

very fluid and chaotic situation caused by the surrender of more than 800 Iraqi soldiers.”

I will never forget Chief Warrant Officer W5 John Currie and all he did not only to lead his men so effectively against the enemy, but in setting such a high standard for all of the officers in the command, to include myself.

Chief Warrant Officer John Currie is a credit to the United States Marine Corps, and it’s an honor to reflect on his service to our Nation and to the Marine Corps as we approach the 236th birthday of the Corps.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today with a heavy heart to talk about sexual assault and rape in the military, an epidemic in this country that must be addressed.

As I’ve said before, the Department of Defense, by its own statistics, has stated that 19,000 servicemembers, women and men, every year are raped by fellow soldiers. I will continue to share these stories until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they want to speak out.

Each of these soldiers was raped by another soldier, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrators and punishes the victims. The story I will tell today is the story of Corporal Sarah Albertson. This gets to the rot at the root of the justice system in the military, and that is: a commander, one person, has complete and total discretion in deciding how and if sexual assault and rape are dealt with.

Corporal Albertson served in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2008. On August 27, 2006, Corporal Albertson was raped by a fellow marine, a man who outranked her. That’s right, he outranked her and raped her.

Right after the rape, Corporal Albertson went to her commander to inform him of what had happened. Instead of detaining her alleged assailant, calling in criminal investigators, or sending Corporal Albertson to the hospital to preserve the evidence that would corroborate her story, he told Corporal Albertson that because she had consumed some alcohol, if she reported the rape, she would be charged with inappropriate barracks conduct. She was then told not to discuss her rape with anyone and was also ordered to “respect” her rapist and follow his orders because he outranked her. It soon became clear to Corporal Albertson that others knew about what had happened, and her other superiors, acting with the open support of her commander, ostracized and harassed her.

Corporal Albertson sought counseling. The military counselor that Corporal Albertson went to, in no uncertain terms, advised her commander

that she should not be forced to interact with her rapist and that Corporal Albertson was suffering from panic attacks due to these interactions. Her commander ignored the professional advice and forced her to interact with her rapist for another 2 years. And when she had panic attacks, she was punished.

This same commander also refused Corporal Albertson’s request to change housing. Instead, he forced her to live one floor below her rapist for 2 years. The commander also required her to disclose medications she had been prescribed to counter the trauma. Now, Corporal Albertson never filled those prescriptions; but, nonetheless, by having to disclose those prescriptions, she lost her security clearance.

But what happened to her rapist? Not a thing. In fact, I venture to say he has been promoted, not just once, probably twice, maybe three times. I have become painfully aware that at the rate DOD is working to address this issue, the epidemic of military sexual assault will never end.

Mr. Speaker, this is a national travesty. Congress, the administration, the Department of Defense, all of us, all of us should be ashamed of what is going on in the military.

SUPPORTING KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Opponents of this pipeline claim it will damage the environment, that it will ship oil from Canada to China, and that increasing the supply of oil will somehow raise gas prices.

□ 1100

The truth is that this pipeline has been through the most thorough environmental review of any pipeline in history, the oil carried by it will go to American markets, and it will help lower energy prices by moving capacity from growing basins in Canada, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and west Texas that are comparable in volume to nearly half of the U.S. Persian Gulf imports.

The Keystone XL pipeline will also benefit America by increasing the percentage of our energy supply provided by a stable neighbor and ally. More North American oil means less oil from Venezuela and Iran. This pipeline will create 20,000 high-wage construction jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs. Keystone XL will also provide a new and stable supply access to gulf coast refiners, like the one in Pascagoula, Mississippi, who set the price of gasoline and are vulnerable to OPEC and supply disruptions. We in the House are focused on jobs and the economy, and this pipeline is an obvious, direct example of what

real stimulus looks like—stimulus that comes from the private economy and produces real value.

