

The joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii oversees these missions. The Central Identification Laboratory is the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world. The Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Maryland is one of the leading laboratories in the world that handles degraded skeletal remains to determine DNA results, and the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory in Texas is home to the most comprehensive technical library and collection of life sciences equipment used by the Armed Forces.

But all of our efforts would be for naught, Mr. Speaker, if we did not have the support and cooperation of other nations, such as the Laos People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Kingdom of Cambodia, in helping us achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans who remain unaccounted from past and current conflicts.

However, even with the state-of-the-art laboratories and highly trained personnel and the support of foreign nations, we could not be successful as we have been without the support of the families. Yes, the families and the loved ones of those missing in action and those who were captured and returned home. The support of these families and that of our POWs has been immeasurable. We would not be here today in support of National POW/MIA Recognition Day without their encouragement and without their advocacy.

On Friday, National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be one of the six days specified by law that the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is required to be flown over certain Federal buildings, over certain national cemeteries, military installations, and post offices. The flag will fly as a reminder for all Americans to remember those who remain missing in action and those who were captured and have returned home.

And so, Mr. Speaker, let us also take this special moment to recognize those of the current conflict, the current conflict who remain missing: SGT Keith "Matt" Maupin, United States Army Reserves, and MAJ Jill Metzger, United States Air Force. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them and with their families and the families of those whose loved ones remain missing from previous conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to close by thanking my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina, who serves with great distinction on the House Armed Services Committee, serves our country in a bipartisan fashion, for his contribution and his cooperation on this resolution here tonight.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on June 29, 2006, my colleague, Mr. SIMMONS, and I introduced H. Con. Res. 444, extending the thanks of Congress and the Nation to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint

POW/MIA Accounting Command of the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, and the military departments and to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Nation's previous wars and conflicts. I am honored to stand before you today in support of this resolution.

On Friday we will celebrate National POW/MIA Recognition Day. As a Vietnam-era veteran I am deeply touched by the opportunity to discuss this resolution on the floor so close to this important day of recognition. It is difficult for me to understand that over 30 years after the end of hostilities in Vietnam, 1,802 Americans are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. It is only through the hard work and cooperation of the people, officials and governments of Vietnam and the United States that the remains of 604 Americans have been identified and returned to the United States. They are the heroes who are helping to bring closure and peace to so many American families.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of this long overdue recognition and send a heartfelt message to all the individuals involved in the identification and recovery efforts that a thankful Nation values and appreciates the work they do.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 444, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution extending the appreciation of Congress and the Nation to the Department of Defense organizations, military departments, and personnel engaged in the mission to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Nation's wars, to the POW/MIA families and veterans who support the mission, and to foreign nations that assist in the mission."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. POE's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF TOM JEHL

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, my subject for tonight is on Afghanistan and the narcotics problem, but before I address that, I would like to insert into the RECORD an excellent newspaper article about Tom Jehl, who died Tuesday in Fort Wayne.

He had this tremendous love for the University of St. Francis and Fort Wayne football team, and that love and this story is about how it kept him alive in the drive for the national championship, and how this year it is the inspiration for that team.

This is in NAIA, not Notre Dame's division. They will be the national champ in that division, but the University of St. Francis has been in the championship for the last few years, and Tom Jehl was their biggest cheerleader, and he is going to be sorely missed in Fort Wayne, and I hope it inspires the team, the Cougars, to go all the way this year.

[From the Fort Wayne News—Sentinel, Sept. 13, 2006]

In January 2005, Fort Wayne businessman and Lifetime Sports Academy co-founder Tom Jehl was diagnosed with aggressive strains of carcinoma and sarcoma cancers. A few weeks later, doctors at the Mayo Clinic told Jehl he had six months to live.

Jehl died Tuesday at age 76. This story is how he turned that prediction into 21 months with the help of some young friends.

When Jehl was informed of his diagnosis, one of the first people he called was University of Saint Francis Football coach Kevin Donley. The pair had met eight years earlier while waiting to participate in an hour-long radio sports show.

"I didn't know anything about Lifetime Sports Academy and Tom Jehl," Donley said, "and he didn't know anything about me and thought I was a fool to start a football team at Saint Francis. I thought, 'This guy's getting a half-hour of my deal,' and he's thinking, 'I'm getting a half-hour of his deal and they'll never play a game.'"

Almost, but not quite.

"I was trying not to listen to him," Jehl said a few weeks ago, laughing. "Out of the corner of my ear I hear him say 'We intend to win a national championship,' and I was like, Oh, brother, are we bringing a caseload to Fort Wayne! And he's on before me?"

