

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

TIME FOR A CHANGE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the stubbornness of the White House to end. Today the President received recommendations from the bipartisan Iraq Study Group. This report should serve as a wake-up call that the status quo is simply not working, and that both Democrats and Republicans are now coming to the conclusion that we must take our troops out of Iraq.

The President's strategy of stay the course is not working. In fact, things in Iraq are dramatically worse today than they were 1 year ago. Consider that last year the people of Iraq were experiencing an average of 200 attacks per week. Today those attacks have doubled to more than 400 every week.

Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, living in a country or trying to stabilize a country where 400 attacks are taking place on a weekly basis. The situation is not getting any easier for American troops either. This October was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in more than 2 years, and the war is increasingly a war fought exclusively by American troops. To date 12 countries have pulled their troops out, and six more countries are planning to withdraw in the coming months.

Now, what are our brave men and women accomplishing today in Iraq? They are essentially serving as referees in a civil war between Shia and Sunni militias.

Mr. Speaker, we are also spending billions of dollars in Iraq, money that could be better served on domestic priorities here in the United States or in combating terrorists who are making a comeback in Afghanistan.

Today we are spending \$8 billion a month in Iraq, and we are not seeing any change on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, the American people voiced their frustration with the problems in Iraq and demanded with their votes a change of course on election day this year. But instead of listening to the people, instead of listening to Democrats, instead of listening to countless foreign policy experts who have demanded a change of course, President Bush has stubbornly stayed the same course.

He said there will be no graceful exit from Iraq, and that American troops will still be in Iraq when he leaves office in 2 years. This is President Bush's war. He initiated it, and it is now his responsibility to get us out.

Mr. Speaker, we must eliminate the open-ended commitment to keep troops in Iraq indefinitely. The Iraqi Prime Minister stated that his army has reached, and I quote, a good level of competency and efficiency, and that

they could be ready to take on the task of securing Iraq by June of next year. We should force the Iraqi security forces to play an increased role in securing their own country. The Pentagon must also redouble its efforts to effectively train the Iraqi security forces.

This past weekend, Mr. Speaker, a classified memo penned by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld suggested that our course of action in Iraq is not working and the President should reconsider redeploying troops. Now, as Democrats, for months we have proposed this solution of redeploying troops out of Iraq, and the only thing that has happened is that we have been vilified by the President and many of our Republican colleagues in Congress.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I support House Joint Resolution 73 introduced by Congressman JACK MURTHA of Pennsylvania last November 17 in 2005.

I don't want to go through that whole resolution, but I would like to make reference to the last whereas clause and the resolve clause, and it says, Whereas 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. Now, therefore be it resolved that the deployment of the 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. That is what I believe in. That is what I would like to see us pass here.

Today I think, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to mention and to note that the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan group, Democrats and Republicans, sent President Bush a strong message, and that is that the President's state of denial about the Iraq war cannot continue. The time has simply come to bring our troops home.

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

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

GOODBYE TO FRIENDS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, at the end of every election cycle, we say goodbye to a lot of our friends and hello to new Members of the Congress. Tonight, since we are right near the end of our session, our special session, I thought I would take just a moment to say goodbye to some of my friends, whom I am not going to see again, unless they invite me to their House for a steak dinner when I get in their region.

A lot of the Members of the Republican Study Committee, which SAM JOHNSON, JOHN DOOLITTLE and ERNIE ISTOOK and I founded about 10 years ago, were defeated in this elect. We have some new Members, but a lot of them were defeated. I want to say to them you have done a great job for your country and all of you we are going to miss. I can't name all of you, but you know who you are.

I also want to say a fond farewell to some of my colleagues from Indiana who I think fought the good fight and I think did a good job for our Hoosier State, but won't be with us again. MIKE SODREL, who has a great southern Indiana accent, I loved to rib him when he was on the radio. MIKE, we are going to miss you. He was very active on Agriculture Committee, the Science Committee, Small Business and Transportation. I don't know how he did all of that. That must be one of the reasons he wasn't able to win the reelection. He probably worked too hard up here.

