

East have ever known. These men and women are not just troops, they are my neighbors. They are my friends. They are my constituents. They are fellow Georgians. They are heroes to all Americans.

For the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and for posterity, the soldiers of Georgia's 12th District that have served in Iraq or Afghanistan thus far include the first of the 214th Field Artillery from Athens and Waynesboro, Georgia; the 878th Engineering Battalion from Augusta; the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon; the U.S. Army Signal School, Fort Gordon; the Eisenhower Army Regional Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia; the 3rd, and the proud, Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia, did a marvelous job in campaign Iraqi Freedom; the 75th Engineer Detachment from Fort Stewart; the 165th Air Control Wing from Savannah, Georgia; the 117th Air Control Squadron from Savannah; the 165th Security Police Squadron from Savannah; the Air Combat Readiness Training Center from Savannah; and the first of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Rangers lead the way, from Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia.

"Walk softly and carry a big stick," that is what Republican President Theodore Roosevelt said. These soldiers not only carried the stick for their countrymen, but they have swung it powerfully to convince the world that ours is not an idle threat, and because of that, we have won another victory.

We have eliminated a decades-long threat of Libyan terrorism, without a single shot being fired or a boot on the ground.

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Once the dictator of that nation witnessed the professionalism and the resolution of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, he capitulated to the world community. That speaks volumes to the power of the American will in bringing peace and conciliation around the globe without having to go to war.

If those who threaten peace and freedom are convinced that we really mean business in defending it, they will back down. But make no mistake, they will test us. They have been doing that in Iraq and Afghanistan with pointless attacks on our troops and our allies. And if they sense a weakening of our will, they will attack with even more frequency and ferociousness. If they sense a weakness, sacrifices and the victories that we have won honorably in battle by our troops will be lost dishonorably by politically motivated criticism of our war efforts.

Not only will those who speak such words undermine and jeopardize our troops; they will likely invite terrorist attacks on our homeland. We need only look at the example of Spain to realize this is not mere conjecture.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House has a mission in this war. Our mission is much more simple and more

safe than that of the brave men and women who currently serve our country. We only have to show the world and our terrorist enemies that we are rock solid and that we will see this war through to final victory. We need to make sure our words of debate, both in this body and on the campaign trail, are chosen carefully to avoid even a hint of providing encouragement and aid to our declared enemies.

Our ammunition consists of words, but rest assured they are powerful weapons that can support our troops or those of the enemy. Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let us commit today that every word spoken by us in this body and across the Nation will be in support of the American troops and not those of al Qaeda.

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

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

ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 557

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about my colleagues on the other side in bringing to the floor House Resolution 557, which was just passed out with a "no" vote for me. This resolution is another attempt to divide this House on the Iraqi war while our young men and women continue to die, while parents, spouses and children suffer in their grief, and while we mourn their losses as a Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans did not involve a single Democrat in writing this resolution and, further, proposed a rule that allowed not a single amendment to be offered. We are here in this great House as a collective body to represent the people of America, and as the President constantly states, we are a Nation at war. Yet this House has chosen to ignore the Democrats and the people we represent in not involving us and including our position on this resolution. This is shameful, undemocratic, and an affront to our sons and daughters serving in this war.

Mr. Speaker, I share the view that the people of Iraq and the world are better off with Hussein in custody and his regime destroyed. Everyone agrees with that. However, the President told everyone in the Nation that combat was over on May 1, 2003. Yet every day young men and women continue to die in Iraq. Just today, a car bomb rocked Baghdad and killed more than 20 people. Over 500 Americans have died and over 3,000 have been injured, some seriously, during this war.

Our mission in Iraq has not been accomplished, the administration had no clear plan, our soldiers did not have the basic equipment that they needed, and returning veterans are being short-changed on the benefits that they rightfully deserve. This resolution did not speak to any of these issues.

Resolution 557 states that Americans and the world are safer now that Saddam has been captured. Mr. Speaker, the facts simply do not support this. The world has become a much more dangerous place. Just this past weekend, over 200 people died in Spain as a result of a terrorist attack. The invasion of Iraq has become a breeding ground for terrorists, and we live here in America under a cloud of constant fear. We are not safer. We are also raising a generation of children living in fear instead of relishing the joy of the innocence of childhood.

I have heard my colleagues in the House state that Libyan leader Mommar Qaddafi decided to disarm because of the invasion of Iraq and the capture of Saddam Hussein. This is another attempt to twist the facts. It is well known that Mommar Qaddafi began negotiations with the United States and Europe to disarm long before the Iraqi war and the capture of Saddam Hussein. Even Secretary Colin Powell recently acknowledged that. This claim is akin to the claim that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction.

This resolution clearly shows the Republicans are in denial as to why we went to Iraq and denial as to the constant state of security and stability in the world and are delusional as to how this war is affecting other countries. This resolution also failed to mention how isolated we are in the international community. The people of Spain just showed the world what they thought of this war when they voted out the power of their government that supported President Bush on the war.

I stand behind our courageous men and women in uniform who are bearing the burden of this military action in Iraq. I am deeply grateful to their patriotism, their courage, and their sacrifice. I regret that they were placed in the position of fighting a war for weapons of mass destruction that did not exist, but I honor their service.

I have recently introduced legislation that would provide \$50 million in funding to enable military families to get personal counseling upon return from this war and return from the service they have provided so admirably. I will continue to support our military men and women as they serve our country in this dangerous mission.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform deserve more than one line in this resolution that was passed on the floor. Surely our men and women in uniform, who have made the ultimate sacrifice, given their lives, deserve to be recognized and honored far greater than this. This was not outlined in the resolution just passed.