

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

MUSHARRAF'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss my concerns with H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) this afternoon that commends General Musharraf of Pakistan for his leadership and friendship and welcomes him to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that General Musharraf was faced with a difficult decision when he was asked, and he cooperated, with the United States in the fight against terrorism. There is much civil unrest throughout Pakistan, and I do believe that there was a risk involved when Musharraf decided to side with the United States.

However, there have been some major shortcomings in Musharraf's promises to root out the Taliban, al Qaeda and certain terrorist groups in Kashmir that are linked to al Qaeda. I sent a letter to President Bush today outlining these shortcomings, and I will include that in the RECORD at this point.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2002.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,

President of the United States, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I understand that you, along with other officials in your administration, will be meeting with General Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday during his visit to the United States. I am writing to explain why I continue to oppose lifting the ban on military assistance to Pakistan and the proposal in your budget to provide \$50 million in such assistance.

Since September 11 and Musharraf's supposed willingness to fight against terrorism, Pakistani-based militant groups have been carrying out violent cross-border terrorist attacks on innocent civilians throughout Kashmir on a daily basis. In addition, the largest symbol of democracy, the Indian Parliament, was attacked on December 13, 2001 by the same terrorist groups operating out of Pakistan near the Kashmir border.

Musharraf has claimed to crack down on terrorists operating in Pakistan since the attack on the Parliament, however it remains my concern that this is not the case. Although he has arrested nearly 1600 individuals, there is no assurance that these individuals are criminals and there is no notice of whether these individuals are terrorist fighters. In addition, there has been no progress on Pakistan's part to quell the violence taking place in Kashmir. In fact, the Kashmir Solidarity Day last week, Musharraf delivered a speech, which I found to incite violence among these terrorist groups that he refers to as "freedom fighters". Pakistan has openly acknowledged that it provides logistical and moral support to these groups, however, the support extends beyond that to arms and weapons transfers. It is clear that Musharraf is in fact sup-

porting terrorist activities under the guise of calling these groups "freedom fighters".

When you asked Congress last fall to lift the ban on military assistance to Pakistan, there were no plans to provide any such assistance to General Musharraf. State Department representatives appeared before the House International Relations Committee at the time, and in response to my question, stated that no military aid to Pakistan was anticipated.

In your FY 2003 budget proposal you have requested \$50 million in military assistance to Pakistan. Frankly, I don't see that the situation has changed in Pakistan to justify such a turnaround. It is alarming that you are proposing military assistance to a country that verbally condemns terrorism on a global level, but that actively supports terrorist activities in its own backyard.

I agree that Pakistan needs extensive aid to rebuild its economy, education system and social structure. However, I cannot support a proposal that funds military assistance to Pakistan given its current leadership under a dictator and its continued backing of militant groups. Historically, U.S. military assistance to Pakistan has been used to arm cross-border terrorists in their attacks on Indian civilians in Kashmir and throughout the nation. There is continued evidence that terrorist groups operating in Pakistan are linked to Al-Qaeda and that their attacks on India are experiments for future attacks on the United States. I do not believe it is in our best interest to provide military assistance to Pakistan, despite their agreement to help in our war on terrorism. South Asia is a very volatile, unstable region and given the current military standoff between Pakistan and India, \$50 million worth of U.S. weapons will only aid future conflict in that region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, JR.

However, tonight, Mr. Speaker, I would like to focus on democracy, or the lack of democracy, in Pakistan. In the Pitts resolution, there is mention of President Musharraf's pursuit of a return to democracy and civil society, in addition to his adherence to the timetable for restoring democratic elections to Pakistan. I do not support this resolution because the opposite is true. Mr. Speaker, Musharraf has made no concrete attempt to restore democracy in Pakistan, and I urge the Congress and the administration to be very wary of any guarantees of a return to civilian rule in Pakistan.

In 1999, General Pervez Musharraf overthrew the civilian-elected government of Pakistan in a military coup and since then has governed Pakistan under military rule. General Musharraf has shown no steps toward returning Pakistan to democratic rule and, in fact, has moved in the opposite direction.

