

last five times in the last 2 years would have accomplished some of these considerations for our men and women in uniform.

I just want to mention very quickly that this year, and I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my bill dealt with removing the death gratuity 2 years ago; but it was \$6,000. That was the cap on the death gratuity amount. I am glad that the McGovern bill and the Renzi bill both move it up to \$12,000. It is what it should be. But for me, when I started this effort 2 years ago, I say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), it dealt with eliminating the death gratuity tax.

So again I want to say that I am pleased tonight that we are all, both Republican and Democrat, believing that the military tax fairness bill that has been sent over a few months ago has not been taken up by the Senate side, and I do not know the status on this side of a second bill.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend the gentleman. He has been courageous in standing up for military families and veterans, one of only two Republicans to sign the discharge petition on concurrent receipt.

The gentleman was mistaken in that the Senate has taken no action on the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act. They passed that unanimously 97 to 0 in March, 7 months ago. It has been sitting here at the Speaker's desk, and if the House Republican leadership would bring it to the floor tomorrow, we could pass it unanimously. Apparently, what they object to in passing the bill is closing the Benedict Arnold tax loophole.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for correcting me. I was mistaken about the Senate's action and I stand corrected. I will say, and then I will yield back the balance of my time, because I think even though we all have our reasons for feeling that some action has not been taken and possibly, I will say this, that I believe that we all, in a bipartisan way, support our men and women in uniform, we support their families, and we want to make sure that those who have given their lives for this country that the families are adequately compensated; not that there is enough, quite frankly, to pay those who have given their lives for this country.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New York.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and the good work they have done. I have come to the House floor night after night since July sharing concerns about the treatment of our men and women in uniform in Iraq, concerns about the basis of our Iraq policy, concerns about the \$87 billion we are spending in Iraq, in addition to the \$1 billion a week we have already been spending; about the corruption and the ineptness of the Bush administration and their all-too-often focusing more on the private contractors like Halliburton and Bechtel than they have on the safety of our armed services and our troops.

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And as a result, Mr. Speaker, I have shared these from my constituents night after night since July about these issues. I would like to do that again this evening.

Paula from Akron, Ohio, writes, "We need to be concerned with our troubled economy at home. This country doesn't have \$87 billion to send overseas when we have an education system that is in shambles and millions out of work."

Cory of Copley, Ohio, writes, "Please do not give the administration another blank check so they can continue their oil wars. Tell them to pull out of Iraq and let the U.N. take control. The administration has lied to the country. Please do your part in returning our country to the people."

I think Cory was talking about some of the statements from some of the top leaders in this country about weapons of mass destruction and other issues which have proven to be not true.

Karen of Broadview Heights writes, "We have been way too patient with men who clearly do not know what they are doing and who do not care how much of the taxpayers' money they spend to do it."

Michael of Strongsville writes, "I think it is either irresponsible or insane, or perhaps both, to have huge tax cuts at the same time we are spending huge amounts for war." What Michael is referring to is that this Congress and the President have passed a tax cut where the average millionaire gets a \$93,000 tax cut while half of the people in my State got literally zero dollars in

a tax cut. "I hope our legislative branch of government," Michael writes, "deliberates long and hard before coughing up another \$87 billion."

Colette of Strongsville writes, "To give them \$73 billion more to continue their real aim, contracts for Halliburton, Bechtel, and others in corporate America, would be a crime against the people in the United States who now reel with economic deterioration at home. It is time to hold those accountable who led us into such a dark place in our Nation's history." What Colette is talking about, Mr. Speaker, is that we spend a billion a week today, before the \$87 billion appropriation, a billion dollars a week in Iraq today.

The President has by and large privatized the military in the sense that one-third of that billion now goes to private contractors, Halliburton, Bechtel, other major companies, all of those companies are major contributors to the President, to his campaign. The President has raised almost \$100 million already. Much of it comes from these companies.

I would add too that Halliburton, the company where Vice President CHENEY, before Governor Bush tapped him as his running mate, Vice President CHENEY was CEO of this company. He still is receiving \$13,000 a month from Halliburton while Halliburton is getting, literally, hundreds of millions of dollars in unbid contracts.

