

Since the commencement of operations, the administration has often cited the need to protect civilians in Libya as the basis for our involvement in this operation.

While I understand the moral imperative to assist and protect these civilians as they engage in open conflict with a tyrannical and oppressive government, it cannot be the policy of the United States to commit U.S. troops to every civil conflict throughout the world.

In fact, this is not U.S. policy. The Arab Spring has ushered in an era of civil unrest throughout the Middle East. Civilians in Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Bahrain, Iran, and Tunisia have all risen up in protest against their governments.

The outcome of each of these uprisings has varied significantly, as have the national security implications for the United States. Yet the United States did not come to the aid of these civilians.

So why then is Libya different? Why is it in the national security interests of the United States to involve ourselves in this civil conflict and not the others?

As Members of Congress we have a responsibility to the American people to ask these questions and the President has the obligation to answer them.

If the President is unable or unwilling to communicate a justification that clearly defines U.S. national security interests for committing U.S. troops and resources to Libya, then we have an obligation to compel him to withdraw.

H. Res. 292 does this and it does it in a responsible manner.

The alternative, Madam Speaker, is to support the bill offered by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, and force the President to withdraw our forces in 15 days.

While I commend the gentleman from Ohio for offering this legislation and appreciate his efforts to hold the administration accountable for committing U.S. Forces without congressional authorization, I have a number of concerns with the 15 day timeline.

First, it is logistically impossible to completely and responsibly disengage our forces within this short timeframe. We should not shackle our military leaders with an unrealistic mandate to withdraw because their Commander-in-Chief did not comply with his obligations under War Powers Resolution.

They must be given adequate time to plan, organize and execute this withdrawal. Fifteen days simply does not permit this.

Additionally, while I agree that Congress' ultimate responsibility is to the American people, withdrawing our forces in fifteen days would completely undermine our number one obligation to provide for the common defense of the United States.

The safety and security of our nation depends greatly on the cooperation and commitments of our allies.

The NATO alliance is the centerpiece of our efforts to support and promote safety and stability throughout the world.

Withdrawing our forces from Libya in 15 days pulls the rug out from under our NATO allies and would have dire consequences for our future cooperation and the security of the United States.

Like our military leaders, our NATO allies must be provided ample time to reassess and reorganize their military strategy to carry out operations without our support. Again, 15 days does not permit this.

For these reasons I cannot support Mr. KUCINICH's legislation. While I agree that we must hold the administration accountable, we must not do so at the expense of our allies.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 292 is the responsible alternative. It asserts congressional authority by compelling the administration to adhere to its obligations under the War Powers Resolution, while at the same time ensuring that we do not undermine our allies.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 292, and to vote down H. Con. Res. 51.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. BLONEVA BULLARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life and legacy of Mrs. Bloneva Bullard. Bloneva was born on October 13, 1936 and was raised in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

As a young woman Bloneva graduated from Carver High School also in Delray Beach. As a young woman, Bloneva showed great promise with her hands as she became a licensed cosmetologist. However, she felt a greater calling for her life—she felt a calling to heal those who were sick. Bloneva Bullard enrolled in Broward Community College and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She later would complete her training and become a Registered Nurse. As a nurse, she opened doors by becoming the first African-American Recovery Room Charge Nurse at North Broward Medical Center, where she worked until her retirement.

Bloneva was not only a motivated career woman, but she was also a tireless community servant. Her many affiliations include: Founder and Director of the R.U.B. Foundation, Pride of Ft. Lauderdale Elks Lodge #395, Rosebud Heroines of Jericho, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bloneva Bullard passed away on May 17, 2011 after a very full life. Her life was spent working for the betterment of humankind. Mrs. Bloneva Bullard was a true stalwart that touched the lives of many.