

ethic, and above all her commitment to a strong national defense built upon the confidence of our men and women in uniform.

One of my fondest memories with Congresswoman FOWLER is of a trip we took together in 1998 to visit our troops in Europe and the Middle East. I witnessed firsthand her willingness to listen to military personnel and act on their concerns. Congressional Quarterly has called TILLIE FOWLER a polite but persistent advocate. I would say they hit the nail right on the head with that description.

Her no-nonsense approach to policy is the reason she has enjoyed so much success over the past 8 years. When TILLIE FOWLER first ran for Congress, she told her constituents if they would join with her, together we will change Congress. Eight years later she has. She has been on the front lines of the battle to strengthen our military. She called on the President and Congress to address the fact that some of our military families qualify for food stamps due to low pay. In a speech earlier this year, Congresswoman FOWLER said the citizens who step forward and are willing to put their lives on the line for their country, for your security and for my security, are waiting in food lines and depending on charity to feed their families. How did this happen? How did we get from "the few, the proud," to "the few and the demoralized"?

TILLIE FOWLER has worked to strengthen the morale of our military. She began her battle before the Republicans had the majority, but she was no less fervent in her advocacy. This year we have seen the fruits of many of her labors. We have improved military readiness by approving a \$20 billion increase in funding to rebuild America's hollowed-out military. The hard work, leadership and dedication of Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER made important changes possible. She is a woman who embodies the kind of leadership it takes to effect change. She kept her promises to the people of Florida. She not only changed Congress, she helped change America for the better by carrying out her duties with dignity and integrity.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida 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 gen-

tleman 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 California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER 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 Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BUYER 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 Utah (Mr. HANSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HANSEN 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 Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COBURN 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 Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, before I start my special order this evening, I too want to add very brief appreciation and respect for remarks for Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER, for her service and for her leadership, particularly her leadership in issues where women were not traditionally known to serve. I worked with her, albeit recently, as a member of the Women's Caucus, which works in a bipartisan manner on many, many issues. She is certainly a great leader, very much appreciated, and I want to thank her for her service.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today and this evening rather reluctantly, because some might say that any position on this issue dealing with the Mideast conflict would pose the concern and possibility of being politically incorrect, but I am so moved by the violence and the seeming inability

to find common ground for an opportunity to continue the peace negotiations that I would like to pay tribute to a group of individuals in my community.

This article was noted in the Houston Chronicle on Monday, October 23, 2000, and the headline reads, "Faith Unite in Prayer for Mideast Peace." It seems that when nothing else works, it might be just a simple step for Americans to begin to unite in prayer in order to seek peace in the Mideast.

I remember as a teenager and young adult watching the Vietnam conflict and seeing on a regular basis the body bags coming out of that war. They are somewhat of the same feeling, though the numbers certainly have not reached that proportion. As I watched the controversy in the Mideast, this picture reflects the controversy of those running away in fear, but it does not reflect in totality the death, the loss of lives of dear children, the extreme violence, the extreme divisiveness, the fear, the hatred and seemingly the inability to solve this problem.

I believe it is important for both men who are at the center of this crisis to lead, to lead without fear and to demand an end to violence, and so I would like to share that my community, an extended community that is, determined that it was important to pray this past Sunday. The article states, as the bloodshed continued in the Middle East on Sunday, eleven children in the Woodlands lighted a single white candle and prayed for peace. This gathering was one of Muslims and Jews and Christians of various denominations, who gathered to remind us that if nothing else works that we might pray to end the violence on the other side of the world.

A feeling of helplessness, a feeling of hopelessness has descended upon us as we see the tragedy of so many children dying. Rabbi James Brant of Congregation Beth Shalom told the Woodlands audience, but Brant suggested that the prayers of different faiths united could lead to an end to the killing and to the hatred and misunderstandings that have caused this tragedy. Its hopeful message was received well.

It seems now that one would wonder that this blurred confusion really cannot even point us to how it started, but the great heinousness of it all is the fact that people are no longer at the table of reconciliation and peace. There can be no resolve, no happiness, no outright ability to live with the quality of life that all of us would welcome if there is not peace in the Middle East between these two entities.

No one will be happy. No child will live without fear. No one will worship without fear. So I believe that it is important to pay tribute to these two congregations that saw fit to have this at the South Montgomery County