

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 418—the REAL ID Act. This bill both distorts and undermines the bipartisan recommendations of the 9/11 Commission which were crafted to make Americans safer and more secure.

The REAL ID Act actually deletes key 9/11 recommendations which were codified in law by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, provisions that have yet to be enacted,

Specifically, the REAL ID Act deletes driver's license provisions from the 2004 bill. Proponents of the REAL ID Act argue that this country needs national standards for driver's licenses and State identification documents. The 9/11 Commission took this issue very seriously and issued recommendations which were included in the House, Senate and White House-approved bill. The legislation expressly orders the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security, and States to work together to set national standards for driver's licensees.

The REAL ID Act removes this provision and instead imposes an inflexible Federal statute for our State governments. The 9/11 Commission legislation was intended to ensure that the States would have a voice in crafting national standards; it did not suggest that the Federal Government hijack the right of States to issue identification to their residents.

The bill also enacts tough new immigration provisions that could bar legitimate asylum seekers from receiving refuge in the United States. It also restricts the right of judges to review decisions by immigration officials at the borders to reject asylum applications. In truth, victims of torture and other forms of persecution could actually be deported into the hands of their persecutors, a reality that runs contrary to our fundamental values of freedom and liberty.

Even the White House has expressed reservations about the asylum provisions in the bill, and has already called for modifications “to ensure the changes do not unintentionally create new barriers to asylum.”

I believe we need to keep our focus where it belongs, on identifying and apprehending terrorists, and on making our country more se-

cure. We should adhere to the laws enacted by the President and both houses of Congress, and give them a chance to work before we begin repealing them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed two votes on bills last week to designate the U.S. courthouse in Jacksonville, FL, as the “John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse” and the Federal building and U.S. courthouse in Dayton, OH, as the “Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse.” Had I been present for rollcall votes Nos. 21 and 22, I would have voted “yea.”

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DONALD E. BELFI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and devoted public servant, the Honorable Donald E. Belfi. Mr. Belfi is retiring as Nassau County Court Judge after 44 years of dedicated service to the court.

A long and distinguished history of accomplishment and community leadership marks Judge Belfi's career. A graduate of Georgetown University and Fordham University School of Law, Mr. Belfi has committed himself to serving the public as a member of the legal profession.

After several years of service as Assistant District Attorney in both New York and Nassau Counties, and 10 years of service as Nassau County District Court Judge, Mr. Belfi earned the post of Nassau County Court Judge. As County Court Judge for more than 20 years, Judge Belfi presided over hundreds of criminal trials, many of which were high profile cases. Among these is the Colin Ferguson Long Island Railroad Case, a matter I hold close to my heart. On a personal level, this was the first time I had ever been exposed to the court system. Judge Belfi held the dignity of his courtroom every day, making the trial bearable for me, my family and so many of the victims of the Long Island Railroad massacre.

Judge Belfi's commitment to the community does not end inside the courtroom. Mr. Belfi has served as commissioner of Rockville Centre Little League, and as a member of several notable groups, including the Knights of Columbus, the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, and the St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Council. He also contributed over 20

years to Georgetown University as both an interviewer and a recruiter for the school. Widely recognized throughout the community, Judge Belfi's efforts and achievements have been rewarded with countless honors. Among these is the Fraternal Order of Court Officers Bench and Bar Award, the Criminal Courts Bar Association's Norman F. Lent Award, the Fordham Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award, the DeStefano Industries Annual Award, and the Court Officer's Benevolent Association of Nassau County Fidelis Juris Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Judge Belfi on his admirable career, and recognizing his numerous accomplishments. I cannot even begin to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for his service to the community. Together with his wife of 35 years, five children, and two grandchildren, I send him my sincerest wishes for happiness and fulfillment as he begins this next chapter of his life.

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article written by my constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. A son of Polish Holocaust survivors, he grew up in Haifa, Israel. He is past President of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors.

The final departure of Chairman Yasser Arafat is of one who eluded death many a time. During Israel's 1982 incursion into Lebanon to remove the menacing PLO mini-state within a state it was, ironically, Ariel Sharon, then Defense Minister, who ordered a sniper who “had” Arafat not to kill him. This is an opportunity to reflect on a man who could have made a critical difference and yet was not able to seize a unique offer granted him for radical self-transformation as well as a collective transition for his long-enduring people. How redemptive it would have been to break the deadly cycle of Palestinian missed opportunities!