So what we see, Mr. Speaker, and what Colette obviously is upset about, is we are privatizing, in many ways, much of the military, \$300 million a week going to these private companies in unbid contracts, and those companies are still paying, in one case, the Vice President of the United States \$13,000 a month.

Sandy of Hinckley, Ohio, writes, "It is of extreme importance for the future of this country to hold President Bush accountable. We lost a great deal in human life and money for claims that even President Bush cannot now and does not now defend."

Vera of Strongsville writes, "I want my tax dollars rebuilding us, not Iraq or any other country. \$87 billion would go a long way here in the United States. Secretary Rumsfeld and his team need to be replaced with some honest and caring people who will tell the truth and do the best things for the Iraqi people and will bring our troops home safely."

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago when the \$87 billion was approved by this body, I had an amendment that required that all U.S. companies which relocated their headquarters to an offshore tax haven would be ineligible for any government contracts. In other words, if a company moved offshore to avoid taxes, they could no longer get any government contracts to do work in Iraq.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration opposed that amendment. The Republican leadership in this House

would not even allow that amendment to be offered. That is what I mean, and what many of these letter writers mean, when they talk about the corruption and the incompetence of the Bush administration and the failure of the Bush administration to provide safe drinking water and body armor and other things for our troops to protect them and supply them in a far-away land.

CONDEMNING RELIGIOUSLY INSENSITIVE REMARKS OF GENERAL WILLIAM BOYKIN

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today 16 of my colleagues and I have introduced a resolution calling on the President of the United States to censure and reassign General Boykin for his religiously intolerant remarks against people of Islamic faith.

As Members of Congress, we should all be embarrassed and disturbed by General Boykin's controversial remarks made in uniform over a period of time which includes such statements as, quote, "Our spiritual enemy will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus." "I knew that my God was a real God and the Muslim God was an idol." "Islamic extremists hate the United States because we are a Christian nation." And, "President Bush is in the White House because God put him there."

These remarks do untold damage to our efforts to reach out to the Iraqi people and the Muslim world and to battle terrorism.

Last week the President rightly criticized the Prime Minister of Malaysia for his anti-Semitic remarks by telling him his comments were, quote, "wrong and divisive," end quote. I agree with these criticisms, but the administration must show the world that it is willing to condemn all religiously intolerant remarks, including those that occur within our own military.

President Bush's failure so far to criticize General Boykin's remarks make it imperative for Congress to demand action. Our Nation must show the world that we will not stand for the type of intolerant behavior exhibited by General Boykin.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2003.

Hon. DONALD H. RUMSFELD,
Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am writing to express my extreme displeasure over Lieutenant General William Boykin's remarks about the war and the Muslim religion. Lt. Gen. Boykin serves as deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence and is charged with heading a Pentagon office that focuses on finding Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and other targets. This is a critical policymaking position, and it is outrageous that someone who holds such extreme, closed-minded, zealous views would be allowed such a prominent position in our military.

Lt. Gen. Boykin's remarks over the past few years, including remarks that Islamic extremists hate the United States because "we're a Christian nation," that "our spiritual enemy will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus," that President Bush "is in the White House because God put him there," and that Boykin's "god was a real god and [the Muslim god] was an idol," are disgraceful and wholly inappropriate for a man in his position. These remarks are inflammatory to Muslims in our communities and abroad.

While every American has the freedom to speak his mind and express his opinion, it is essential that those who hold high profile, policymaking positions in our government exercise judgment in their public speaking. Lt. Gen. Boykin clearly lacks such judgment. I urge you to reassign or reprimand him; we cannot afford to have such an extremist speaking on behalf of our nation and our military.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Ranking Member

LT. GEN. BOYKIN CONTROVERSY CHRONOLOGY

June 2002: William G. ("Jerry") Boykin speaks from the pulpit at the First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla., describing photos that he had taken of Mogadishu, Somalia from an army helicopter in 1993. He said that he noticed a strange dark mark over the city and that he had an imagery interpreter trained by the military look at the mark in the photo. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your enemy," he said to the congregation as he flashed the pictures on a screen. He continued, "It is a demonic presence in that city that God revealed to me as the enemy."