The fact of the matter is that Canada is going to develop their resources, and if we do not want their oil, that supply will go elsewhere to our competitors such as China. The Canadians have the supply, and we have the demand. And the Keystone XL pipeline has gone through a rigorous environmental review. There’s no reason not to move forward with this vital project. The President needs to get off the campaign trail long enough to get his administration out of the way so that the Keystone XL pipeline can be developed.

THE HOUSE-PASSED JOBS AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this morning. I came down to talk about jobs too, and I brought with me a card that folks may have seen—I know you’ve seen it, Mr. Speaker—that goes through the House-passed jobs agenda. I try to keep it here in my pocket so I’ll be accurate when we talk about all of the good work that is happening in the people’s House to promote jobs and promote the economy.

Because the truth is, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we only have two pockets we can dig into. We can dig into the pocket where we talk about government regulations that we are repealing to help job creators, we can dig into the pocket where we talk about government mandates that we’re repealing to take the foot of government off the throat of small businesses, or we can dig into the other pocket. And the other pocket is where America’s checkbook is. Because it’s not my checkbook, as your Congressman. As you know, Mr. Speaker, when I dig into the pocket for the checkbook, I’m digging into your pocket. Every penny that we spend comes out of your pocket.

So we have two choices as we talk about jobs and the economy. Are we going to dig into the pocket of the American taxpayers’ checkbook? Or are we going to get the regulatory burden off of America’s small businesses? For me, the choice is easy. But the choice hasn’t always been easy in this House. Time and time again, this House goes to the American people’s checkbook to find solutions for America’s problems. And I will tell you that there’s no problem in America that taking money out of somebody else’s pocket is going to fix.

The challenges in America are going to come when we get government out of the way. I represent, Mr. Speaker, as you know, a wonderful district in Georgia. I go back home and I talk about what’s going on in the United States House. I ask folks what they want to happen on the United States House of Representatives floor, and they say, ROB, stop helping. Stop. Just get out of

the way. Stop helping. You don't have the answers, just get out of the way.

If folks go, as you have gone, Mr. Speaker, to jobs.gov, they see this House's effort to get government out of the way. And we've been successful. We were successful in passing the repeal of the President's health care bill's 1099 provision that burdens small businesses, and the President signed that bill. We've been successful in passing three free trade agreements, and the President has signed. As we know, we have manufacturing surpluses with every nation with which we have a free trade agreement.

But the work still has to be done, Mr. Speaker. There are jobs bills languishing in the Senate. We call them the "forgotten 15"—15 bills that the Senate could pass tomorrow to get government out of the way and get Americans back to work.

Two pockets we have, Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers' pocket and the pocket that contains the job-killing regulations that we can repeal today. Let's choose correctly, Mr. Speaker—let's get jobs.gov, let's get this agenda done.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the President recently came before the people's House and asked "whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy." Well, Mr. Speaker, House Republicans agree circus time is over. And that's why we have passed 15 jobs bills that remain stuck in the Senate majority leader's inbox.

One of those jobs bills is the Keystone XL pipeline that imports oil from Canada and will create over 340,000—let me say that again—340,000 American jobs by 2015, 27,000 of those jobs in my home State of Texas, while bringing in new revenue, all without costing the taxpayer one single dime.

When the Keystone XL pipeline is fully operational, we will get more oil from Canada than we currently import from Saudi Arabia. Replacing OPEC oil with Canadian oil increases our energy security. And if we increase our energy security, we increase our national security.

If we do not seize this opportunity, China will gladly take the oil from Canada that the Canadians want us to have. While the President tours the Nation promoting a new half-trillion-dollar stimulus plan, approval of the Keystone XL pipeline remains stalled.

Mr. Speaker, the President can jumpstart our economy and stop the political circus by approving the Keystone XL pipeline. The ball is in his court.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The Chair recognizes the

gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that Washington isn't very popular right now, and a big reason why is that too often our leaders make decisions that lack common sense. When we need to cut spending, Washington finds a way to spend more. When we need to create jobs, Washington piles on new regulations that put Americans out of work. When we spend billions of dollars to create a safe, permanent storage facility for our country's nuclear waste, politics gets in the way, and that facility is shut down.

