

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS  
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution that would require the President to precipitously withdraw American troops from Afghanistan by December 31, 2010. While I welcome today's robust debate on such a critical issue, there can be no doubt that abandoning Afghanistan and the region in this moment is against America's national interests.

I have supported America's engagement in Afghanistan since my vote in 2001 to authorize military action against those responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11th. After years of inattentiveness by the Bush Administration, President Obama inherited a deteriorated security environment in Afghanistan. General Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, completed a review in August 2009 that confirmed conditions to be rapidly declining, with the Taliban insurgency gaining ground and the allied NATO effort losing the support of the Afghan people.

Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan directly impacts the safety of our citizens, and violent extremism poses a real and significant threat to global security. For this very reason, our efforts in Afghanistan have received overwhelming international support, with over 40 nations—NATO and non-NATO alike—contributing troops.

I support President Obama's strategy to provide our service men and women with the resources they need for success, to increase the commitment of our NATO allies through renewed engagement, and to build up the Afghan security forces so that our troops can come home. This work will not be quick, nor will it be easy. Still, one thing is clear: Afghanistan cannot be allowed to once again become a sanctuary for terror and extremism.

HONORING MR. JOHN FULLER

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 16, 2010*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Fuller of Long Branch, New Jersey. Mr. Fuller will be honored as the 2010 Hibernian of the Year by the Monmouth County, New Jersey Division (2nd Division) of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the organization's continued efforts to preserve Irish culture in the United States, and its efforts to provide a continuing bridge with Ireland for those individuals of Irish origin who are generations removed from their ancestral homeland.

Mr. Fuller, a first generation Irish-American, has been a dedicated member of the Monmouth County Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Div. 2) since 2003. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Commodore John Barry Committee of the AOH State Board. Furthermore, he is one of the founding

members, and a current organizer, of the Annual Sea Girt Irish Festival. This festival has grown into one of the largest Irish cultural events in the State of New Jersey. With fellow AOH members, Mr. Fuller has been actively involved with St. Ann Church in Keansburg, New Jersey. As a career public servant, Mr. Fuller has worked tirelessly for Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and other public servants across New Jersey on State and Federal issues that are important to the Irish-American community. His active participation with the Ancient Order of Hibernians—Division 2 serves to further preserve the Irish heritage in our culturally diverse State and Nation.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Assistant Commissioner Fuller for his reception of the 2010 Hibernian of the Year recognition, and also for his leadership and service to the Irish-American community.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS  
RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, The Afghanistan War Powers Resolution. This resolution calls for a premature withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan, putting our service men and women and our Nation at risk. Make no mistake, we are in the midst of a very important war. We did not seek the Global War on Terror, but it is one we cannot abandon.

On September 11, 2001, we were attacked in the most horrifying way. 2,973 innocent people were killed. Nine buildings were destroyed. The Pentagon was hit and but for the bravery of the passengers of United Flight #93, our Capitol would have been destroyed as well.

This war, however, did not begin or end on that fateful day. Muslim extremists have been at war with America for years, but few people took notice until 2001.

In 1983, terrorists launched a suicide truck-bomb attack against the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 242 Americans.

In 1993, Islamic terrorists attacked the World Trade Center building in New York City, killing six people and injuring 1,000 more.

In 1998, Al-Qaeda bombed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, leaving 300 dead and injuring over 5,000 people.

In 2000, the U.S. Navy Destroyer USS *Cole* was attacked by followers of Usama bin Laden, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39.

In May 2001, just over three months before the attacks of September 11, the Muslim terrorist group Abu Sayyaf kidnapped 16 people including Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham. While some escaped, four hostages were killed including Martin. Fortunately, Gracia survived this terrifying ordeal and is now living in Rose Hill, Kansas.

On September 11, Americans awoke to the reality that we could no longer ignore the growing threat of Muslim extremists. We had a choice: either wait for the next attack, or take the fight to the terrorists. The American

people and Congress were unified in answering that we would fight terrorists before they reach American soil.

Today, the United States remains engaged in a global war against Muslim extremists. In order to protect our country, we must ensure that terrorists are not given safe haven in any nation. Most of the planning of training for the September 11, 2001 attacks took place in Afghanistan and terrorists continue to exploit vulnerabilities in Afghanistan today. Our troops have made tremendous progress in securing Afghanistan, but there is much more to do. Afghanistan needs our help to root out terrorists and ensure that terrorists no longer use their country to launch terrorist attacks around the world.

We are not naive as to the cost of this war. Over 1,000 brave Americans have been killed in Afghanistan over the past eight years, and we mourn each one. Billions of dollars have been spent on this protracted effort. This has been a long and costly war, but it is not in vain.

The cost of this war does not negate the importance of this war. Afghanistan is the central front in the war against terror. Walking away from Afghanistan will not bring peace and security to our people. We have seen firsthand what happens when Afghanistan is a safe haven for terrorists. The consequences are too great for us to simply wait for the enemy to strike.

The question is not does this war exist? Though some are in denial, we are at war even if we do not want to be. Rather, the question is where will the battle be fought? In opposing this resolution, I vote to have that battle where every American carries a gun and wears body armor, not on the streets of Wichita.

We can not leave Afghanistan until the job is done. We owe it to the Marines killed in Lebanon, the sailors of the USS *Cole*, those murdered at the east African embassies, Martin and Gracia Burnham, all those who lost their lives on September 11, and to the troops who have died defending our freedom and security on the battlefields of the Global War on Terror. We must stay strong and finish the task at hand.

I look forward to the day when our troops come home in victory, and when our people can live in peace and security—free from the fear of a terrorist attack. But today is not that day. Today we must redouble our efforts to bring security to Afghanistan, which, in turn, will bring us one step closer to that day. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
JUSTICE PETER KELLY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 16, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Justice Peter Kelly, High Court Justice of Ireland, upon the occasion of his arrival to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2010.

During his studies at University College in Dublin, Ireland, Justice Peter Kelly became a member of the prestigious Honorable Society of the King's Inn. He was called to the Irish