Then, of course, CHRIS CHOCOLA, who was on the Budget and also Ways and Means. CHRIS was also from the northern part of Indiana. He did a great job for our State. We will miss CHRIS as well.

JOHN HOSTETLER, who came from what we call the bloody Eighth of Indiana. He carried the Republican mantle of leadership in that district for a very, very long time. He did a great job, but unfortunately this time the bloody Eighth got to him. JOHN, we are going to miss you as well.

ERNIE ISTOOK, who as I said before was one of the founders of the Republican Study Group, we called it CAT, Conservative Action Team. ERNIE ran for Governor and got hit with the tide. So, ERNIE, he didn't make the governorship. We are going to lose him as a Member of Congress. ERNIE, we are going to miss you as well. You did a great job with the Republican Study Committee.

Then I want to say goodbye to some of my buddies from the 98th Congress. There is only one of us left, the last man standing, SHERRY. There were 24 of us that were elected back in 1982 and 1983. SHERRY BOEHLERT, NANCY JOHNSON and MIKE BILIRAKIS were the last four. JOHN MCCAIN was the other four, but he went over to that other body where the air is a little bit rarefied. JOHN and I will be the only two left.

But SHERRY, we are going miss you. I know you are going to go home and really enjoy being with your wife and family and not having to run every time you hear a bell ring. You will probably hear the phone ring and go nuts.

NANCY JOHNSON, you have been a great friend. I will certainly miss you as well.

MIKE BILIRAKIS, fortunately MIKE's son has joined us from his district. We are going to miss MIKE as well. I had some great debates with MIKE about Cyprus. MIKE, I am going to miss you on those debates. Maybe your son will

take up the mantle, and we will have those debates just like you and I have.

Anyhow, goodbye to my old friends, the Republican Study Committee members. We will miss you. Hopefully you will come back and see us when you get a chance. As I said before, if I get in your neck of the woods, especially you, SHERRY, I will stop by for dinner.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

GOODBYE TO COLLEAGUES

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I just would like to begin, I guess, where DAN BURTON has left off in saying so long to so many Members of Congress that we have worked with. Because there are so few people here, I think it is an indication of how we have legislated in terms of waiting so late and Members having to leave, but I guess the most important thing that I wanted to say is that this legislative body has been very good to me, and I have been here for well over three decades.

Not only did I have, do I have, an opportunity to serve my district and my country in this Congress, but it allowed me to meet and work with some of the most exciting, intelligent and interesting people that I never would have met had I not had the great honor of serving here.

This has been especially true in the last decade where friendships have been very difficult to maintain, one, because of the legislative schedules that have been so different with the small amount of time that we spent here; two, because we don't travel abroad as a Congressional team; but, lastly, and I guess the thing that hurts the most, is that the group became not just friends, what committee, what part of the country you came from, but it was whether you were Republican or Democrat, and that made the difference.

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I do hope that the new Congress will have just as much partisanship as re-

lates to the issues that they believe in, but that we will have the Congress that I came to enjoy; that the partisanship would include friendship and would allow people to differ in the ideologies and their political beliefs, but at the end of the day we can say that we still were able to be friends. I really think that we all have to agree that in part, and perhaps a large part, the American people said that in the last election.

I say that because tonight the epitome of how that works is with my friend of long years, Congressman SHERRY BOEHLERT, a gentleman, a scholar, an American, a Member of Congress; a person who loves his district, his constituents, but loves Congress and his country; a person that stood up to Republicans and Democrats for what he believed in; a person who soared in popularity among those people that were concerned with our country, with our environment; and a person that, no matter how strongly he believed or other people disagreed with him, never lost a friend in that process.