January 2003: Boykin tells the following story in a speech at a church in Daytona, Fla.: "There was a man in Mogadishu named Osman Atto," whom Boykin described as a top lieutenant of Mohammed Farah Aidid. When Boykin's Delta Force commandos went after Atto, they missed him by seconds, he said. "He went on CNN and he laughed at us, and he said, 'They'll never get me because Allah will protect me.'" "Well, you know what?" Boykin continued. "I knew that my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol."

June 2003: Pentagon announces that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has nominated Boykin for a third star and names him to a new position as deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence. Boykin's duties include reinvigorating Rumsfeld's "High Value Target Plan" to track down Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Mullah Omar and other terrorist leaders. Boykin speaks from the pulpit of the Good Shepherd Community Church in Sandy, Ore., displaying slides of Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and North Korea's Kim Jung I. He asks the congregation, "Why do they hate us? The answer to that is because we're a Christian nation. . . . We are hated because we are a nation of believers." Our "spiritual enemy," Boykin continued, "will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus."

October 15, 2003: Audio and videotapes of Boykin's appearances before religious groups while wearing his Army uniform over the last two years surface and are reported on by NBC News on the "Nightly News with Tom Brokaw."

October 16, 2003: Rumsfeld declines to criticize Boykin's remarks and praises the general's military record. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, issues a statement that he did not think Boykin broke any rules.

October 17, 2003: Pentagon officials confirm General Meyers' assessment and report that

lawyers in the Department of Defense General Counsel's office found no legal grounds for action against Lt. Gen. Boykin after a preliminary review of Boykin's reported remarks. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. sends a letter to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld calling for him to reassign or reprimand Boykin, arguing that "While every American has the freedom to speak his mind and express his opinion, it is essential that those who hold high profile, policymaking positions in our government exercise judgment in their public speaking. Lt. Gen. Boykin clearly lacks such judgment." Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner joined the ranking minority member of his committee, Sen. Carl Levin, in asking Defense Secretary Rumsfeld to refer this matter to the Department of Defense Inspector General to conduct an investigation into the conduct and remarks made by Boykin and asking that Boykin be reassigned while the investigation was pending. Boykin issues an apology to ". . . those who might have been offended by [his] statements . . ." and denied he was anti-Islam.

October 20, 2003: In response to a statement made by Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad that "the Jews rule the world by proxy" and that Islamic nations should unite against being "defeated by a few million Jews," President Bush takes Mohamad aside during the economic summit in Bangkok and tells him that what he said was "wrong and divisive," and that "it stands squarely against what I believe in."

October 21, 2003: Rep. Conyers issues a statement to Rumsfeld arguing that the "Inspector General review of General Boykin's statements . . . is insufficient to deal with the growing controversy." Rep. Conyers continues, "What we need from the Administration now is a clear and resolute condemnation of remarks which are hateful and racist in nature and content. The fact that General Boykin, our lead military official in charge of rooting out terrorism, can be permitted to spew invectives which undermine not only our friends and allies, but millions of our own citizens without being reassigned from his sensitive position is shameful."

October 22, 2003: President Bush is asked by reporters about Gen. Boykin's comments during his trip to Asia. Bush says that the subject had come up during his meeting with Muslim leaders from Asian countries and offers a mild rebuke of Gen. Boykin's controversial statements: "I said, [Boykin] didn't reflect my opinion . . . it just doesn't reflect what the government thinks." Bush goes on to say that Gen. Boykin will not be reassigned as a result of his controversial remarks.

H. RES. 419

Whereas Lieutenant General William Boykin, United States Army, who is currently serving as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and War-Fighting Support, has recently made a number of intolerant remarks against people of the Islamic faith while wearing his military uniform during numerous public addresses;

Whereas those remarks by Lieutenant General Boykin include the following: Islamic extremists hate the United States because "we're a Christian nation"; "Our spiritual enemy will only be defeated if we come against them in the name of Jesus"; President Bush "is in the White House because God put him there"; "I knew that my God was a real God, and [the Muslim God] was an idol"; "The enemy that has come against our nation is a spiritual enemy" named Satan;

Whereas Islam is a monotheistic faith, a faith whose followers are an integral part of the social fabric of America and many other countries;