

from making improper references to individual Senators.

AMERICANS NEED JOBS

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, another week has gone by in the United States Congress, and nothing has been done with unemployment benefits for unemployed workers throughout this country; 2 million to 3 million workers still do not have work. Thousands in the State of Ohio are losing their unemployment benefits every single day. And we sit here and we want to take pot shots at different Members of this body, different members of the Senate, candidates for President.

The real issues today are people do not have any place to go to find work. Those people that did have work have lost their jobs, and they are looking for unemployment benefits to feed their families. They want to send their kids to school. We have no manufacturing program in this country. We are bleeding jobs every day.

We better get our act together in the Congress. I think it is time for a change. I think we need to focus on what is most important here and what our job is here, and that is to take care of the American people.

CALLING SENATOR KERRY "HANOI JOHN" IS SHAMEFUL

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, something happened on the floor of the House this morning that in my judgment is shameful, shameful, because the record of an American hero who shed his blood, who earned three Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, and a Bronze Medal was referred to on the floor of this House as "Hanoi John." Is that what we have come to in this House?

I would remind those listening that when the President of the United States found some reason not to show up for his responsibilities and when Vice President CHENEY said he had other responsibilities during the Vietnam War, it was Senator JOHN KERRY who took the bullets for this country and for us and our freedoms.

Shame on those, shame on those who would denigrate the record of a true American hero.

REPUBLICANS ARE UNWILLING TO MEET THE COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, by attacking JOHN KERRY's war record this

morning, the Republicans would revive the controversy of the war in Vietnam, yet they are unwilling to meet the commitment to the veterans of that war who are still waiting for the benefits they were promised. They will attack veterans of the war, and they will not help the veterans of the war in the way we promised when they went to war.

They have not yet repealed the disabled veterans tax. They are supporting \$1 billion less than we need to provide health care. The President is proposing to double the prescription drug cost for our veterans. And yet they have the temerity to attack a distinguished veteran of that war, one who has also voted to meet the commitments to the veterans of that war and the veterans who are coming home today. But they are not willing to pay that bill, they are just willing to attack.

NO BOUNDARIES

(Mr. BELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, are there no boundaries?

□ 1645

Earlier today several Republicans came to the floor of this House of Representatives to attack the military record of Senator JOHN KERRY, to attack the military record of an individual whose medals alone would take almost all of my allotted time to name, to attack the military record of a man who risked his very young life for his country in Vietnam and was wounded on three different occasions, a man who risked his life to save others; and then when we he came home to the United States, decided he was not finished saving lives. Instead, he decided to stand with thousands of other Americans and question a war that had clearly lost direction.

JOHN KERRY's appearance before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations back then was a turning point in the debate on Vietnam, and he showed the same level of patriotism by taking that stand here at home as he did with his act of bravery in Vietnam. To attack him in this manner is simply shameful. But I guess in this day and age of politics, there are no boundaries, and regretfully we should not be surprised.

KERRY, HIGHLY DECORATED VETERAN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, December 1968, JOHN KERRY gets wounded in the arm. He is awarded the Purple Heart. February 1969, KERRY is wounded again, shrapnel in the left thigh. He

is awarded a second Purple Heart. February 28, 1969, pursues a Viet Cong fighter, kills him and retrieves a rocket launcher, awarded a Silver Star. March 1969, a mine detonates the boat, wounding him in the right arm. He is awarded a third Purple Heart. He is also awarded a Bronze Star for saving a crew member.

As my colleagues have pointed out, Republicans came to this floor today to attack JOHN KERRY's military record. Shame on them. JOHN KERRY honors our men and our women in uniform. He honors the principles upon which this great Nation was founded. There are those who serve in the Republican side of this aisle who would do well to take heed and give honor to someone who served so well this great country of ours.

KERRY, A DECORATED WAR HERO

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was actually baffled to hear that some of my colleagues came to the floor this morning to criticize JOHN KERRY in his capacity as an enlisted soldier and war veteran. JOHN KERRY, the highly decorated hero, recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal, that JOHN KERRY was blasted and accused of being unpatriotic for being critical of the Commander-in-Chief during the Vietnam War.

I am baffled that my colleagues would even choose to go there because our current Commander-in-Chief has, what can I say, a less than heroic military career, and the majority of the Americans are more than a little concerned about a President who has sent our soldiers into battle without an exit strategy, without a post-Saddam plan and without body armor.

DANGEROUS DUTY FOR KERRY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, JOHN KERRY volunteered for service in the Navy during the Vietnam War where he served as skipper on a swift boat that patrolled the Mekong Delta. Navy Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, who devised Operation Sea Lord, calculated in his biography that swift boat sailors had a 75 percent chance of being killed or wounded during a typical war. Under Sea Lord, swift boat duty was one of the most dangerous duties you could draw in the entire U.S. Navy. KERRY was wounded three times in Vietnam, received three Purple Hearts for those injuries. He was also awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star for his actions in combat.