In a fateful moment of truth in 2000 Arafat rebuffed former Prime Minister Barak's most forthcoming offer that would by now have guaranteed statehood in a favorable context to his frustrated people. It also would have prevented the flow of calculated bloodshed which the stubborn refusal and far-reaching blunder in judgment brought about. For the past four years Arafat unleashed with a nod of approval an unparalleled torrent of terrorist suicide bombings against Israel's civilian population that no nation would have tolerated for that long, and then many even decried the erection of a defensive barrier.

Arafat, the father of contemporary terrorism, was already uninhibited early on in his choice of terror as a means to accomplish

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

political goals. For example, he was behind the 1974 school children massacre in Israel's northern town of Ma'alot. Ultimately he was unwilling or incapable to lay to rest the Palestinian case and cause, assuming the normalcy of civil life that his own people might be rehabilitated and build the political, economic and social infrastructure necessary for the emergence of their democratic society and a viable state that would not threaten Israel nor Jordan from which his troublesome cohorts were evicted by the late King Hussein in "Black September" of 1970. Unlike the likes of South African Nelson Mandela who knew how to leave and live with a painful past, charting a new course for the sake of his people, Arafat would not shed his ubiquitous military uniform and the old persona of violent defiance. He thus allowed the terrorist within him to win over the peacemaker he triumphantly became for a brief time following his "resurrection" by Israel from obscure exile in Tunisia. How sad that the honor of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize could not keep him in check.

Admittedly, I was among those who applauded Arafat when he and his peace partner, Yitzchak Rabin of blessed memory, shook hands in the South Lawn of the White House on that bright day of promise in September 1993. I wanted to believe that Arafat, whose hands were stained with the blood of so many of my brethren, could rise to the precious opportunity to redeem himself and restore dignity to his people while bringing peace to a beleaguered Israel.

At this new crossroads of the post-Arafat era, will the Palestinian Authority wisely reach out to refashion itself sans the oppressive, conflict-ridden and corrupt style of its deceased leader, allowing its permanent neighbor Israel to be a blessing to her?

**INTRODUCTION OF TEA LU (H.R. 3)
HIGHWAY, TRANSIT AND HIGHWAY
SAFETY AUTHORIZATION
BILL**

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, 2005, I introduced H.R. 3, the Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users, TEA LU. This is a 6-year authorization of Federal highway, transit and highway safety programs. These programs are all currently operating under an extension since the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA 21, expired on September 30, 2003. The current extension—which is the sixth extension of these programs—will expire on May 31, 2005. We must pass this bill and successfully complete conference with the Senate before the Memorial Day recess begins. We must get this job done. American jobs and the continuing growth of the U.S. economy directly depend on the successful enactment of this authorization.

On February 7, 2005, President Bush introduced his fiscal year 2006 budget. I was pleased that the budget includes an updated reauthorization proposal funding Federal highway, transit and highway safety programs at \$283.9 billion over 6 years in guaranteed funding. This is a \$28 billion increase above the proposal introduced by the administration 2 years ago, and I applaud the administration's recognition of the pressing needs of America's highways and transit systems in this higher

number. The bill I introduced also funds the same programs at \$283.9 billion in guaranteed funding over 6 years, 2004 through 2009. I strongly believe that we have a much better chance of moving this legislation quickly in the 109th Congress, now that we are working with the same top line funding level that the President has endorsed.

The other reason that this \$283.9 billion guaranteed funding level may sound familiar is that it was the total 6-year guaranteed funding level that was under discussion in last year's conference negotiations. I am committed to getting back to conference as fast as possible.

There are no major policy changes between this bill and last year's authorization bill, which passed the House by a vote of 357 to 65 on April 2, 2004. The policies in H.R. 3 represent months of intense negotiations within the committee, with other House Members, and with stakeholder organizations.

I will work closely with the leadership, the Ways and Means Committee chairman, and the chairman of the Budget Committee as we further refine this bill and prepare for committee markup and floor passage. I urge the House membership's strong support of TEA LU, particularly since we now have the administration's endorsement of the total funding level.

