

Whereas in the course of World War II, the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA directly shot down 22 enemy aircraft;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA earned the American Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 9 Battle Stars, the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Navy Occupation Service Medal;

Whereas the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA were a courageous group, braving both the Arctic chill and the Pacific heat to help defend the Nation against enemy oppression;

Whereas many former crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA belong to the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association;

Whereas each year former crewmembers participate in an annual reunion to celebrate their shared service, memories, and friendship; and

Whereas more than 100 former crewmembers, along with family and friends, are expected to participate in the next reunion, which will be held from April 15 to 18, 1999, aboard the U.S.S. ALABAMA at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the crewmembers of the U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB-60) and the U.S.S. ALABAMA Crewmen's Association for their valuable contributions to victory and peace in World War II and to the security and prosperity of the Nation.

When said resolution was considered and agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

#### § 33.12 DETAINED U.S. SERVICEMEN IN YUGOSLAVIA

On motion of Mr. GILMAN, by unanimous consent, the Committee on International Relations and Armed Services were discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83):

Whereas United States Army Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Michigan and San Antonio Texas, and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of Huntsville, Texas were abducted from Macedonian territory by Serb forces on March 31, 1999, while patrolling the Kumanovo area 3 miles from the southern Yugoslavia border;

Whereas these 3 honorable United States soldiers, serving in noncombatant status, are now in the custody of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its President Slobodan Milosevic;

Whereas the Geneva Convention, the 1949 treaty setting forth international protocols for the treatment of both civilians and military personnel during armed conflicts and declared wars, stipulates that prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated, provided any necessary medical assistance, protected against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity and evacuated from any area of danger;

Whereas the Geneva Convention also prohibits putting prisoners of war on trial for engaging in ordinary acts of warfare for which the capturing country's own soldiers would not be charged;

Whereas under the Geneva Convention, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has the right to nonsupervised visits of prisoners to ensure they are being treated well;

Whereas the Yugoslav Government has as yet not responded to the ICRC's requests; and

Whereas sanctions can be applied to signatories of the Geneva Convention for failing to abide by the convention: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That—

(1) the United States Government should commend the 3 detained United States soldiers for their exemplary service, bravery, duty to their country, and part in helping to ensure a peaceful multiethnic democratic Kosovo on the basis of the Rambouillet Accords;

(2) the United States Government should continue to forcefully press the Yugoslav Government and its president Slobodan Milosevic for the unconditional release of the 3 detained United States servicemen and, in the interim, demand their health and safety, and that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to visit the servicemen and verify their condition without supervision;

(3) the United States Government should condemn any move on the part of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to put the three detained United States servicemen on trial—an act expressly forbidden by the Geneva Convention;

(4) the United States Government should hold the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its President Slobodan Milosevic personally responsible for the welfare of the 3 detained United States servicemen;

(5) the United States Government should continue to condemn the atrocities committed by the Yugoslav Army or paramilitary forces against civilians in Kosovo, particularly crimes associated with "ethnic cleansing"; and

(6) the United States Government should support the prosecution under the Geneva Convention of all commanders of the Yugoslav Army or paramilitary forces taking part in acts of ethnic cleaning against civilians.

When said concurrent resolution was considered.

After debate,

Mr. GILMAN submitted the following amendment, in the nature of a substitute, which was agreed to:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That—

(1) the United States Government should commend the 3 detained United States soldiers for their patriotism, bravery, service, and duty to their country;

(2) the United States Government should continue to forcefully press the Yugoslav Government and its president Slobodan Milosevic for the unconditional release of the 3 detained United States servicemen and, in the interim, to guarantee their health and safety, and permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the servicemen and verify their condition without supervision, and that all other provisions of the Geneva Conventions be fully respected;

(3) the United States Government should condemn any move on the part of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to put the three detained United States servicemen on trial or subject them to public display; and

(4) the United States Government should hold the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its President Slobodan Milosevic directly responsible for the welfare of the 3 detained United States servicemen.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. GILMAN submitted the following amendment to the preamble, which was agreed to:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas United States Army Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Michigan and San Antonio Texas, and Spc. Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of Huntsville, Texas were captured on March 31, 1999, while patrolling the Kumanovo area;

Whereas these 3 honorable United States soldiers are now in the custody of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its President Slobodan Milosevic;

Whereas the Geneva Conventions, the 1949 treaties setting forth international requirements for the treatment of both civilians and military personnel during armed conflicts, stipulates that prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated, provided any necessary medical assistance, protected against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity and evacuated from any area of danger;

Whereas the Third Geneva Convention also prohibits putting prisoners of war on trial for engaging in ordinary acts of warfare for which the capturing country's own soldiers would not be charged;

Whereas under the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has the right to nonsupervised visits of prisoners to ensure they are being treated well;

Whereas the Yugoslav Government has as yet not responded to the ICRC's requests; and

Whereas sanctions can be applied to parties to the Geneva Conventions for failing to abide by the conventions: Now, therefore, be it:

By unanimous consent, the title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its President Slobodan Milosevic release the three detained United States servicemen and abide by the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of both prisoners of war and civilians."

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to and the preamble and the title were amended was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

#### § 33.13 ADJOURNMENT OVER

On motion of Mr. NETHERCUTT, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, April 19, 1999, at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

#### § 33.14 HOUR OF MEETING

On motion of Mr. NETHERCUTT, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That when the House adjourns on Monday, April 19, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, for "morning-hour debate".

#### § 33.15 CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS DISPENSED WITH

On motion of Mr. NETHERCUTT, by unanimous consent,