On June 20 of last year, Musharraf declared himself President of Pakistan, which is a clear indication of his desire to maintain a dictatorial stronghold. Musharraf's past actions include dissolving Pakistan's National Assembly, or parliament, and four provincial assemblies. He has claimed that he will hold fair national elections by October of 2002. However, there are no indications that this is likely to occur. October is only 9 months away. As a self-

proclaimed president, Musharraf may be seen with more credibility in the eyes of the international community at large, but the fact remains that the people of his nation have never elected him.

Mr. Speaker, on October 16 of last year, the House debated lifting section 508 that would allow military assistance to Pakistan. The United States prohibited the export of U.S. weapons and military assistance under section 508 to countries whose duly elected head of government is deposed.

Today the House debated the Pitts resolution which praises Musharraf for his steps toward returning Pakistan to democracy.

If and when Pakistan exemplifies steps towards establishing a democracy with a civilian-elected government, perhaps then section 508 discussion would have been relevant and perhaps the Pitts resolution would be relevant. But until then, Mr. Speaker, it is crucial for Congress to indicate its support for a restoration to democracy and civilian rule in Pakistan.

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

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN 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 Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL OMAR NELSON BRADLEY

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

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of America's most respected war heroes. In my congressional district, the citizens of Moberly, Missouri, have a lot to be proud of today as they gather to honor the memory of one of its favorite sons, Five Star General Omar Nelson Bradley. It is fitting that at this time of war, we take time out to remember the virtues that he exemplified: honor, dignity, patience, humility, and love of country.

The son of a Randolph County school teacher, Bradley was born on this date, February 12, in 1893 in a log cabin near Moberly, Missouri. After the death of his father when he was 14, Bradley and his mother moved to Moberly where his formative years were spent, and it was during his days at Moberly High School as a star baseball player that Bradley began to develop the leadership skills that would later serve him as a leader of the Allied Forces in World War II.

After he graduated from high school in the spring of 1911, Bradley worked on the Wabash Railroad to earn money to attend the University of Missouri. He was determined to put himself through school until his Sunday school superintendent encouraged him that he might have a chance at receiving a nomination to attend the U.S. Military Academy. So he used what little money he had to catch a train to St. Louis where he took the competitive exams that would determine who from his district would attend West Point. He finished first and was sworn in as a cadet in August of 1911.

During his time at West Point, General Bradley was an above-average student. He graduated 44th out of 164 men in 1915, a class that many have called "the class stars fell on." Nearly 20 of the 1915 graduates achieved the rank of general or higher during World War II. The academy's yearbook, "The Howitzer," predicted that Bradley was destined for great things: "His most prominent characteristic is 'getting there,'" proclaimed the yearbook, and "if he keeps up the clip he's started, some of us will someday be bragging to our grandchildren that 'sure, General Bradley was a classmate of mine.'"

Perhaps the best account of Bradley during his West Point days came from fellow classmate and future President, Dwight David Eisenhower, who wrote in Bradley's yearbook the following words: "True merit is like a river; the deeper it is, the less noise it makes." The humble Bradley was already getting noticed by his peers for his hard work, his intelligence, and his ability to succeed.

General Bradley was determined to out-think and out-prepare his adversaries. He challenged his troops to "set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship." This brand of resolve, coupled with a Missouri down-to-earth concern and affection for his troops, made General Bradley extremely popular with all of those he commanded. During World War II, aside from the general's stars on his helmet, Bradley was often indistinguishable from many who served alongside him on the front lines. Because of his style of command, the famous war correspondent Ernie Pyle dubbed him "the soldier's general."

General Bradley would demonstrate his tactical and what today we call "people skills" with those he commanded, when in January of 1944 he was given command of the 12th Army Group. With a force of over 1.3 million men, Brad, as he was called, established what would become the western front of the war of Europe, following D-Day. Fighting in such famous battles as the Battle of the Bulge, General Bradley won the admiration of the legendary General George Patton and his West Point classmate General Eisenhower. Eisenhower called Bradley "the master tactician of our forces" and "America's foremost battle leader."