Let's get this job done, so that our Nation's commerce can move quickly and efficiently, commuters can get to work faster and easier, waste less gas sitting in traffic, and spend more time with their families. States, communities, workers and industries around the country are waiting for us to act on this reauthorization. Let's get it done.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, with the passage of H.R. 418, The REAL ID Act of 2005, on Thursday, February 10, 2005, we took a much-needed step in ensuring that we do not have repeat terrorist attacks similar to those witnessed on September 11, 2001. This bill, at a minimal, will make certain that individuals who attempt to board planes will have to provide proof that they are who they claim to be.

While I believe that this is a positive, I do remain concerned over the usurping of what has historically been a right authorized to the States. I will continue to diligently work with the State of Nevada to guarantee that there remains limited infringement by the Federal Government on their right to legislate.

Further, Mr. Chairman, I offer my assistance to the State of Nevada in securing any grant funding that will be helpful in easing the burden that the State may incur during the period that it seeks to comply with the law.

Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate the House's action on this important bill, I want to remind my colleagues that it is vital that we continue to take a close examination of any piece of legislation that comes before our chamber that may infringe on rights guaranteed to the States.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial of Rotary International. On February 23, 1905, four Chicago businessmen, Paul Harris, Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr and Hiram Shorey, formed the first Rotary Club, which they hoped would foster fellowship and community service. Three years after the first Rotary Club was established, the second club was founded in San Francisco. Rotary now has a presence in 165 countries around the world.

Guided by the principle of "service above self," Rotary has devised a four way test for its members. Rotarians ask of the things they say or do: Is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build good will and better friendships and will it be beneficial to all concerned. Rotarians perform all actions regardless of political affiliation or ethnicity.

Our distinguished colleague the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill was widely known for his friendly admonition that all politics is local. This is true for Rotary whose global reach begins at the local level. In 1985, local Rotary Club members pledged to stamp out polio with the PolioPlus campaign. Since then, Rotarians have raised hundreds of millions of dollars to vaccinate people all over the world with the goal of eliminating polio by the end of this year. Rotary International is also playing an active role in responding to the tsunami and earthquake victims in South and Southeast Asia. I am proud to announce that Rotary District 5150, of which my Congressional District is part of, has responded by donating over \$50,000 to the relief effort in the month following the disaster. Rotary District 5150 has set a noble goal to raise \$250,000 for tsunami relief, and is also attempting to establish a "Rotary village" of permanent dwellings in Sri Lanka.

The Rotary Club is also the largest privately funded source of international scholarships. Each year, over 1,100 university students receive some \$26 million in scholarships for the Rotary Ambassador Scholarship. Since its inception in 1947, over 30,000 extraordinary men and women from over 100 nations have benefited from the Rotary Ambassador Scholarship and have used such a wonderful opportunity to promote global understanding and solidarity. Each year, Rotary District 5150 contributes to this deserving program by sending an exceptional student abroad with an Ambassador Scholarship. It is through these generous grants and other scholarships, that the Rotary empowers a new generation of leaders, furthers peace in the global community and upholds service as the highest of ideals.

Mr. Speaker, because Rotary International recognizes the importance of a global worldview, it has recently launched Rotary

Centers for International Studies at eight prestigious universities worldwide. These Rotary Centers offer graduate degrees in peace and conflict studies to a group of 70 Rotary World Peace Scholars chosen annually in a worldwide competitive selection process.

As well as supporting higher education, Rotary is fighting illiteracy worldwide. Of particular note is Rotary's literacy program in Thailand. Lighthouses for Literacy, has proven so successful that the Thai government has adopted Rotary's method fighting mass illiteracy.

Mr. Speaker, Rotary has grown exponentially from the humble beginnings of 4 men working to foster fellowship and community service, to a multinational organization of 1.2 million men and women who belong to more than 29,600 clubs worldwide. At home and abroad, Rotary International members are bringing positive change to their communities; I applaud their many efforts to strengthen our social fabric.

I would like to extend special congratulations to the clubs in Rotary District 5150, which encompasses much of the Bay Area. Many of these clubs are located in my Congressional District. I have had the pleasure to meet with many members of District 5150 and count Rotarians as my friends. It is a great honor for me today to recognize their many services of goodwill to their communities and celebrate this important milestone. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rotary International on their centennial anniversary.

