

come back into our country. I think it is time to secure peace through strength. I would ask, Mr. President, not through weakness, not through BRACs, not through decreasing our defense budget but increasing it.

Recently, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, every one of our four-star generals said we need \$150 billion to bring us up to where we can fight just two wars. I do not want our men and women going to war and having to celebrate or recognize them during Memorial Day because we did not give them the assets. It is time to honor our veterans, our active duty, our reserves, and give them the resources that we promised, and to our veterans as well, Mr. Speaker, because as we honor our veterans today, many of the fellows that I served with, the men and women, are telling their children not to enter active duty service because their benefits have been eroded.

Well, this Congress in a very bipartisan way, with the veterans bill and with the defense bill, came to that call. We provided \$1.7 billion increase for veterans' medical health care, the largest increase since the 1980s. The total funding is \$19 billion for our veterans. It provides a \$5 million increase for veterans' medical and prosthetic research. It provides \$51 million for the veterans benefit administration to expedite claims processing. Many of my veterans and the veterans of every Member in this body, Mr. Speaker, have got veterans saying that those claims take too long. We more than doubled the President's request for veterans' State extended care. My veterans in San Diego County wrote a bill called subvention. It enables our veterans to use Medicare at military hospitals. It actually saves money. But yet we are still limited to a pilot project. Our veterans are saying they are tired of Band-Aids for their promised health care. We need to pass, Mr. Speaker, the FEHBP for veterans. If you have an active duty military and you have a civilian that sits next to them, when they retire, the civilian gets FEHBP, which is a supplemental to Medicare. The military does not. That is wrong. We could help our veterans by passing that as a full substitute and to help them do that as well.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with what I think this day represents. On the 10th of May, 1972, I was shot down over Vietnam. In coming down in a parachute, I thought I was going to be a prisoner of war, or even killed, since the enemy was down below. Air Force, Marine and Navy pilots risked their lives to get my back-seater and I out. In coming down in that parachute, they told us there were two things that would keep you alive. One was having a good family back home, and the other was faith in God. I would tell my veterans, there is going to be a time in each and every

one of your lives, maybe you lose a loved one, maybe you lose your job, but if you get on your knees and you say a little prayer, I guarantee somebody is going to listen to you. It is time, Mr. Speaker, to invite God back into this country. I think as we look forward into the 21st century, how exciting it is, not just communications but health care research and the things that we can do to take care of our veterans.

I would close, Mr. Speaker, by saying God bless the veterans, God bless the active, the Guard and the Reserves, and to our MIAs and our families, do not give up hope. God bless America.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I wish I was in my district in the State of Washington today to help celebrate Veterans Day with my fellow veterans, my veterans that I represent. I did not serve and I am not a veteran. I wish I were with them, but our schedule did not allow us to do that. But I have come to the floor of the House to express a personal sentiment, if I may, and it is inspired in some degree. This morning I attended the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery where the President spoke, laid the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and something the President said inspired me to come to the well today to say something personal. What he said is that freedom is not free. That is very true.

I got to thinking about some of the things I get to do as a Member of the U.S. House. I get the opportunity, and it is a splendid opportunity, to get to vote in this Chamber, to try to preserve some of our freedoms, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to petition your government for redress. And I get that opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to vote to try to preserve those freedoms because of some of the work some people did before me. I have a very personal expression of gratitude I want to give them from the floor. And even though it is personal, I think it is appropriate to do it on the floor.

I want to thank the late Phillip Tindall, who is my wife's great uncle who served in World War I and during an infantry charge was wounded and reported actually dead in the Seattle newspapers. It turned out he survived and he went on to be a great leader in the City of Seattle, helped build Ross Dam and helped a family that I was lucky enough to marry into. I want to thank him.

I want to thank my father Frank Inslee, who served in the Navy in World War II. I want to thank my father. I want to thank my Uncle Bob Brown, who served in the Navy during the Ko-

rean conflict, and as boy I remember hearing tales of him knocking a bomb overboard on an aircraft carrier, something that I remember growing up.

I want to thank my Uncle Evan Inslee, who served in the Air Force during the Cold War, a war that you sort of forget some of the sacrifices veterans made during the Cold War, maybe not so many movies were made about them, but they sacrificed indeed.

And I want to give special tribute to a man none of you have probably heard of, whose name is Bob Grimm. Bob is the fellow who lives on Bainbridge Island, where I live. Bob now builds houses. My son works with him. But the reason I want to pay special tribute to him is that he served and saw intense combat in Vietnam, in the jungles of Vietnam, where he was wounded. I want to pay special tribute to Bob because when Bob and his fellow veterans came home from the Vietnam conflict, they did not come home to real loud parades. They did not come home to a grateful Nation showing its gratitude, frankly, that we should have. I want to pay special personal thanks to Bob and his fellow veterans of the Vietnam War for the service they provided and the continued help so that we could vote in this Chamber for the freedoms that we treasure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Phillip, my father, Bob, Evan and especially Bob and all of their colleagues who made these freedoms dear.

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 Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 15, 1999, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5310. A letter from the Chief, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Changes to the Board of Directors of the NECA, Inc [FCC 99-269] received November 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.