In 1948, Bradley succeeded Eisenhower as Army Chief of Staff and soon

became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and in that capacity, he served both during the beginning of the Korean and Cold Wars. Once he was appointed to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Bradley became the last American to receive a fifth general's star.

General Omar Bradley applied the determination, fairness, and care for his fellow man that he learned from his Missouri upbringing. In the process, he became one of our Nation's greatest war heroes, especially to those who served under him. The following statement from the general himself may shed the most light on the character of this man and the inspiration he was to so many, quote: "This is as true in everyday life as it is in battle. We are given one life and the decision is ours to make up our mind on whether to act and, in acting, to live."

It is clear that the leadership of great men like General Omar Nelson Bradley over a half century ago allows us to live as we do today. And on this day, we are honored to show a small portion of our thanks and appreciation to this great citizen, soldier, Missourian, and American.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND PREVENTING AND DECREASING OBESITY, A GROWING EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the kickoff of Black History Month and all the great accomplishments that African Americans as a whole have contributed to this great Nation.

As we begin this month in honoring these great people, I would like to single out African American physicians and health care providers. These physicians and health care providers were not only the principal guardians of the black community's health, but were servants of humanity as a whole.

This is why I must stand and strongly urge my fellow Members to support the Surgeon General's call to action to prevent and to decrease obesity, a growing epidemic in the United States. I applaud the United States Surgeon General, David Satcher, and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson's, initiative; and let me add the borough president of Brooklyn's name to that distinguished list, Mr. Marty Markowitz, to ensure that all Americans understand what they can do to combat this serious disease.

This initiative consists of communication with Americans about related health issues, actions to assist Americans in balancing eating right and exercise, research and evaluation to invest in causes, prevention and treatment of overweight and obesity. This is what the Surgeon General calls CARE. Our support is needed now, not later.

My support begins in my own borough of Brooklyn. On March 20, I will

be joining forces with Brooklyn's borough president, Marty Markowitz, to kick off a 3-month-long health community campaign promoting diet, exercise, and the Surgeon General's CARE initiative for Americans. As Members of Congress, we need to fully support the Surgeon General's report and findings as his initiative to combat this growing national problem.

The Surgeon General's Call for Action report states that "obesity has become a national health crisis."

□ 1945

In addition, the instance of overweight and obesity has almost doubled among America's children and adolescents since 1980. It is estimated that one out of every five American children is now obese.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that 61 percent of Americans over 20 years of age are overweight or clinically obese. The National Center of Health Statistics conducted research from 1991 to 2000 which supports the finding that this epidemic has significantly affected approximately 300,000 weight-related deaths yearly. In addition, the research also shows great disparities in overweight and obesity prevalence based on race, gender and socioeconomic status. Overall, Hispanic Americans have the highest risk of being overweight and obese, followed by African Americans. And women in both ethnic groups are at the highest risk. Further, women of lower socioeconomic status have a 50 percent higher chance to be obese than women in higher socioeconomic strata.

As this epidemic continues to grow, other health consequences need to be considered such as heart disease type 2 diabetes, with a high prevalence in school-age children, cancer, asthma, high blood pressure, arthritis, child-bearing complications, and stroke, which is the third leading cause of death among African Americans.

For the past decade the health community has made great strides in these areas, but specifically with heart disease and cancer research, treatment and prevention. However, if the current overweight and obesity epidemic is not managed, all accomplishments made thus far will be for naught. Our Nation's health would be taking gigantic steps backwards.

Last year I introduced H.R. 1641 that would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States that provide Medicaid prescription drug coverage to cover drugs medically necessary to treat obesity. At a time of national urgency, this amendment to the Social Security Act is crucial.

As I close, I would like to share with my colleagues that the economic cost of this growing epidemic in our Nation was approximately \$117 billion, that is B as in boy, in 2000. We need to support the Surgeon General's initiative against obesity in order to ensure America's health in the present and in the future.