

good. Few causes are as worthy, and few prices are as great. America prides its freedom on how our determination can accomplish any task and defeat any foe. So finish the job we will. And because of heroes like Private Abels, I have no doubt in my mind that we will prevail.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our soldiers need us, and they need the funding and the support that an appropriations bill can give to them and their families. Not only the soldiers that are on the frontlines of Iraq and Afghanistan, but the many soldiers returning home and the enlisted personnel stateside along with their families.

The Defense appropriations bill will provide a salary increase long overdue or at least needed again in these very difficult economic times. The bill will also provide and enhance improved health care for our soldiers. And recognizing that all Americans look forward to prosperity and a better way of life, I can assure you, in visiting with soldiers and families in my district, the limitations of their health care cries out for repair.

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Soldiers and their families are on limited opportunities for diverse health care, hospitals are limited, the care is limited; and certainly for those families who have elderly parents or dependents, family members who are ill, children who need health care, our soldiers' compensation and a bad health plan is a bad mixture for America.

And so I would ask the conferees, as they make their way in gathering and moving this legislation to the floor, remember the people who need the Defense appropriations bill. It is not filled with politics, because those of us who have raised our voices for redeployment, peace, and a better way in Iraq still understand the importance of providing for our men and women in the United States military.

This time around the Defense appropriation will be more than just the anchor for our military; it will be the anchor for those who have lost greatly in this last year. This will be the anchor for the Katrina survivors. And anyone who has interacted with them knows that they are not deadbeats. They are Americans who are simply looking not for a handout but for a helping hand.

Thousands live in the 18th Congressional District in the city of Houston, and I applaud the mayor and the council members and other elected officials; and I applaud Americans in general for the outpouring of their generosity, and particular Houstonians. But we need your help. We need your help in helping

FEMA continue its funding of apartment contracts that were supposed to be for 12 months and 18 months, otherwise we will see Katrina victims, their families and children dumped into the streets.

We need the funding to continue to provide hotel compensation until February 7 or longer, or we will see Katrina survivors dumped into the streets. When I use the word "Katrina," I really mean Americans, for the American Federal Government should be the safety net for all Americans in time of trouble. If we do not have the funding that we should have, we will see Katrina survivors stranded throughout America, 44 different States where they are located, with a one-way ticket to those States and no return ticket home.

FEMA will provide that ticket with the continuing funding for them to return home to their States. Now we understand that Defense appropriations will have 527s, issues dealing with campaign funding. That is not a Defense bill. We also find out that in addition to the Katrina resources, we will be putting the development and the expiration of ANWR.

Many of us are disagreeing with that. We believe in energy development, but we are disagreeing with going into ANWR, because we believe it has not been proven that that is a source of energy, other than, of course, an enhancement and opportunity for Alaska, one State. We applaud them for that, but there are many other resources that can be utilized to keep energy prices down.

We can explore in the gulf. It has not been explored to the extent that it should be, and there is a welcoming attitude about the exploration in the gulf, not only for energy oil but also for gasoline or gas.

Let me also say that there are still districts in the city of Houston that are in great need of the funding that is in this bill. In the city of Houston, Houston Independent School District spends \$186,000 a day for the additional visitors, or students, from Louisiana and Mississippi.

We are in debt \$30 million. We have 5,000 students. We welcome them. We want to teach them. We want to help them, but we need the support that is in this Defense appropriations bill. We want this bill to come to the floor, and certainly what we want most of all is to be able to have a free-standing bill to help our soldiers, our veterans to give them good health care, good housing, and good support.

We want to be able to be the safety net for all Americans in time of tragedy, provide for the Katrina survivors, the Wilma survivors, the Rita survivors to be able to have school in the place where they do not live; and we want most of all to be able to have housing and the travel trailers to get where they have to go.

Let us get the bill on the floor. Let us do what America needs us to do. Let us provide a safety net for America.

OPPRESSION IN BELARUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the ongoing oppression in the country of Belarus. On October 16, the Belarusian people celebrated a day of solidarity with political prisoners, activists, their families, independent journalists, and all who fight for freedom and democracy.

Many people switched their lights off at 8 p.m. and lit candles to show hope for a free and democratic future for Belarus. Unfortunately, only 2 days after this historic event, a prominent correspondent of the oppositional newspaper *Narodnaya Volya*, Vasil Hrodnikau, was found dead in his home.

According to family members, Mr. Hrodnikau was murdered for his fearless striving to bring a fair press to the Belarusian people. It is time for the U.S. Congress and our European allies to make a definitive statement on Dictator Alexander Lukashenko's policies and actively support the opposition movement in the region.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a closer look at the atrocities occurring daily in Belarus and work together to do what we can to bring about democratic elections of the Belarusian people.

In the European edition of *Time* magazine, in an article titled, "Where Tyranny Rules," which highlighted the fate of Nikolai Statkevich, a political dissident who ran for president against Lukashenko in 2001, since 2003 he has been in jail for resisting the authorities and obstructing traffic.

Two years for resisting authorities and obstructing traffic. And he still resides in jail today. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. Every year thousands of Belarusians are jailed for minor infractions, for example, attempting to publish newspapers, and regularly face police harassment.

Another good example occurred last August when Belarusian KGB, yes, they kept the infamous Soviet institution's name to intimidate civilians, the KGB raided the apartments of several college youths who had e-mailed each other cartoons involving Lukashenko. These students now are facing many years in prison.