A former Central Catholic quarterback, class of 1948, Jehl's first love was football. He played his college ball at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, before joining the Air Force, and it had always been his dream that Fort Wayne high school players would have a closer option. A few weeks after their meeting, Jehl walked into Donley's office and asked how he could help.

Over the next few years, Jehl helped the school name the football stadium after

Bishop John M. D'Arcy and then was the major contributor to get artificial turf for the stadium.

"I don't think we'd be where we are with our football program without him," Donley said. "He's been such a mentor to me and a friend to me and has helped me in this community to know what the heck to do. He turned out to be one of the best friends I have in life."

In April 2005, Donley and Saint Francis President Sister M. Elise Kriss asked Jehl to attend a healing prayer Mass at Trinity Hall. When Jehl and his wife, Marg, arrived early, Kriss said Donley wanted them to stop by a spring football practice.

As Jehl approached the field, Donley dismissed the players. The Jehls and Kriss walked to the front of the building where the team was waiting, pointing up to "Tom Jehl Football Complex" posted on the side of the building.

"I had no clue," Jehl said. "I never heard a cheer so loud in all my life. Then I thought, 'What the heck am I going to say?'"

Afterward Donley made a few remarks, talking about how the players had been praying for Jehl every day and were dedicating the season to him.

Jehl remembered making a few comments, mostly saying the right things, including telling the players maybe he could make it to the first game in September.

"Mr. Jehl, the final game is Dec. 15, and you aren't getting off the hook until then," linebacker Brian Kurtz said. "You're going to be around here until Dec. 15, and we're going to win it all for you."

The players presented Jehl with a silver ring from their runner-up finish in 2004 and told him the goal was to get him a gold one the next season. Jehl said he'd try. After all, the Cougars had lost the title in the final seconds and would be favored to return to the championship game.

"I kind of got revved up a little bit, and I had been pretty negative about the whole future of my health," Jehl said. "I wasn't doing myself any good walking around and talking about my time period and such. About a week after the Mass, I began to change completely. I figured they went to all that trouble, so who was I to walk around with such a negative attitude?"

The doctors' prognosis never wavered, but Jehl kept fighting with natural herbs, prayers and encouragement.

Inhaling energy from the children at Lifetime Sports Academy, he made it through the summer as the Cougars prepared for another title try. With Jehl watching every game from the sidelines, the Cougars kept rolling.

"It was like living in one of the most unbelievable stories of all time, and I felt it all the way," Jehl said. "They knew I was there, and I knew they were there. They put their heart into it, and many said they'd be praying for me every day."

The Cougars again reached the national title game. Jehl flew to the game with friends and gave a pre-game prayer, saying "Let's finish the job," at the end.

This time the score wasn't so close. Carroll College won 27-10.

After the game, Jehl didn't say anything to the players, just climbed on the plane for the ride home. He knew there was nothing he could say.

"The other team was more ready for us," he said. "It was a good fight, and a couple of plays turned things around. They came that close. I think that if they had won that game, I'd have been cured right there."

But the cancer was spreading, and Jehl spent more time than ever this summer at Lifetime Sports Academy, talking with coaches and enjoying the kids.

Though he was unable to go to the Cougars' season-opening game in Iowa last Saturday, he attended the Saint Francis pre-season scrimmage two weeks ago, 15 months past his original diagnosis.

NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN AFGHANISTAN

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the temptation in Afghanistan right now is to say, I told you so. I have been trying not to jump up and down and say, I told you so, but I can't resist doing it at least once: I told you so.

In the narcotics committee, we have been raising for years, since we went into Afghanistan, that the heroin problem was going to lead to a rerise of the Taliban. It was inevitable. Now, there are broad strategies in Afghanistan that are very complex. Afghanistan has never really been governed as a nation. It has always been much more tribal even than what now people are becoming familiar with between the Kurds the Shia and the Sunni in Iraq.

And for those who say in Iraq we should have allowed the Baaths into the government, we should have let more territorial control, well, we did that in Afghanistan. So we tried both ways. In Afghanistan, President Karzai, a good man, a dedicated man who has understood the battle, has tried to work with the tribal leaders in the region. But in those regions, in the absence of a workable economy at this point, they went from a somewhat large narcotics country to the dominant heroin country in the world.

Let me give you some idea of that scale. Under the Taliban, they had produced, let's take this on an equivalency because I can't remember the numbers off the top of my head, but let's say 20 million hectare, or 100,000 hectares and 20 million tons of whatever the quantity of heroin is. A number of 20. Then they went down to zero. When the government changed in Afghanistan, initially there wasn't a growth in heroin, but it went up by a factor of three times. Then it went up again by a factor of four times what it was under the Taliban, an equivalent of 60, then an equivalent of 80 if you use a 20 base number.

