran advocacy groups an opportunity to participate in the local advisory boards as they coordinate a community homeless plan. In addition, homeless veterans will be considered a special needs population, making them a targeted population for housing programs and services.

Lastly, the Department of Housing and Urban Development will begin reporting data on homeless veterans in both the pre-grant application process and the post-grant reporting process. All grantees will provide information on the number of homeless individuals, including veterans, and how they plan to help them. This is a small but significant step in an effort to help our veterans. I would like to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) for supporting my amendment.

In conclusion, I want to share with my colleagues the life of Robert

Stodola, the veteran after whom the legislation is named. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He moved to Whatcom County in the early 1980s.

On February 1, 1992, he was living in his Pinto station wagon near Nugents Corner on the Nooksack River. Two 19-year-old men needed money and, as reported in the Bellingham Herald, planned to roll the old man.

Armed with a baseball bat and tire iron, the two assailants beat Robert Stodola and stole approximately \$4. They stole \$4. After he was stabbed several times in the back, he was dumped into the river where, according to an autopsy, he drowned.

This legislation is a reminder to all Americans of the plight faced by homeless veterans. The veteran provisions in H.R. 217 will help get homeless veterans off the streets and into recovery.

If we are willing to summon our young people to battle, let us also be willing to provide housing, health care, and security for those who return.

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INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATION OF MEXICO AS COOPERATING FULLY IN WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this afternoon to ask for support and cosponsorship of House Joint Resolution 114. This is a resolution that has been introduced by myself and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) that would decertify Mexico.

Most people are not familiar with the certification process. The certification process is a good process that does certify through our State Department whether or not individual countries are making progress in ending drug production and illegal drug trafficking. That certification is made. Once it is made, a country becomes eligible for benefits of the United States Government, benefits such as foreign aid, financial assistance, trade benefits and military assistance. It is a simple law and it does work and it does put pressure on countries who want these benefits of the United States to take action to stop illegal drug trafficking and production.

We do not believe that Mexico has made progress in stopping the wave of illegal drugs coming into this country. Unfortunately, last week the Clinton administration certified Mexico that they are making progress.

I ask my colleagues, is this progress? Let me cite the facts about Mexico:

Seventy percent of the hard drugs entering the United States come in through Mexico. That was the statistic provided to my national security subcommittee a year ago and it is the statistic today. A wave of heroin, a wave