

crises over the years, and what could be more compelling than millions of lives endangered?

Hunger is devastating Africa, North Korea, Argentina, and has reached into all corners of the globe. One of the worst cases is the current situation in Africa. Africa is on the brink of a crisis of biblical proportions. Thirty million people, 30 million, are at risk of malnutrition and starvation in Africa alone. This is on top, Mr. Speaker, of the HIV/AIDS crisis that is consuming resources that would otherwise be devoted to famine relief.

When I traveled to Ethiopia in January and Eritrea earlier this year, I saw firsthand the bloated bellies and the weak limbs of the children, and I was reminded of the devastation I saw when I was in Ethiopia with former Congressman Tony Hall in 1984 and 1985 during that famine. African countries in particular are suffering from donor fatigue and a lack of attention. The flood of international news has kept the reality of this situation away from people in many Western countries. When I think of some of the stupid shows that some of the networks run, like Joe Millionaire, Survivor, and these things, and how little time they are actually spending on the hunger and the starvation of people in every continent, it is very, very discouraging.

North Korea and Central Asia also teeter on the brink of crisis. In North Korea there are reports that up to 80 percent of the humanitarian relief never even reaches the North Korean people. If left unchecked, thousands and millions of North Korean lives will be in jeopardy.

Even in Argentina, once a middle class Latin American country, hunger is now widespread. Hospitals are regularly treating diseases caused by lack of protein and poor nutrition. Children in Argentina are dying of malnutrition, and in some communities relief organizations have classified 90 percent of the children as undernourished. Yes, in Argentina. This is especially tragic for a country that has more livestock than people.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a global crisis and it demands a global response. No one country can meet these needs. We in the United States should be proud, for in the year 2002 the United States Government, the American people, contributed 51 percent of all the food, compared to the EC and Europe's combined contribution of only 27 percent of the donations of the U.N. World Food Programme. Many countries have the ability to give more and may just be waiting to be asked. Time, resources and attention must be devoted to mobilizing and coordinating the resources required.

The lives of millions of women and children hang in the balance. A special representative, a special envoy under the leadership of the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan can mobilize the financial and material resources re-

quired, coordinate the international organization to achieve mutual relief and unity of effort, develop an integrated plan and provide operational direction and remove obstacles. This position is critical to reenergizing the global community, refocusing attention on this situation, and, most importantly, saving millions of lives.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to contact the U.N. directly and encourage them to adopt a strategy to save the lives of the millions of women and children that hang in the balance. Attention by this Congress will send a loud and clear message. Otherwise, many of these 30 million or more will die.

#### INDIANA'S NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVES

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, our Reserves make up more than half of the Armed Services. Clearly, they are a key part of our national defense. As of today, more than 175,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists from all over our country have been called to active duty. Much has been demanded of our National Guardsmen and Reservists since September of 2001, and much more will surely be demanded of them as we move forward, facing new threats, new enemies, and new challenges.

These men and women are involved in military operations ranging from peacekeeping and humanitarian relief to homeland defense and active combat. Every day they work side-by-side with those on active duty around the world protecting Americans at home and abroad. It is important to remember that these men and women, in answering their call to duty, have left behind spouses, children, parents, friends and jobs. Nearly every community in every State has been affected.

One such community happens to be in my district, in Dubois County, Indiana. It is the folks of Jasper who know firsthand about the commitment of these young people to our country. Therefore, I am here on the floor today to commend the service and sacrifice of the men and women of Indiana's 1st Battalion and 152nd Infantry. These National Guardsmen, known as "Predators," come from not only Jasper but from many other towns in southern Indiana.

This battalion has a rich 150-year history. They defended the Union in the Civil War, they fought alongside our European allies in both World Wars, and now these Hoosier soldiers have once again answered the call of duty in a time of need. Nearly 650 of Jasper's finest are in Kuwait, and an additional 140 are preparing to depart.

Only one other National Guard unit in the country, also from Indiana, has sent more troops to Kuwait. The Jas-

per soldiers are also a part of one of the Nation's 15 elite reserve units. These elite units receive specialized training to ensure that they are ready to move rapidly to a war zone when needed.

I am proud that these men and women work to both protect the State of Indiana and, when asked, to defend the national security interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MUSGRAVE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDO 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her 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. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, as you know, I am a family physician, and I rise tonight to speak about an issue that is critically important to the viability of the health care system in this country.

In addition to the impact of many millions of uninsured on the reduced viability of hospitals and quality health services for every one and our failure to make the proper investment in the health of people of color and in our rural areas, we have, for too long, allowed our doctors and other providers to be crushed by high and ever-increasing malpractice costs. If we continue this way, there will be no health care for anyone, insured or uninsured.

This evening, I want to focus on the malpractice crisis. On issues as complex as this, it is impossible to apply a single fix, yet that is what H.R. 5 attempts to do. Its only remedy is the instituting of a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, regardless of the number of parties against whom the action is brought. This cap is modeled after MICRA, California's Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act, which has clearly not worked.

In addition, underserved minorities, children, and patients with low or no