

here, as we stand just a few days before that day in which we, all of us, Republicans and Democrats, will set aside all politics, and we will remember those who did not come home.

Why can't we today also show respect for the men and women who wear the uniform today and listen to what they have to say?

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCKEON. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. PENCE. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Murphy amendment.

Let me say again: The American people don't want the American military used as a vehicle to advance a liberal political agenda, especially when the men and women who serve in our military haven't had a say in the matter. That is what this Congress is poised to do today. Make no mistake about it.

I urge my colleagues, regardless of what one thinks about social issues and social values, to respect our military. Let's respect men and women in uniform. Let's hear them out before we introduce such an enormous change in the culture and in the practice of the American military, one that would be represented by the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, before I yield to my friend, I yield myself 90 seconds.

The gentleman from Indiana's point about the servicemembers being listened to is absolutely right, which is why Mr. MURPHY's amendment says—I will comment since he did—if after hearing the comments of the servicemembers the Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that there would be an impairment of their ability to defend the country, they would not certify to the change in the policy.

There is an echo in this debate, which is a quote from prior debate: The

President's move would seriously impair the morale of the Army at a time when our Armed Forces should be at their strongest and most efficient. Such an action is most unfortunate, the Senator declared.

The quote is taken from Senator Lister Hill in 1948. The issue was the racial integration of the Armed Forces in 1948. I think this is the same issue.

Mr. PENCE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDREWS. Yes, I would yield.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for the courtesy.

Mr. Chairman, I would simply pose a question to the gentleman: Did not the author of this amendment say that it is not whether we will repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell but how and when, from recent press reports?

Mr. ANDREWS. Reclaiming my time, I don't know precisely what the author said—he will speak—but I do know that Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen have said that. Admiral Mullen has said he feels repeal is the right policy. The issue is when and how, which is what Mr. MURPHY's amendment addresses.

I would at this time be happy to yield 2 minutes to my friend who is focused on the issue of departing servicemembers, when they separate from service, and their knowing their rights and opportunities, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, thousands of active duty servicemembers are returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq every year, many of these individuals serving continuously, having enlisted right out of high school or college.

For years, they have lived a structured military life on bases and abroad. This structure makes for a well-disciplined and a well-trained military force, but it can also make for a difficult transition back to civilian life.

Many returning servicemembers have no experience with saving or budgeting or with credit, taxes, and/or mortgages. As a result, many military families are falling into unmanageable debt, bankruptcy, and foreclosure.

My amendment, which is part of this en bloc amendment, seeks to alleviate these concerns. It simply expands the military's existing pre-separation counseling program to include a personal finances component. When this takes effect, military families will reenter civilian life with the information they need to build a stable, long-term financial future.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support our military families by supporting this amendment.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, throughout both of our Democratic and Republican administrations, the White House has maintained a policy against providing letters of condolences to the families of suicide victims. This is a major issue for my constituency, which I have been working on for months.

I have had a number of communications with the White House and with the Department of Defense expressing these concerns. Fortunately, the President was kind enough to send a personal letter of condolence to a local family who was affected by suicide.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank President Obama for this meaningful gesture, and I encourage him to continue on this path and to finally overturn this misguided White House policy.

Our men and women in uniform sacrifice for our country both physically and mentally, but despite the occasional exception, the current policy ignores the sacrifice these men and women make, and it disregards the suffering of their families.

**NOTICE**

***Incomplete record of House proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.***

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 6 p.m. and the balance of the week.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal medical issues.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending the funeral of a family member.

**SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED**

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHRADER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

**ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED**

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2711. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the transportation and moving expenses for the immediate family of certain Federal employees who die in the performance of their duties.

H.R. 3250. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1210 West Main Street in Riverhead, New York, as the "Private First Class Garfield M. Langhorn Post Office Building".

H.R. 3634. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 109 Main Street in Swifton, Arkansas, as the "George Kell Post Office".