

the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SCOOTER LIBBY CONVICTION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week brought news of the conviction on four counts of perjury, obstruction of justice and lying to Federal investigators of the Vice President's former Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby.

It is easy to forget exactly what this case was about and its precise bearing on the ongoing bloody chaos in Iraq, so I think it is important to refresh our memories.

What did Mr. Libby lie about? He lied about his alleged role in blowing the cover of a CIA agent named Valerie Plame Wilson. And why would Scooter Libby or anyone else in the White House even consider doing such a thing? Political retribution, of course. Valerie Wilson's husband, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, had been a public critic of the Bush administration's march to war. He had traveled to Africa at the behest of the CIA and concluded that there was nothing to the President's claim, made in the State of the Union no less, that uranium from Niger was helping Saddam Hussein build a nuclear weapon.

Ambassador Wilson dared to question the White House on a critical matter of policy, indeed a matter of war and peace. He dared to suggest that they had taken the Nation to war under false pretenses. So they destroyed his wife's career, and in so doing may have imperiled our national security.

Remember, this is the administration that guards information so closely that it considers its secrets sacrosanct, that has lectured others for leaking classified information, but they had no qualms about divulging sensitive information about someone else, someone who uses her undercover status to help protect the Nation. Why did they out her? Because she is married to someone who leveled a legitimate and accurate criticism at the White House.

It just goes to show, Mr. Speaker, they were willing to stop at absolutely nothing to discredit anyone who undermined their case for war, a case that was based on exaggeration at best, and outright lies at worst.

After the Libby verdict was rendered, a former national chairman of the Republican Party tried to pooh-pooh the matter by telling the USA Today, and I quote him, "When you get down to it, it was one case involving one guy."

Similarly, the Washington Post concluded its editorial by saying that the Wilson-Plame case and Mr. Libby's conviction tells us nothing about the war in Iraq. I couldn't possibly disagree more. Mr. Libby wasn't lying about whether he revealed Valerie Wilson's favorite color. Mr. Libby's conduct was part of a campaign of deceit intended

to shut down any and all objections to the war. And why did they need a campaign of deceit? Because there was no legitimate reasonable cause for war without the specter of weapons of mass destruction, without the disgraceful scare tactic of warning that we don't want, and they said this, the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud.

It is the responsibility of Congress now to delve even deeper into the manipulation of pre-war intelligence. I am eager to hear Mrs. WILSON's testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Friday, and I hope this is just one of many such inquiries.

Even as we are currently immersed in a debate right here in the House about how to end our occupation of Iraq, it is critical that we hold people to account for the mistakes and the misdeeds that launched this disastrous war and cost 3,200 Americans their lives.

Justice was done in the case of Mr. Libby, but I hope when it comes to Iraq we can bring about justice in a broader sense, by restoring Iraq's sovereignty and letting its people determine their own future, by becoming a reconstruction partner and not a military occupier in Iraq, by promoting stability in the region instead of being a catalyst for violence, a catalyst for terror, by completing a fully funded withdrawal from Iraq and bringing our troops home at last.

RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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. Mr. Speaker, in 1947, when the National Security Act became law, Congress declared that the Department of Defense consists of four distinct military services, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the Marine Corps. But the act spells out the mission of today's Marine Corps and clearly indicates that the Corps is a legal distinct military service within the Department of Navy; that is, the Marine Corps and the Navy are coequal partners. The Marines do not serve beneath the Navy, they are a team. There is not a subordinate relationship between the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. They are equal partners of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it is time the Department of Navy recognizes the equal status.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have again introduced legislation, H.R. 346, to change the name of the Department of the Navy to the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. I am encouraged that this change has been included in the House defense authorization bill for the past several years, but it has not been accepted by the Senate.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this legisla-

tion, and I hope this year the House position will prevail in the Senate. This legislation is not about changing the responsibilities of the Secretary or reallocating resources, there is no cost to this change. Instead, it is about showing the Nation the true meaning of the department and recognizing the Marine Corps' extreme importance to our national security.

When the President's top military adviser, General Peter Pace, is wearing the uniform of the Marine Corps, it is time to realize that change is long overdue. The Marines that are fighting today deserve this recognition. Sadly, in the past 4 years over 900 Marines have been killed while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. When the Department of the Navy writes the families of Marines who have been killed, their families deserve to receive that letter from the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I have on the floor this afternoon an enhancement of the orders for the Silver Star for Sergeant Michael Bitz of the United States Marine Corps who was killed in the Iraq war for freedom. He was cited with a Silver Star received by his family after his death. I brought this to the floor to emphatically show the difference of what it is today and what it should be tomorrow.

The first poster is an enlargement of the actual orders from the Secretary of Navy. And you can see the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the zip code and the Navy flag. Again, this was a Marine who died for this country.

If you look at the second poster that is beside me, you will see what it can be if this bill becomes law and is accepted by the Senate and sent to the President for signing. The order should be a flag, the Navy flag, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps with the Marine flag.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, this is all about fairness and equality because there are four distinct services, the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Air Force. I think it is only right and befitting that two great services that have such a tradition and a heritage be treated as partners, and that is what this legislation does, the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us in this effort, and let's recognize two great services, the Navy and the Marine Corps, as partners and a team.

With that, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families. And I ask God to please hold in His loving arms the families who have lost a loved one dying for this country. And I ask God to continue to bless America.

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