Imagine that: prison terms for e-mailing political cartoons. As cochairman of the House Baltic Caucus, it is my sincere hope that the United States will continue to remember those fighting daily for democracy in Belarus and do all that we can to support this movement, the movement for change in this region.

I am encouraged by the change in the international community in support of democracy for Belarus. I encourage all of us to work together to keep up the great work and keep a watchful eye on the nation of Belarus and its dictator,

Alexander Lukashenko, in the upcoming elections in 2006. The opposition is united, the people are motivated for change, and we just ask for free and fair elections.

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

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

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

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

FILM SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, over the past year I have addressed many issues I have with the judgments handed down by the highest court of our country, the Supreme Court, right across the street.

Recent rulings by the Supreme Court of the United States, particularly pertaining to the separation of church and State, property rights, the right to say the pledge of allegiance, and the use of foreign law by our Supreme Court in interpreting the American Constitution, have prompted an outcry by the American people and a growing interest, or better yet, confusion, confusion on how those decisions are made.

The decisions made by the Supreme Court have a direct impact on the lives of Americans and every American in the future. With that said, I believe it is past time that every American be afforded the opportunity to see how those decisions are made in this Court.

I filed legislation that would allow cameras to broadcast Supreme Court proceedings so that we can all see the arguments made before the Supreme Court and how they make those decisions that affect our lives from now on.

I am no stranger to cameras in the courtroom. I was one of the first Texas judges to allow cameras in the courtroom. In addition, I was the first judge in Texas to oversee a capital murder trial broadcast in its entirety on television. Our sense of justice says the more open and public a trial, the more likely justice will occur.

I found that cameras only enhanced this concept. As a criminal court judge for 20 years, I have had countless cases covered by the media from all over the world. Critics argue that attorneys play to the cameras; but the truth is, they play to the jury. They always have played to the jury. Juries are the ones that make the decisions, not the audience.

Courts have the ability to prevent filming of the jurors, child witnesses, assault victims while letting the community see the public trial. Cameras make the ability of the people to view justice as it is in progress.

In the case of cameras broadcasting the Supreme Court hearings, there is no jury, just nine Justices who have the final say on the American Constitution. Because of the magnitude of the rulings handed down by this Court, these proceedings above all others should be as open to the public as possible.

While the hearings are, in fact, open to the public, not everyone has the ability to travel to Washington, D.C. and view these proceedings. This is why it is precisely time to come to the reality to open the Supreme Court to public hearings and allow their proceedings to be filmed by cameras.

Cameras can be unobtrusive. There are no big lights. There are no big cameras. In fact, many people do not even realize there are cameras in this Chamber. So it is time to film these proceedings. Opening these proceedings to the American public is much more important than seeing the child molestation trial of the King of Pop or the murder trial of some ex-football player.

Yet there was no concern over viewing these proceedings on television. Why should there be concern over a Court that has the final say on how our Constitution is interpreted? This year the Iraqi country, the Iraqi people have formed a new democracy, and part of that is a new judiciary. And yet they are already filming their trials, because the tyrant of the area, Saddam Hussein, his trial is on international television. This is their democracy and their courts seem to be somewhat more open than even ours.

Those judges and critics who do not want the public to view what they are doing in those courtrooms, Mr. Speaker, maybe should not be doing what they are doing behind those closed doors. It is time to open the Supreme Court to public viewing of their proceedings on television.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 75. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2141. An act to make improvements to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague, Ms. FOXX, tonight. This morning I paid tribute to our wonderful men and women in uniform for a great win for freedom in Iraq.

But tonight, Representative FOXX and I want to pay tribute to a great team, Appalachian State, for a wonderful win in the national championship that they won last night in Division I-AA football. What a thrill it was to watch those young men, their fans, their school administrators, the whole Appalachian community come together through a tough play-off, exhibiting sportsmanship, hard work, commitment, incredible enthusiasm, and to win that game last night.

Take nothing away from Northern Iowa, they played hard. They played well. Appalachian prevailed. Seeing the spirit that those young men and women exhibited, coaches, who by the way, ladies and gentlemen, Coach Jerry Moore, the winning coach, was given his first coaching job by our colleague, Coach OSBORNE. And Coach Moore reflects all of the wonderful qualities of Coach OSBORNE.

By the same token, I thank Representative FOXX for calling attention to my son-in-law, Lonnie Galloway, who coaches there; and I am so proud of him and all of the folks.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Representative FOXX for some comments.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. HAYES.

I am glad you mentioned with Coach Moore serving with Coach OSBORNE, Congressman OSBORNE. I did not get a chance to mention that this morning. I agree with you: he exhibits so much of all of the wonderful traits of our colleague, and we are lucky that we have at least three people in this body who have connections to Appalachian and to the great win that they had last night.

I am really sorry that our duties here prevented us from being in Chattanooga last night with so many Appalachian students and supporters.

I would have loved to see firsthand that crushing defense in the fourth quarter led by Jason Hunter and Marques Murrell. I wish I could have been there to witness in person the courage of quarterback Richie Williams, who played through a painful ankle injury suffered last week in the semifinal game against Furman.

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Appalachian is getting a lot of attention because of this football win. But the gentleman and I know and the people of western North Carolina and, indeed, all North Carolina know that Appalachian has always been known as a first-rate college and a first-rate university. It has a very proud history,