

OPENING OF WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend marked the much anticipated opening of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. This beautiful monument honoring our Nation's women veterans tells an important story of the place of women in the service and protection of our country. I am so proud that so many women from Florida turned out for this big opening. I want to commend Sheila Chamberlain and the Women Veterans Organization for making this happen.

I want to take a moment to briefly highlight the role of women in this Nation's conflicts. We all witnessed the spectacular events in the Persian Gulf war where more than 40,000 women made significant contributions. However, women have served this country in all of its conflicts dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Women were hired in early wars as cooks, seamstresses, scouts, and couriers. Doctor Mary Walker, an Army physician who served during the Civil War, was the first and only woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The first Army and Navy nurses corps was established during the Spanish-American War after a typhoid fever emergency forced the Army to recruit 1,500 women.

Women were first recruited as members of the Armed Services in World War I, serving in roles ranging from nurses to telephone operators to clerks. More than 350,000 women served in World War II, including the first female officers. More than 200 military women died in action overseas during the Second World War. In Korea, the war which occurred shortly after we fought the war to end all wars, 48,000 women served. And in the Vietnam conflict, 7,500 women served this country in one of its most controversial conflicts.

We can be proud of the women who have served this country so faithfully, making ultimate sacrifices just like their male counterparts. In fact, in early conflicts women served even though they could not vote and before they were allowed to officially enlist in the Armed Services.

Let me repeat that. In fact, in earlier conflicts women served even though they could not vote and before they were allowed to officially enlist in the Armed Services.

Women have many more gains to make in the military, as pilots, ship captains and as leaders of ground forces.

I am glad that they are entering these areas and encourage all to continue making this progress in these new territories for them.

We must keep in mind that in this day and age of the All Volunteer

Armed Forces, we must attract all of our people to serve this country, and this includes women. Women are vital to our Nation's defense, and I am so happy that this memorial was dedicated to all of those who have served. I congratulate all of our women active duty people, women veterans and, under the leadership of General Vaught. I congratulate all those who made this memorial possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CLAY address 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 Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FOLEY address 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 York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS address the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROPOSAL TO REDUCE QUOTA OF GRAY WHALES

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, in Monaco today the International Whaling Commission, the IWC adopted a proposal to reduce the quota of gray whales given to Russia from 140 to 124. The quota was originally established for aboriginal groups who had demonstrated a nutritional need for whale products.

The United States intends to take four gray whales from the Russian quota and allocate them for harvest by the Makah tribe in Washington State. However, many delegates to the IWC are now saying that they did not approve the controversial Makah proposal.

Evidently, as I stated on the floor, on the House floor last night, the United States has tried to go through the back door by cutting a deal with the Russians and their quota, because they were facing almost certain defeat if the Makah issue were dealt with on its own merits.

The U.S. delegation leader, Will Martin, stated at a press conference in Monaco that the Makah hunt had been approved. He has since been forced to back away from this statement. This is another example of a misleading statement of fact by the U.S. delegation in Monaco. Throughout this process, they

have relied on strong arm pressure tactics, misleading information and clever propaganda to distort this issue.

The Makah just have not demonstrated and aboriginal subsistence need, which is what the IWC regulations have always required. The Australians have stated that their amendment, which was added to the United States-Russian proposal was added to prevent the Makah allocation, due to a lack of demonstrated subsistence need. The Makah have claimed a cultural need as subsistence.

If accepted, this will now open the door for more quota increases around the world. Japan has already stated the desire to allow four villages on the Taiji peninsula with no subsistence need to be granted a cultural quota. Iceland, Ireland, Norway, China, where will it end?

We will continue to work with the Makah elders through the legal process to prevent this whale hunt. I have already filed a lawsuit challenging the environmental process the administration went through to give support for the Makah proposal. We must prevent this tragic expansion of whaling and mark my words, this is a step into commercial whaling in the continental United States.

In addition, I am aware of questions being asked the Bureau of Indian Affairs to investigate accusations made by the Makah elders who oppose the whale hunt that have alleged that the Makah tribal constitution has been violated.

According to them, major tribal decisions must be ratified by a referendum of the whole tribe. An issue that has attracted the attention of the whole world that will effect greatly every enrolled member of the tribe surely qualifies as a major tribal decision.

It is despicable that a quota for aboriginal whaling that was established using the legal standard of real nutritional subsistence is now being used to sneak past an allocation for the Makah tribe who failed to meet this criteria.

Truly poor aboriginal people are being exploited through the cynical efforts of the official U.S. delegation.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF TAKING SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAYNE].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.