

alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

#### POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to help the Federal Government be a better partner with local communities, to make them liveable, to make our families safe, healthy and economically secure. The simplest way to achieve that objective does not require new laws, regulations, fees or massive outlays of Federal dollars driving us even deeper into debt.

The simplest way is simply for the Federal Government to merely obey the rules that it sets for others. One of the best illustrations of this principle has been realized in massive grass roots support across America for the postal service to obey the rules in locating its facilities.

We have had support from the National Association of Home Builders, the Sierra Club, the Trust for Historic Preservation, realtors, landscape architects, the American Planning Association. Good government organizations across the country have joined with local officials, mayors and Governors, to understand that the over 37,000 postal facilities are not just remote outposts of Federal activities. They can, often are and always should be the centers of community activity.

As a local official, I had my own experiences where the postal service was sadly indifferent to the impacts of its operations on local communities. When putting in a new facility they refused, for example, to pave the sidewalks, to integrate the facility into the local fabric and make them accessible to citizens. I had experiences where the postal service would not work with us to promote orderly traffic flow.

In Florida there was a post office where they were going to put in a parking lot by paving a flood plain. If a private developer had tried to do that, people would have demanded that they be put in jail.

These experiences from around the country were the inspiration for the Post Office Community Partnership Act on which we have been working the last several Congresses. The bill outlines minimum community involvement that the United States Postal Service must pursue to significantly change any post office. More important, the bill requires the postal service to fully comply with local zoning, planning and other land use laws, to play by the same rules as everyone else.

In the past, we have had a majority of the House cosponsor this legislation. Once it even passed the Senate, but so far it has been the victim of politics of postal reform. In recent sessions, all of

the major efforts of more comprehensive legislation have included some variation of this bill as an enticement for passage.

The pressure from our legislation has, in fact, encouraged the postal service to make significant progress, and I have been encouraged by meetings I have had with members of the Board of Governors, the Postal Rate Commissioners, and recent Postmaster Generals. They have made progress. Outstanding examples exist from coast to coast.

In Fairview, Oregon, in my district, working with the developers in the community, the post office was the first civic building in a new development, enacted as an anchor for what has developed into a retail street. By centrally locating the post office as the developers proposed, the residents can easily walk or drive to the post office from anywhere in this village.

In Castine, Maine, the postal service first proposed moving the oldest operating post office in the country, an historic landmark, from its downtown location out to the suburbs. After a public outcry, the postal service and the town worked together to find a way to expand the existing location and keep the post office in its historic downtown location.

It is time, however, to make this relationship something that every community can count on. It should not be the exception. It should not require luck or extraordinary political action. There should be no variation in the commitment of the post office to be part of each and every community.

The recent report from the President's Commission on Postal Service is going to prompt more discussion and analysis of operations. If the recommendations are implemented from the Commission to streamline the postal service, it will result in closure of rural and innercity of post offices. Additionally, opportunities for public response and hearings will be cut, and the role will shrink to giving written complaints to the regulatory board after the decisions are made.

Now is the time to act. I urge my colleagues to sponsor the Post Office Community Partnership Act to guarantee that the postal service is a better partner and to set the tone for the Federal Government to lead by example in the livability of our communities, so that our families are safer, healthier and more economically secure.

#### WE WILL NOT RUN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates for such time as he may consume.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago in Iraq, the United States lost 16 soldiers in a missile attack on an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Twenty more American servicemen and women were wounded. All on board were headed to Baghdad, on the way to the air-

port and a well-deserved break from combat service.

Today, we all mourn their loss and offer our heartfelt prayers for the victims and, most especially, their families. But, Mr. Speaker, we will not run. The United States will stay in Iraq, along with our coalition partners, until the work there is done.

Until innocent Iraqis are no longer threatened by tuggish holdovers from the old regime; until state-sponsored murderers from neighboring counties no longer enter Iraq to terrorize its people; until the citizens of Iraq have a democratic government to set their own course among the free nations of the Earth; and until the nexus of the weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, and outlaw regimes can no longer threaten the United States from Iraq.

These things, these long overdue and wonderful things, are going to happen. Let there be no mistaking in this or any capital around the globe, justice is coming to the Middle East with hope and freedom riding close behind.

We all have always known that delivering these basic human rights to a region unfamiliar with them will be hard, but that is our mission, and one worth the sacrifice.

Just as it has been since we began debating the removal of Saddam Hussein from Iraq, this war remains a test of America's moral leadership in the world.

Are we serious about destroying international terrorism? Are we serious about holding outlaw regimes accountable for their sponsorship of it? Are we resolved to see our mission through to the end, despite the disproportionate costs and risks we must assume? And finally, is human freedom worth fighting for?

The answers to all of these, of course, is yes. And so we will not run. No matter how perilous our journey, we will stand and fight and humanity will win. Iraq will be free. Terrorism will fall. Evil will be turned back. And the Chinook 16, Mr. Speaker, will not have died in vain.

#### AMERICA WILL NOT RETREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of the resolution to remove the poisonous, snake-infested Iraqi regime because I believe it was the appropriate response.

Do I approve of the manner in which the postcombat peacekeeping effort is developing? No.

It appears to me that we should be beneficiary of more precise intelligence gathering from our Iraqi allies on the ground. We must insist upon better, more timely intelligence. These ruthless murderers who kill and wound our servicemen and women, who bomb and destroy hotels and other facilities must