Legal Services Corporation Board, committing himself to help those who needed legal services, but could not afford it. He also served as adjunct faculty member of the Georgetown University Law Center.

John represented what is now my congressional district, the 13th district of Illinois. He was committed to helping those in need and represented his constituents with honor and integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the service John Erlenborn gave for the State of Illinois and our Nation for so many years.

On behalf of this body, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire Erlenborn family during this difficult time. John Erlenborn lived a rich life. He never stopped giving to others even after his tenure in Congress, a model for all of us. He will be deeply missed.

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

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

STANDING TOGETHER FOR A SOLUTION TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized until midnight.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this was a day when many of us had wished that we could have taken a very serious step toward redeploying our troops and bringing them home. I believe it is very important to speak to the American people for this brief moment by telling them of a story of a young woman I saw in a hospital in Germany who had just been shipped from Iraq. She was burned from head to toe. She laid in a hospital bed; and, yes, as a soldier, she was valiant and courageous, and her only concern was for her mother.

I use that example because we have heard it on the floor tonight, how our soldiers want to go back into battle and how our soldiers want us to have the resolve to stay the course.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility as Members of Congress and policymakers whenever we send our soldiers into battle, we must send them for the right reasons.

We heard tonight that the American intelligence did not prove there were weapons of mass destruction, in fact, there were none; that the troops are in fact fodder for the insurgents, and health care is no longer promised to our soldiers coming home; that we are now sending troops that are at the C–4 level, the lowest state of readiness; 50,000 may suffer from battle fatigue. It is important that we stand together for a solution to bring our troops home.

I voted ''no'' against the Hunter resolution because it was not a serious debate. It was not a serious statement to our soldiers, and I want them to know that I am willing to stay the course, but I want them to come home, and I want them to come home now with a plan. And a plan has been offered by Mr. MURTHA in H.J. Res. 73, a plan that suggests that the troops should be in a small number in the region, but our troops in large numbers should come home from Iraq. We must turn the government of Iraq over to Iraq.

This is the debate we should have:

H.J. RES._____

To Redeploy U.S. Forces from Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Mr. Murtha introduced the following joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on_____

Whereas Congress and the American People have not been shown clear, measurable progress toward establishment of stable and improving security in Iraq or of a stable and improving economy in Iraq, both of which are essential to ''promote the emergence of a democratic government'';

Whereas additional stabilization in Iraq by U.S. military forces cannot be achieved without the deployment of hundreds of thousands of additional U.S. troops, which in turn cannot be achieved without a military draft;

Whereas more than $277 billion has been appropriated by the United States Congress to prosecute U.S. military action in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of the drafting of this resolution, 2,079 U.S. troops have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas U.S. forces have become the target of the insurgency;

Whereas, according to recent polls, over 80 percent of the Iraqi people want the U.S. forces out of Iraq;

Whereas polls also indicate that 45 percent of the Iraqi people feel that the attacks on U.S. forces are justified;

Whereas, due to the foregoing, Congress finds it evident that continuing U.S. military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the people of Iraq, or the Persian Gulf Region, which were cited in Public Law 107–243 as justification for undertaking such action;

Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That:

SECTION 1. The deployment of United States forces in Iraq, by direction of Congress, is hereby terminated and the forces involved are to be redeployed at the earliest practicable date.

SEC. 2. A quick-reaction U.S. force and an over-the-horizon presence of U.S. Marines shall be deployed in the region.

SEC. 3. The United States of America shall pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ABLE DANGER

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I include material regarding Able Danger for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2005.

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

DEAR SECRETARY RUMSFELD: We the undersigned are formally requesting that you allow former participants in the intelligence program known as Able Danger to testify in an open hearing before the United States Congress. Until this point, congressional efforts to investigate Able Danger have been obstructed by Department of Defense insistence that certain individuals with knowledge of Able Danger be prevented from freely and frankly testifying in an open hearing. We realize that you do not question Congress's authority to maintain effective oversight of executive branch agencies, including your department. It is our understanding that your objection instead derives from concern that classified information could be improperly exposed in an open hearing. We of course would never support any activity that might compromise sensitive information involving national security. However, we firmly believe that testimony from the appropriate individuals in an open hearing on Able Danger would not only fail to jeopardize national security, but would in fact enhance it over the long term. This is due to our abiding belief that America can only better prepare itself against future attacks if it understands the full scope of its past failures to do so.

On September 21, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary conducted a hearing on Able Danger which Bill Dugan, Acting Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight, certified did not reveal any classified information. Congressman Curt Weldon's testimony at that hearing was largely based on the information that has been given to him by Able Danger participants barred from open testimony by DOD. Their testimony would therefore closely mirror that of Congressman Weldon, who did not reveal classified information. Therefore we are at a loss as to how the testimony of Able Danger participants would jeopardize classified information. Much of what they would present has already been revealed. Further refusal to allow Able Danger participants to testify in an open congressional hearing can only lead us to conclude that the Department of Defense is uncomfortable with the prospect of Members of Congress questioning these individuals about the circumstances surrounding Able Danger. This would suggest not a concern for national security, but rather an attempt to prevent potentially embarrassing facts from coming to light. Such a consideration would of course be an unacceptable justification for the refusal of a congressional request.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON,
JOHN P. MURTHA.