Now, supposedly, this was getting stabilized. But again this year, the UNDCP, the narcotics office of the Department of the U.N., is saying that it rose 59 percent again. Now, 59 percent is an extraordinary number, but over a base that is four times the previous world record and now it is up 59 percent again, what you see is that what used to be the grain and bread basket of the world, down around Kandahar and the Helmand Province, is now heroin as far as the eye can see.

Afghanistan has not always been the heroin center of the world. They have always had some heroin, but they had it up and down over the years. Since we have moved in there, because the Department of Defense, and particularly the British, who had charge of this, have neglected to do the spray operations, have neglected to go after this, they now have a problem that is nearly

insurmountable, and now it has spread to the Taliban.

Congressman HOEKSTRA as well as Congressman SHADEGG and Congressman RUPPERSBERGER and I were what may be the only delegation that will ever get into Helmand. With the battle between the State Department and the Defense Department, finally the State Department did let us get on the ground. We got down to Helmand. I have been to Colombia 12 times. I have been in Afghanistan before. But when we got down in the Kandahar-Helmand region, we got up in a Black Hawk and went for 45 minutes, and as far as the eye could see there was heroin, with poppies coming out.

And when you see the immensity of the heroin problem, that is going to move in to all the nations around it, spread from Afghanistan into the other stans, Uzbekistan and Kazikhstan, and move on into Turkey and into Europe. It is going to corrupt. It is not like Colombia, where you had the Medellin cartel and the Cali cartel. Here you don't have that same type of one dominant country moving through. The Afghans don't manage the heroin all the way through. It is going to corrupt the entire eastern side of Europe and move into Asia.

On top of that, it is corrupting the government inside. And every time I have gone to Afghanistan, I have asked the same question. They say, well, these guys have really sophisticated weapons. They are getting IEDs similar to what we see in Iraq. They are getting new rocket launchers that can take our airplanes out. What do you think they are buying them with? Do you think they are making Dell Computers in Afghanistan? Do you think they are making plastic parts for the auto industry in Afghanistan? No, they are buying them with heroin.

And we have been asleep. The British have been asleep, NATO's been asleep, and the U.N.'s been asleep while the heroin is on the ground growing in massive quantities and now funding the killing of troops from my district. Men and women from my district are being shot at with heroin money because of the addiction around the world and because our governments wouldn't act.

Now, there are some things we can do. First off, we need the Department of Defense and our Federal agencies, and particularly the British, who are extremely frustrating in this process, and the NATO people that are taking over to start to recognize that narcotics is the core funding of terrorism in Afghanistan. They have no other income.

Secondly, we need back the Schumer amendment in the DOD appropriations bill that put \$700 million towards the drug problem in Afghanistan. And I am not always a big ally of Senator SCHUMER, but we need to back his amendment here. He is right. We need a unified campaign like in Colombia, where drugs and terror are treated the same way.

This is an inseparable problem, and we better get it now or we will never get Afghanistan back.

THE PROBLEM

Counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan are failing. A recent report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicated that opium cultivation rose 59% in the past year. . . . from 104,000 to 165,000 hectares.

Afghanistan is producing 92% of the world's opiates including heroin and this total actually exceeds global consumption by an astounding 30%.

The problem is particularly acute in the southern provinces and most notably in Helmand. If one considered Helmand an independent nation, it would be the world's second largest opium producer following the rest of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's central government has been unable to exert enough influence to stem the rising opium tide and this has fueled rampant corruption at the provincial level.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

This rise in opium production coincides with a resurgence of Taliban inspired violence especially prevalent in Afghanistan's southern provinces. The drug profits, totaling at least a third of Afghanistan's GDP, are fueling a deadly insurgency that has reached unprecedented levels since we toppled the Taliban regime in 2001. American and allied soldiers are fighting and dying every day because of this illicit relationship.

In a larger sense, the Taliban's resurrection is threatening Afghanistan's emerging democracy and restricting the growth of legitimate trade and commerce. It's no coincidence that the largest increases in opium production occurred in the areas where the central government is weak and the Taliban is strong.

At the provincial level, there is widespread corruption between government officials, narco-traffickers, tribal leaders and Taliban insurgents. The Taliban is encouraging farmers to grow poppy while providing protection for narcotics shipments through Afghanistan. This symbiotic relationship is destroying the fabric of Afghan democracy and threatening to reverse all of the nation's progress since 2001.

