

years ago, and time has not transformed them into valid solutions.

Amtrak's problem has one root cause: money! From the outset back in 1971, the Corporation has been on a starvation diet. Its opponents insinuate that successive Amtrak managements have somehow conspired to misappropriate funds and not run a profitable operation. The truth is that a succession of hardworking and dedicated management teams could not do the impossible—that is, operate intercity rail passenger service in America and generate an accounting profit. Even under more favorable conditions, no nation in the world has operated intercity passenger trains profitably. But many in Congress have insisted on the impossible, and Amtrak's previous leaders have tried to demonstrate progress toward this illusive and ill-advised goal.

Now we have new leadership at Amtrak, and this Amtrak team has abandoned the long-standing defensive practice of telling Congress what Congress wants to hear. Amtrak's new President, David Gunn, has told Congress what is needed if we want to have decent and reliable intercity passenger rail service in this nation, and he says that this can be achieved without the dismantling of Amtrak as suggested by the Administration's legislative proposal. We should heed his advice and give him and his team a chance.

President Bush has begun naming a new Board of Directors, as well. I have met with the new Chairman, David Laney and he, too, is impressed by the efforts of David Gunn and his management team and their successes to date.

Therefore, while I join in introducing this bill as a traditional courtesy to the Administration, I want to be clear that I support none of its initiatives. I strongly support both H.R. 2572, the Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2003, and H.R. 2571, the Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century (RIDE 21), recently reported with near unanimity by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am hopeful that the House will soon consider this bipartisan legislation and begin to provide the necessary investment for our nation's intercity passenger rail system.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE EVAN
O'NEILL

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to United States Army, Private First Class, Evan O'Neill, who died on Monday, September 29, 2003, in service to his country.

Nineteen-year-old Evan O'Neill was a resident of Haverhill, Massachusetts, in my Fifth Congressional District. Evan graduated in 2002 from the Whittier Vocational Technical High School, where he studied auto mechanics.

Evan was a member of the 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, and was in his third month of deployment in Afghanistan.

Evan O'Neill comes from a military family that is proud of their son's service to the United States. Evan's father, Michael, a lieutenant with the Andover, Massachusetts Fire

Department, was a Vietnam veteran wounded twice, receiving two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star for his service. Michael O'Neill was as proud as any of the parents of our servicemen and women when he pinned his silver Airborne wings on his son at Fort Benning, Georgia, after Evan successfully completed his fifth and final jump. Evan had wanted to follow in his father's footsteps by someday becoming a paratrooper. His parents were fortunate enough to have had a satellite telephone conversation with their son, just hours before his untimely death.

Evan suffered multiple gunshot wounds during a firefight with suspected Taliban militia, near a coalition base at Shkin, just a few miles from the Pakistan border, an area that still continues to see violent conflicts. Two of O'Neill's comrades were also wounded in the attack.

Evan's death is a grim reminder to us all that while our brave troops continue their battle to rebuild a peaceful Iraq, war is still being waged thousands of miles away, in Afghanistan, where our country's war against terrorism began 2 years ago. More than 11,000 coalition troops remain deployed in the hunt for Taliban members, as well as remnants of al-Qaeda.

I visited Afghanistan last year, and I know that our troops who continue to serve there remain committed to stabilizing that nation and ridding that country of the Taliban rebels, the likes of who executed the attack on our country on September 11th, 2001. Evan had told his family that he wanted not only to serve his country in our military, but also to honor the losses paid by the firefighters and police officers who died in the attack on our nation.

Evan, like many other soldiers who have answered their nation's call to service, paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and liberty.

Evan O'Neill was a loving son, brother, and fiancé, and his commitment to his Nation and his family is one for which he will be forever remembered. His family knows that Evan's dedication to his service was of great value to him.

Both Michael and his wife, Barbara, believe their son died a hero. They are correct. U.S. Army PFC Evan O'Neill served his family, his hometown, and his country, proudly and faithfully.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF MEMBER JARED KUTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jared Kutz, a dedicated, loyal, funny, out-going and important member of my Liberty district office.

Jared has served in both my St. Joseph and Liberty offices for the last two years. As a constituent liaison he visited the northernmost counties of my district. His work keeping in touch with the people and the concerns of the sixth district was invaluable to me and my office.

Jared's easygoing style will be missed by my staff and all sixth district constituents who came in contact with him. Never in his tenure

did he have a bad word to say about anyone. His outgoing and down to earth style ensured that he was never among strangers. He represents the very best of what a congressional staffer should be.

I know Jared very well from our many trips across the district together. He has worked long hours and sacrificed many of his own priorities to help do the work of the people of the sixth district. I am proud and grateful of the work he did and will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jared Kutz for his many important contributions to me, Missouri's sixth district and the United States House of Representatives. I also ask that you join me in extending to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

AMENDING THE WAR POWERS
RESOLUTION OF 1973 TO REQUIRE
REPORTING A POST-CONFLICT
STRATEGY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2003, President Bush reported to Congress, "consistent with the *War Powers Resolution*," (emphasis added) as well as P.L. 102-1 and P.L. 107-243 and "pursuant to" his authority as Commander in Chief, that he had "directed U.S. Armed Forces, operating with other coalition forces, to commence operations on March 19, 2003, against Iraq."

While declaring the beginning of war with Iraq, the Bush administration neglected to prepare for its aftermath. At that time, he should have also delineated his post-conflict reconstruction strategy because winning the peace is often harder than fighting the war.

The United States should not have waited for the end of the war to begin planning Iraq's post-conflict reconstruction. "Conflicts today," retired four-star General Anthony Zinni has said, "cannot be divided into two separate phases, the shooting and the peacekeeping parts. The war plan for the combat and the aftermath has to be 'seamless.'"

Not having had a clear strategy to shape Iraq's political landscape at the outset of war has had negative implications for the success of the United States-led postwar efforts. From this failure by the Bush administration, we learned that the United States must have military and political strategies in hand before armed intervention.

To make sure that future presidents do not again fail to protect United States military personnel during post-conflict reconstruction involvement, the War Powers Resolution of 1973 should be expanded to demand a clear strategy for winning the war, as well as winning the peace. In its amended form, it will include a post-conflict reconstruction strategy in its list of required reports to Congress.

Successful post-conflict reconstruction does not begin the day after. It begins the day before.