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS (CHD)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because February brings to mind a time of year dedicated to hearts in the form of chocolates, cards, candies and sweet mementoes. Very little attention, however, is given to the health and the condition of the actual heart these candies and mementoes symbolize: the human heart of a loved one. It is imperative that we pause during this season to recognize the importance of cardiac health in our children, families, and loved ones.

There are nearly one million adults and children living with Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) in the United States alone, and his number continues to rise as nearly 40,000 children are diagnosed each year. Despite these figures, very little recognition is given to the victims and families of those suffering from CHD. Many of the children born with CHD are not diagnosed until days or even months after birth. This lack of detection endangers those who live without knowledge of their illness.

Among the many infants affected, the symptoms drastically range in severity and medical costs. Some children are barely affected by their defect, requiring nothing more than occasional monitoring. However, there are also families placed under the heavy emotional and financial burden of a severe heart defect that requires lifelong medical attention. The cost of multiple open heart surgeries, drugs, and raised insurance premiums becomes a special problem for low income families. Numerous or-

ganizations provide these families with support and financial aid to protect their loved ones, but these groups are only able to help a small percentage of people due to the lack of national recognition of CHD.

Raising a national consciousness about the defects and their effects will provide hope and comfort for those who have struggled with heart defects. Jeanne Imperati, the loving mother of a child with a heart defect, had the foresight in 1999 to begin a campaign focused on spreading awareness through a Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day on February 14. On a day already dedicated to hearts, it is a simple and meaningful endeavor to remind the nation of this worthwhile cause. More attention can be given to the regularity of the defects and research about their possible cause. Creating a network of informed people throughout the nation is a simple way to provide support for survivors and their families.

While we go about the tradition of honoring loved ones this Valentine's Day, let's also give our support to those affected by Congenital Heart Defects and their cause. Awareness is the first step toward saving lives and protecting those whom we love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 10, 2005, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 31: "No" (Final Passage of H.R. 418); (2) Rollcall No. 30: "Yes" (Motion to Recommit H.R. 418); (3) Rollcall No. 29: "Yes" (Farr amendment to H.R. 418) (4) Rollcall No. 28: "Yes" (Nadler amendment to H.R. 418).

LEGISLATION IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATION AND GOALS OF HIRE-A-VETERAN WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 14, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation honors and supports the ongoing efforts of our troops in Iraq and prays for the safety of all of our uniformed men and women still in the Gulf, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, now is also an opportune time for Congress to do more to help our Nation's new and old veterans in need. To this end, I am joined by my distinguished colleague, U.S. Representative HENRY BROWN, in introducing bipartisan legislation to urge the establishment of a "National Hire-A-Veteran Week." Our legislation also urges a presidential proclamation calling upon employers, labor organizations, veterans' service organizations, and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies to employ more veterans.

In spite of the best efforts of the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans

Affairs, imposing barriers continue to impede many deserving veterans from securing employment and achieving self-sufficiency. Just this week, I read a disturbing article by Alexandra Marks that appeared in the Christian Science Monitor and is entitled "Back From Iraq—And Suddenly Out On The Streets." It should alert all of us to the grim reality that veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are now showing up in our Nation's homeless shelters. I submit this article for entry into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

Sadly, many veterans struggle to find jobs, even with some opportunities for increased training and education offered through government programs. Little more than half of our Nation's veterans are employed today. According to the 2000 census, for example, nearly 20 percent of Gulf War veterans are unemployed.

Moreover, it is troubling and shameful that so many of our veterans who risked their own lives in support of our country can't find jobs and must endure homelessness and lives of poverty after they return home. Indeed, American veterans comprise one-third of the homeless male population in America; while an estimated 250,000 veterans live on our city streets. In fact, the number of homeless Vietnam War veterans today exceeds the number of service persons who died during that war.

Mr. Speaker, even as we tend to the well-being of our men and women currently on active duty, we cannot forget those who have already served their country and deserve more assistance in moving to the next phase of their civilian lives. A presidential proclamation of "National Hire-A-Veteran Week" would provide an effective and more focused way to do more to help all of our veterans find good jobs and ensure better living standards for themselves and their families. I hope that all of my colleagues will support this legislation and will take one more step to help repay the debt we owe to all of our Nation's defenders. I also hope it can be promptly enacted and signed into law during this session of Congress.