Afghanistan's drug based economy is destabilizing the entire region and providing the financial means for a return of radical Islamic fundamentalism to this fledgling democracy.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Department of Defense (DOD) and other federal agencies need to accept that narcotics smuggling in Afghanistan is fueling the Taliban-led insurgency. Defeating the Taliban is impossible without simultaneously addressing the drug problem so the DOD must play a greater role in non-eradication efforts.

On September 7th, the Schumer amendment was inserted into the DOD appropriations bill for \$700 million towards the drug problem in Afghanistan. At conference, I recommend mandating this funding to jump-start a new, counter-narcotics policy in Afghanistan.

Since narcotics and terrorist operatives function in a mutually beneficial and symbiotic fashion, our national policy must shift toward a "Unified Campaign" against drugs and terror similar to the initiative in Colombia which has yielded significant results. Our national policy should not focus solely on eradication. In-

stead, the DOD must be mandated to support other federal/international agencies in pursuit of narcotics traffickers as well as terrorist organizations. More specifically:

Purchase or lease adequate DEA helicopter lift and support gun ships to support enforcement actions against drug kingpins (also known as High Valued Targets or HVTs) or heroin labs.

Utilize the State Department's ten Huey II helicopters, currently being used for eradication, to support DEA law enforcement operations.

Purchase an adequate number of counter-narcotic canines to support all drug enforcement operations including airport security/cargo inspection and road check-points.

Provide \$18.5 million for the DEA to create human-intelligence networks.

The successful counter-narcotics lessons from Colombia are also clear. Upon the U.S. Congress' request, the Colombian National Police visited Afghanistan in July 2006 and made several recommendations to curb the narcotics problem. The Colombian police are experts at dealing with the terrorism and drug nexus so we should give great weight to their recommendations. They encouraged the Afghan police to develop their investigative and intelligence collection techniques to exploit human informants in order to take-down drug kingpins as well as to trace and eliminate the trafficking networks. In addition, the Afghan police needs to learn how to develop legal cases in order prosecute major drug kingpins.

A key mechanism of the DOD's efforts is the use of the Central Transfer Account (CTA). This account was developed to preserve the integrity of the Department's counter-narcotics efforts and should remain firewalled from other uses. A recent reorganization proposal within DOD to expand the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Counter-Narcotics responsibilities to also include counter-proliferation and other unspecified "global threats", derails the singular focus of the CTA. If the CTA's resources are combined with other responsibilities, such as the Nunn-Lugar program which focuses on dismantling Soviet-era nuclear warheads, the DOD's counter-narcotics mission would be seriously distracted if not compromised. Counter-proliferation and counter-narcotics are distinct activities and the DOD should not combine both functions under one office.

Finally, provincial corruption is the lubrication which keeps the narcotics engine running in Afghanistan. The potential profits from narcotics trafficking are a compelling temptation to many officials in this poverty stricken nation. Unless the Afghanistan government, with the support of the international community, can root out corruption at all levels and successfully prosecute those who violate their own laws, we'll struggle to gain any ground.

CONCLUSION

Narcotics smuggling is feeding the terrorist insurgency in Afghanistan. The two activities are inextricably linked and must be combated in a unified fashion.

We must succeed in Afghanistan. The maintenance of a stable and democratic Afghanistan is pivotal for regional and global security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr.

McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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 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 Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO FRANK WALKER

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Resources Subcommittee of National Parks, I have had the privilege to visit many of our Nation's National Parks. From my own personal experiences, I have come to love the beauty of these parks and am grateful for the recreational opportunities they have to offer. Over 100 years ago, our predecessors displayed historic vision and took a bold step forward in a quest for protecting our Nation's natural wonders.

On March 1, 1872, Congress established the Yellowstone National Park, our Nation's first and still one of our most beautiful and pristine national parks. President Theodore Roosevelt strengthened our Nation's conservation system through the Antiquities Act of 1906, creating 18 national monuments by the end of his presidency, including the beautiful cliffs of Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado, Arizona's Petrified Forest, and our own natural wonder, the Grand Canyon. These monuments laid the groundwork for our current park system, a vision completed in 1916 as President Woodrow Wilson established the National Park Service.

There are thousands of individuals in the National Park Service as well as volunteers like Friends of our Parks, who dedicate their talent and lives to our National Parks. Without all of their hard work and dedication, our National Parks could not retain their immaculate beauty, nor could they continue to provide critical habitat for our nation's world-renowned wildlife. It is because of the work of these individuals that I, as well as my children and my grandchildren, will be able to enjoy the Park System. Today, there are 390 National Parks throughout America, with at least one in nearly