Like millions of Americans across the country, I'm tired that politics is getting in the way, and I'm looking to bring some common sense back to this Republic.

And as you know, Mr. Speaker, there's no better example of putting politics before country than the case of Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain is a multibillion-dollar project that was supposed to be the solution for storing our country's nuclear materials. Ratepayers in States like South Carolina, ratepayers like my constituents, have poured billions of dollars into the development of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear repository.

Mr. Speaker, this administration needs to understand that America runs by the rule of law, and depositing our nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain is the law of the land. This administration does not get to make willy-nilly decisions to benefit supporters without congressional approval. And when Congress spoke, in the National Waste Policy Act, it made Yucca Mountain the law of the land.

I was deeply disappointed when the Presidential candidates were recently asked about Yucca Mountain. I was astonished that these good folks would echo the failed rhetoric of Senator HARRY REID. And I would remind all the Presidential candidates of the Federal Government's promise to construct a long-term storage facility for the legacy weapons materials temporarily being stored in South Carolina. And I would remind them that this is the law of the land. I suspect that many South Carolina voters, including myself, will expect to hear the Presidential candidates' plan to solve this problem during their next visit to the Palmetto State.

□ 1110

But let's talk about the states' rights aspect of this. Where is South Carolina's right to be rid of this waste? This is a federally created problem, the residual waste of our Cold War weapons programs. Whole towns in my district were relocated by the Federal Government to create the Savannah River site. I'm not saying that we don't want the Savannah River site to continue the important nuclear nonproliferation work of the Nation. And I commend NNSA's recent announcement con-

cerning the conversion of some of the plutonium material into mixed oxide fuel for commercial reactors. What I am saying is that the Nation needs to do right by South Carolina and fulfill the promise to take care of the radioactive waste and get it out of our State.

Yucca Mountain is a geologically stable location; it's the right location for the job. It doesn't get much rain, it's in the middle of nowhere; and when it does rain, the arid climate evaporates the water. But let's take, for instance, that it may rain a lot one day. For leakage to happen at Yucca Mountain would require that little bit of water that doesn't evaporate to transpire through a thousand feet of granite-like rock. And then it's going to get to our concrete vault, and inside that concrete vault are stainless steel canisters. So the water erodes and transfers through a thousand feet of granite rock, through the concrete, through the stainless steel, and it comes in contact with radioactive glass, glassified material that it's got to erode. And then the water has to transfer that material through more stainless steel, through more concrete, through another thousand feet of nonporous rock, down to an aquifer that is a closed system.

This is why Yucca Mountain is the right place to do the job. No one thinks that rolling fields next to a river that is a water source for two States, as it is at Savannah River site, is a long-term answer to nuclear waste disposal. The sooner we recognize this, the sooner we can deal with the real problem.

Now the Department of Energy's blue ribbon commission is circulating a draft report on the future of America's nuclear waste, including the nuclear waste currently being temporarily stored at the Savannah River site. The Savannah River site can only be a short-term home for this waste. The best long-term outlook for the waste of this sort is in a deep geological site, hence the need for Yucca Mountain. The waste stored at Savannah River site can be processed for a number of purposes, but ultimately this waste needs to go deep underground.

Mr. Speaker, I urge representative Lee Hamilton and General Brent Scowcroft, the cochairs of the blue ribbon commission, to reconsider their draft report to include Yucca Mountain as the long-term disposal site that Congress mandated.

Americans have already given billions of dollars to the State of Nevada for the construction of a safe, long-term storage site for nuclear material. President Obama and Senator REID shouldn't be able to have it both ways; Nevada must either rebate the billions of dollars already spent on Yucca Mountain or stand out of the way and allow the facility to open for business. It would create jobs in the State of Nevada. South Carolina has unfairly carried the burden for storing nuclear material for decades already. It's time for this waste to move on.