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 8, 2005]

BACK FROM IRAQ—AND SUDDENLY OUT ON THE STREETS

(By Alexandra Marks)

NEW YORK.—Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are now showing up in the nation's homeless shelters.

While the numbers are still small, they're steadily rising, and raising alarms in both the homeless and veterans' communities. The concern is that these returning veterans—some of whom can't find jobs after leaving the military, others of whom are still struggling psychologically with the war—may be just the beginning of an influx of new veterans in need. Currently, there are 150,000 troops in Iraq and 16,000 in Afghanistan. More than 130,000 have already served and returned home.

So far, dozens of them, like Herold Noel, a married father of three, have found themselves sleeping on the streets, on friends' couches, or in their cars within weeks of returning home. Two years ago, Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ) in the borough of Brooklyn, saw only a handful of recent returnees. Now the group is aiding more than 100 Iraq veterans, 30 of whom are homeless.

"It's horrible to put your life on the line and then come back home to nothing, that's what I came home to: nothing. I didn't know where to go or where to turn," says Mr. Noel.

"I thought I was alone, but I found out there are a whole lot of other soldiers in the same situation. Now I want people to know what's really going on."

After the Vietnam War, tens of thousands of veterans came home to a hostile culture that offered little gratitude and inadequate services, particularly to deal with the stresses of war. As a result, tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans still struggle with homelessness and drug addiction.

Veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are coming home to a very different America. While the Iraq war remains controversial, there is almost unanimous support for the soldiers overseas. And in the years since Vietnam, more than 250 non-profit veterans' service organizations have sprouted up, many of them created by people like Peter Cameron, a Vietnam veteran who is determined that what happened to his fellow soldiers will not happen again.

But he and dozens of other veterans' service providers are concerned by the increasing numbers of new veterans ending up on streets and in shelters.

Part of the reason for these new veterans' struggles is that housing costs have skyrocketed at the same time real wages have remained relatively stable, often putting rental prices out of reach. And for many, there is a gap of months, sometimes years, between when military benefits end and veterans benefits begin.

"We are very much committed to helping veterans coming back from this war," says Mr. Cameron, executive director of Vietnam Veterans of California. "But the [Department of Veterans Affairs] already has needs it can't meet and there's a lot of fear out there that programs are going to be cut even further."

BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBONS

Both the Veterans Administration and private veterans service organizations are already stretched, providing services for veterans of previous conflicts. For instance, while an estimated 500,000 veterans were

homeless at some time during 2004, the VA had the resources to tend to only 100,000 of them.

"You can have all of the yellow ribbons on cars that say 'Support Our Troops' that you want, but it's when they take off the uniform and transition back to civilian life that they need support the most," says Linda Boone, executive director of The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

After the Vietnam conflict, it was nine to 12 years before veterans began showing up at homeless shelters in large numbers. In part, that's because the trauma they experienced during combat took time to surface, according to one Vietnam veteran who's now a service provider. Doctors refer to the phenomenon as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

A recent study published by the New England Journal of Medicine found that 15 to 17 percent of Iraq vets meet "the screening criteria for major depression, generalized anxiety, or PTSD." Of those, only 23 to 40 percent are seeking help—in part because so many others fear the stigma of having a mental disorder.

Many veterans' service providers say they're surprised to see so many Iraq veterans needing help so soon.

"This kind of inner city, urban guerrilla warfare that these veterans are facing probably accelerates mental-health problems," says Yogin Ricardo Singh, director of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program at BVSJ. "And then there's the soldier's mentality: Asking for help is like saying, 'I've failed a mission.' It's very hard for them to do."

Beyond PTSD and high housing costs, many veterans also face an income void, as they search for new jobs or wait for their veterans benefits to kick in.

When Mr. Noel was discharged in December of 2003, he and his family had been living in base housing in Georgia. Since they were no longer eligible to live there, they began the search for a new home. But Noel had trouble

landing a job and the family moved to New York, hoping for help from a family member. Eventually, they split up: Noel's wife and infant child moved in with his sister-in-law, and his twins were sent to relatives in Florida. Noel slept in his car, on the streets, and on friend's couches.