We will miss SHERWOOD. He has fought the good fight. He set an example for all of us. But I think that the best tribute that we can pay to him is that maybe all of us, Republicans and Democrats, would try to find out, how did he do this? How was he able to maintain his convictions, keep his head high, be eloquent in the debate, disagree with so many people, Democrats and even those within his party, and, at the end of the day, everyone is able to say what a true gentleman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT is, what a great gentleman he is, and, I am pleased to say, what a great friend he has been.

So I know that because of the depth of his commitment, that he could never walk away from us in terms of commitment. And so as he follows through in an extension of his life and terminates that legislative part, I just want you to know that the entire delegation felt a sense of friendship for him. We will miss him, and we in the New York delegation, and I hope the Congress, will try desperately hard when we are tempted to do what we think our party label would want us to do, that we can remember that some have come here as friends; they can do their job, they can work hard, they can disagree, and, God willing, we can leave as friends.

Mr. Speaker, my failing eyes allowed me not to see my buddy on the floor when I started this talk, and I just want to say personally, SHERWOOD, you have been a model for me, a model for the New York delegation, and if people had known our delegation, as diverse as it is, perhaps they could go to their delegation and be able to say that, hell, anybody, if we try hard, can be like SHERWOOD BOEHLERT.

We will miss you, but I am so glad that I am in the same State, and I know I will be seeing more of you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit Mr. BOEHLERT's biography for the RECORD.

BIOGRAPHY OF REPRESENTATIVE SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

Utica native Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford), Chairman of the House Science Committee, was first elected to the House of Representatives in November 1982. He is currently serving in his 12th consecutive term representing Upstate New York.

Boehlert has served on the Science Committee since 1983, and was elected Chairman in January 2001. The Committee has jurisdiction over all federal, nonmilitary scientific and technology research and development programs, on which the federal government spends more than \$30 billion a year. The Committee has jurisdiction over NASA, the National Science Foundation, and research and development initiatives within the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Commerce. In addition, the Committee has jurisdiction over civil aviation research and development and marine research.

Boehlert is a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, serving as Chairman of its subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment from 1995 to 2000. He remains an active member of that Subcommittee.

Boehlert was a founding member of the House Homeland Security Committee, by appointment of Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. Boehlert was also an eight year member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (term limited).

Born on September 28, 1936 in Utica, New York, Boehlert is a graduate of Whitesboro Central High School and Utica College Bachelor of Science, 1961). Before serving as Oneida County Executive (1979-83), he was manager of public relations at Wyandotte Chemical (1961-83), he was manager of public relations at Wyandotte Chemical (1961-64) and served two years in the U.S. Army (1956-58).

Boehlert served as chief of staff for two area Congressmen, Alexander Pirnie (1964-72) and Donald Mitchell (1973-79), where he became intimately familiar with the people, places and issues of Upstate New York.

An avid New York Yankees fan and movie buff, Boehlert and his wife, Marianne (Wiley) Boehlert, make their home in New Hartford, New York. They have four grown children and five grandchildren. When Congress is not in session, he returns to Central New York each weekend to stay in touch with the people who elected him to represent them in Washington.

The 24th Congressional District includes all or parts of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Ontario, Otsego, Tioga, Tompkins, and Seneca counties.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, the upstate city of Utica, New York, calls itself the "City of Possibilities;" and I rise today to pay tribute to one of its sons, who saw his service in government not only as that of great possibilities, but of responsibility and achievement.

My friend, my colleague, SHERWOOD "SHERRY" BOEHLERT will retire at the end of this Congress after 12 terms of proud service to his community, his state and our nation.

Whether it was as a Congressional staff member, U.S. Army veteran, Oneida County Executive, or Member of Congress, SHERRY BOEHLERT saw government as a proud and noble profession, serving others to achieve for them a better quality of life.

His service on the House Science Committee, which began in 1983 and culminated with his election as chairman in 2001, earned SHERRY high marks for his intellect and independence, his ability and his vision.

As a fellow New Yorker, I have been honored to be SHERRY'S friend and colleague for so many years.