

affectionately known, flew more than 29 types of aircraft, including *Flack Bait*, which is on display in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

Straight's years of service to our country are complemented by his service to his community. After retiring from the Air Force in 1976, Straight volunteered with various groups including the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the Longmont Rotary Club, Masons and Shriners, the Patient Advocacy Team, St. Vrain Photographic Society, the Salvation Army, Westview Presbyterian Church, and the Rollins Pass Restoration Association, for which he served as president for more than 25 years. Straight's motto was "Never give up."

On February 7, 2007, Danley Elson Straight passed away at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Juanita Watson Straight, his 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Straight and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "greatest generation," I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Danley Elson Straight.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIC A.
LILL OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Sergeant Eric A. Lill, a courageous young soldier and father, who died in Iraq on July 6, 2007. As we all deeply mourn his loss, we use this time to honor his life and express our gratitude for his dedicated service.

Eric Lill grew up in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and graduated in 1997 from St. Lawrence High School in Burbank, IL. He then attended Marshall University where he played hockey and studied criminal justice. From an early age, Eric desired to serve the public and our Nation, and he felt called to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Eric's determination and outstanding performance enabled him to attain the rank of sergeant and become a mentor to other soldiers. Most recently, Sergeant Lill served under the 2nd Infantry Division and was deployed to Iraq in October 2006. During this time, Sergeant Lill utilized his background and interest in criminal justice to help train Iraqi police officers. Although this mission was hazardous, Sergeant Lill always downplayed the danger to his family so that they would not worry. Two days after Independence Day, an improvised explosive device detonated near Sergeant Lill's vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad. The injuries sustained by Sergeant Lill resulted in his death—he was only 28.

Aside from his military service to our Nation, Eric Lill was dedicated to his family as a loving father and son. He is survived by his two children, Cody and Mikayla, affectionately known to him as "Bug" and "Lala;" his parents, Charmaine and Tony; his sister, Kortne; and his maternal grandparents, John and Marlene Alvarado.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss of Sergeant Eric A. Lill. We will never forget his sacrifice and are forever indebted to him, as well as all of our soldiers who have died, for making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. My thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathies are with the Lill family in this difficult time.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the steadfast friendship between the United States and Israel and to express support for Israeli soldiers held captive by terrorist organizations.

July 12, 2007 marks the one year anniversary of Hezbollah's infiltration into northern Israel, and it is a stinging reminder of Hezbollah's attack that sparked the bloody conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

For the past year, three Israeli soldiers have been away from their families, held captive by terrorist organizations. Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev were kidnapped by Hezbollah in the attack on July 12, 2006, and Gilad Shalit was abducted by Hamas on June 25, 2006 near the Gaza Strip.

Gilad Shalit is the youngest of the three men at the age of 20. He began his service in July of 2005, and volunteered to work in a combat unit. Shalit loves math and sports. Ehud Goldwasser, 31, is always willing to lend a helping hand. Passionate about photography, sailing, and the environment, Goldwasser is recently married and looks forward to starting a family. Eldad Regev, 26, is a law student at Bar Ilan University. Regev enjoys soccer, music, and reading. The families and friends of these talented young men look forward to their safe return.

Since its independence in 1948, Israel has continuously struggled to protect its citizens and ensure the safety of its men and women in uniform. As a Member of Congress, I recognize the bond between the United States and Israel and support the Israeli people on this solemn anniversary.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAN WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to prevent the Bush Administration from launching war in Iran without prior congressional authorization. It is a companion bill to S. 759, authored by Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia.

This is not a unique proposal—several of our colleagues in the House have introduced resolutions expressing the sense of Congress

that the President should not initiate military action against Iran without first obtaining authorization from Congress.

This legislation would establish a binding legal limit on the ability of the President to expend funds to commence military action against Iran in the absence of explicit prior congressional authorization.

I think several factors require Congress to insist that the President meet that requirement before committing this country to another war.

Those factors include this administration's inability or unwillingness to engage with the Iranian regime, the stated interest on the part of many administration officials and political supporters in attacking Iran, and the U.S. deployment of additional aircraft carrier groups to the Persian Gulf.

These have led many—likely including the Iranian regime—to think the U.S. is intent on preparing a military strike against Iran. While that perception could be far from the mark, I think there is no doubt that there are increased risks of confrontation brought on by heightened tensions in the region.

If we've learned nothing else from the war in Iraq, we should have learned that saber rattling doesn't get us far—especially when the tough rhetoric comes from an administration with a history of mismanaging the war in Iraq, a war that is in its fifth year of straining our military and depleting our Nation's blood and treasure.

As I said in 2002—before voting against the resolution authorizing war in Iraq—I am reluctant to vest in the President all discretion about when and where America will go to war. I thought then and I think today that Congress, which has the constitutional responsibility to declare war, must play a more significant role in authorizing the use of our armed forces in what could become a full-scale war.

My purpose in introducing this legislation is to reassert Congress's constitutional responsibility and to remind the Bush Administration of the important role that Congress plays when it comes to matters of war and peace.

I recognize that the President, as commander-in-chief, must have some flexibility in deciding whether to allow U.S. forces to conduct intelligence gathering and to directly respond to attacks or possible attacks from Iran. That's why my legislation makes exceptions for these contingencies.

Madam Speaker, my introduction of this legislation should not be seen as evidence that I deny the reality of the potential danger Iran presents to our country, our allies, and others.

The prospect of an Iran with nuclear weapons is a matter of serious concern for America and the rest of the world. Since the revelation of its nuclear program, Iran has defied the international community by continuing to work to advance it, Iran's president has publicly stated his intention to "wipe Israel off the map," and there is evidence that Iran is arming insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So it is no surprise that there are also reports—as recently as last month—that the internal debate on Iran among the White House, State Department, and Defense Department is heating up, and that the mood is shifting back toward military action against Iran. My bill responds to those reports by reasserting the basic principle that Congress must consent before the president can take such action.

Sending our troops into harm's way is a decision that affects all Americans, as we've