Last spring he was diagnosed with PTSD, and though he's currently in treatment, his disability claim is still being processed. Unable to keep a job so far, he's had no steady income, although an anonymous donor provided money for him to take an apartment last week. He expects his family to join him soon.

'NOBODY UNDERSTOOD . . . THE WAY I WAS'

Nicole Goodwin is another vet diagnosed with PTSD who has yet to receive disability benefits. Unable to stay with her mother, she soon found herself walking the streets of New York, with a backpack full of her belongings and her 1-year-old daughter held close.

"When I first got back I just wanted to jump into a job and forget about Iraq, but the culture shock from the military to the civilian world hit me," she says. "I was depressed for months. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. The worst thing wasn't the war, it was coming back, because nobody understood why I was the way I was."

Ms. Goodwin was determined not to sleep on the streets, and so eventually went into the New York City shelter system where, after being shuffled from shelter to shelter, she was told she was ineligible for help. But media attention changed that, and she was able to obtain a rent voucher. With others' generosity, she also found a job. She's now attending college and working with other veterans who are determined to go to Washington with their stories.

"When soldiers get back, they should still be considered military until they can get on their feet," she says. "It's a month-to-month process, trying to actually function again. It's not easy, it takes time."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 16

9:30 a.m.
 Environment and Public Works
 Business meeting to consider S. 131, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program, and S. 125, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse". SD-406

Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2006 budget request for Indian programs. SD-562

10 a.m.
 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to Congress. SD-106

Budget
 To hold hearings to examine transparency of budget measures. SD-608

Finance
 To hold hearings to examine the President's budget proposals for fiscal year 2006. SD-215

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for foreign affairs. SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 To hold hearings to examine transforming government for the 21st Century. SD-342

Intelligence
 To hold hearings to examine the world threat. SH-216

11:30 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-366

2 p.m.
 Appropriations
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Emergency Supplemental. SD-106

3 p.m.
 Judiciary
 Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine obscenity prosecution and the Constitution. SD-226

FEBRUARY 17

9 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the National Science Foundation. SD-138

9:30 a.m.
 Armed Services
 To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program. SH-216

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine democracy in retreat in Russia. SD-419

Judiciary
 Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-226

10 a.m.
 Budget
 To hold hearings to examine rising health care costs and the impact on future generations relating to Medicare and Medicaid. SD-608

Finance
 To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, and Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board. SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 To hold hearings to examine the realities of safety and security regarding drug importation. SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine an overview of the Government Accountability Office high-risk list, focusing on ensuring Congressional oversight by bringing attention to government-wide management challenges and high-risk program areas. SD-342

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
 To hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration. SR-428A

10:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for the Emergency Supplemental. SD-106

2:30 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine National Park Service's implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. SD-366

Intelligence
 To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

MARCH 1

10 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior. SD-366

MARCH 2

10 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service. SD-366

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.
 Armed Services
 To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program. SH-216

10 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy. SD-366

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.
 Armed Services
 To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006. SH-216

10 a.m.
 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. SD-106

2 p.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans. 345 CHOB

MARCH 9

10 a.m.
 Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SH-216

MARCH 10

of the Defense Authorization Request
for fiscal year 2006.

APRIL 21

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

SD-106

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House
Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-
amine the legislative presentations of
the Blinded Veterans Association, the
Non-Commissioned Officers Associa-
tion, the Military Order of the Purple
Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of
America and the Jewish War Veterans.
345 CHOB

APRIL 14

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House
Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-
amine the legislative presentations of
the Military Officers Association of
America, the National Association of
State Director of Veterans Affairs,
AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners
of War, and Vietnam Veterans of Amer-
ica.
345 CHOB

To hold joint hearings with the House
Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-
amine the legislative presentations of
the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air
Force Sergeants Association, the Re-
tired Enlisted Association, and the
Gold Star Wives of America.
345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

MARCH 15

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military
strategy and operational requirements
from combatant commanders in review

To hold joint hearings with the House
Committee on Veterans Affairs to ex-
amine the legislative presentation of
the American Legion.
345 CHOB