their side, often provide either the immediate aid that saves their lives, or the special comfort of a comrade during their final moments on this earth. Such is the unshakable bond of the Marines and Sailors who live at the tip of the spear, where the measure of a man or woman's life is defined by actions, and where moments of courage and compassion confer a nobility that clearly compels equal recognition in the eyes of the citizens they defend.

As a combat commander of Marines and Sailors in Iraq, I submit that no one understands the parity of the two services better than the Corpsmen and Chaplains serving alongside ''their Marines.'' I dare say that if you asked any one of those Sailors to voice an opinion about the proposed change that they would support the change with the same degree of commitment they always show ''their Marines'' and, most would wonder why our country took so long to take this simple action.

After all is said and done, the substance of the proposed change focuses us on the young men and women who willingly gave the last full measure of devotion to this country. The redesignation honors them and constitutes an ethical imperative. * * * it is the right thing to do and we must do it.

The second imperative revolves around a very practical truth. In an environment where decisions taken find their foundation in understanding the context of the issue, most Americans, even those here in the rarefied air of Washington DC, simply do not realize that the Department of the Navy includes both the Navy and Marine Corps. The practical result of that lack of knowledge finds very concrete expression in the history of deliberation and budgets within the Department of Defense. Many Congressional, White House, and even Department of Defense staffers must constantly be reminded that the Department of the Navy, and its total obligation authority includes both the Navy and the Marine Corps in order to avoid cutting away the muscle of the Corps as it competes for funding. The Marine Corps' advertising efforts and information campaign within the Capital Region help to overcome the challenge, but why should the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy have to begin their efforts from a position of informational weakness? Certainly, the stroke of a pen changing the existing designation provides a demonstrable first step in overcoming the positional deficit plaguing the Corps since its inception some two hundred and thirty-four years ago.

Indeed, when President Truman considered disbanding the Marine Corps after World War II in 1946, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, Medal of Honor recipient Alexander Vandergrift brought the issue before the Congress of the United States. The General merely presented the Marine Corps' combat lineage and let those actions speak for themselves. He refused to, in his words, come on ''bended knee'' to argue the case for Marines and Sailors who served so bravely and brilliantly in places like Tripoli, Montezuma, Belleau Wood, Tarawa, and Iwo Jima. After hearing the General's remarks, our Congressional Leaders did the right thing; not only preserving our Corps, but ensuring its roles, missions, and even its size became part of the law of the land.

It is time again for our Congressional Leaders to ''do the right thing'' in a time when fiscal reality might again place our Marines and the Sailors who serve with them at a disadvantage born not from malice aforethought as was the case in 1946, but born of a lack of education existing for more than two hundred and thirty years. The stroke of a pen, adding three words ''and Marine Corps'' will complete General Vandegrift's action of some sixty-three years ago, will ensure our leaders, their staffs, and their constituents clearly recognize the coequal status of the Marine Corps and, will ensure once and for all time, the equality of our Marines in the eyes of the Nation and its people. This is not a request made from a ''bended knee.'' It is a request made from the position of attention, facing forward, but not forgetting the sacrifice of those Marines and Sailors of the past. The change constitutes an ethical and practical imperative and is ''the right thing to do.''

Very respectfully,

JAMES GILES KYSER IV,
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired).

Madam Speaker, the marines who are fighting today deserve this recognition—those living and fighting and those who have given their lives for this country.

I have beside me an actual copy of a letter that was sent to a marine family. This is the way it is today—the Secretary of the Navy with the Navy flag. ''Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy, we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one.''

Madam Speaker, if H.R. 24 and Senate 504 become the law of the land, it will be the way it should be to a family—to a Marine family who gave a life for this country. It will say the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps, and it will have the Navy flag and the Marine flag. It will say, ''Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps, please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one.''

This is all it is about—bringing the team together. It is time that the Marine Corps is recognized as part of the fighting team.

With that, Madam Speaker, before I yield back my time, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to, please, with his loving arms, hold the families who have given children, dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I close three times by asking God: God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

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

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

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 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue of great importance to our country.

Shortly after I returned from a trip to Algeria in 1998, where thousands had been killed from terror attacks in the wake of the two U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa where 267 people were killed, including one of my constituents from McLean, Virginia, who was serving at the Nairobi Embassy, I authored a bill creating the National Commission on Terrorism.

The commission's report in June of 2000 provided evidence of the growing threat of international terrorism and the steps needed to combat the threat. A Congressional Research Service report described the main finding of the commission this way: ''It calls on the U.S. Government to prepare more actively to prevent and deal with a future mass casualty, catastrophic terrorist attack.''

Regrettably, the commission's recommendations were not implemented until after the attacks on 9/11 when 3,000 people were killed, including 30 from my congressional district.

I was disappointed that both the Clinton administration and, later, the Bush administration did not take more seriously the recommendations of the commission. I take seriously the responsibility of congressional oversight, especially in matters with potential national security implications. Profound national security issues were, of course, thrust to the forefront on 9/11.

Following the attacks, Congress granted the President the authority ''to use all necessary and appropriate force against those who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks against the United States.''

In the ensuing war on terror, many individuals were captured and transferred to Guantanamo Bay. On January 22, 2009, in an attempt to fulfill his campaign pledge, President Obama issued an Executive order requiring that Guantanamo be closed no later than 1 year from the date of issuance. However, in the weeks and months following, the Justice Department, under the direction of Attorney General Eric Holder, has failed to provide necessary information to Congress regarding their plans for implementing this order.

It is important for the American people to know the full details on all of the detainees currently housed at Guantanamo Bay. They are not simply felons who are serving their time with