

Nation's armed forces, whether at war or at peace. In the Third District of North Carolina, which I am proud to represent, we are fortunate enough to have four military bases.

I have had the opportunity to spend many hours meeting privately, off base, with dozens of military pilots, commanders, and enlisted personnel. These men and women will tell us what many of my colleagues will, our military's quality of life is far below what it should be. In fact, low pay levels have forced almost 12,000 of our enlisted military families to accept food stamps to survive.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. A junior enlisted soldier at an E1 rank receives approximately \$11,500 in basic pay for his service in addition to a housing allowance. But, Mr. Speaker, this same soldier also pays over \$3,000 in taxes on that salary.

These are the men and women called upon to defend this Nation. They are placed in harm's way to protect the freedoms my colleagues and I enjoy every day. How can we expect our troops to focus on, or successfully complete, their missions if they are worried about their husbands, wives, and children back home that are struggling to put food on the table?

Our troops accept the ultimate responsibility. They sacrifice their lives for this country, and they accept it voluntarily. Yet, despite the critical job they undertake, many are paid so little they are forced to take on second jobs. Many others are left to rely on government assistance to feed their families.

Last month, I introduced a bill to provide our enlisted military families who are eligible for food stamps with a \$500 tax credit. It should not take a conflict like that in Kosovo to remind us of the important part our armed services play in protecting the freedoms of this Nation, but it often does.

Now, as we turn on the evening news and can see our military in action, Congress has an excellent opportunity to show its support for our Nation's troops and work to address the needs of our military. While this \$500 tax credit cannot alone guarantee military families will not have to receive food stamps, it can, together with the anticipated increase in basic pay, help show our support and appreciation for our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the amount of encouragement we have already received in the House for this bill. But I will be asking each and every one of my colleagues from both parties to join me in support of this effort. Now is the best time to show our military that we value their job and their sacrifice.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting our military families and join me in supporting H.R. 1055.

God bless our troops, Mr. Speaker, and God bless America.

CHINESE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the House's attention again a continuing problem with Chinese illegal immigration in Guam.

This past Tuesday, on April 6, 82 were apprehended while preparing to come on shore. On Wednesday, April 7, nine more Chinese illegal immigrants were discovered by a U.S. naval vessel whose permits to work on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, had expired, and they had decided to try their luck on Guam and boarded a small 18-foot boat bound for Guam.

On Friday, April 9, 93 illegal immigrants were apprehended as their boat ran aground on a reef off of Ritidian Point.

On Sunday, April 11, 38 suspected illegal immigrants, including two women, were caught off of Agat where they arrived on the dilapidated wooden boat.

The number of apprehended Chinese illegal immigrants in Guam caught since January of this year is now up to 473. On a per capita basis, this would be like 5,000 illegal immigrants washing up on the shores of Florida.

A couple of weeks ago, I informed this body about the criminal and inhumane ramifications of this wave of illegal immigrants into Guam. The Chinese are smuggled by crime syndicates which charge them anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000 each. They set sail in squalid quarters and are sometimes abused by their smugglers. They travel over the open seas for over 20 days.

Upon successfully completing the trip, they are made indentured servants and have to pay off their debt to the smugglers who brought them to the U.S.

With the arrival this week of almost 200 illegal immigrants, we see the rise of other factors in Guam. Guam is undergoing current economic crisis caused by the Asian downturn, and we have no basis upon which to deal with them. Yet the INS has gone bankrupt and refuses to house these illegal immigrants and refuses to process them into the United States mainland because they have no funds.

So the Government of Guam has taken on the responsibility to house these illegal immigrants at a cost of \$97 a day in facilities now holding over 400 occupants when they were designed to hold only about 150.

Unlike other areas inside the U.S. mainland, Guam does not have large charitable organizations capable of handling these people. Another factor has been the environmental cost of the waves of illegal immigrants. The ship which ran into the reef on Friday has leaked fuel into Guam's waters, dam-

aging the reef and killing other marine life.

According to the INS officer in charge on Guam, Mr. David Johnston, the waves of illegal immigrants will not stop unless some action is taken immediately. What I have suggested through H.R. 945 is to change the INA in order not to allow or narrow the gap for claiming political asylum in Guam.

What these Chinese syndicates do is use the political asylum claim on Guam in order to further their efforts and to profit from human misery and then bring them into the U.S.

Another thing that we must do is that there is currently a proposal in the White House which has not seen complete fruition, and that is to form an interagency task force to deal with issues of insular areas. This is a critical need. It is important that the White House immediately, sometime this week, convene an interagency task force meeting involving the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation with the Coast Guard, the Department of Defense and the Department of State in order to address this crisis in Guam.

U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, last evening I indicated that I would be back to finish today what I started yesterday as to why I introduced legislation that calls on the Congress to be full partners when we determine which civil war we will enter or which we will not. That certainly is the responsibility of the Congress.

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My legislation basically says that no DOD money can be used to send ground troops into Kosovo unless approved by the Congress of the United States.

Now, it is right to condemn Milosevic for driving ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo, particularly after the bombing began. And, of course, unfortunately, at the same time, as I mentioned yesterday, we play up to China.

Now, Yugoslavia has 114,000 military and they are the size of Kentucky. China is the size of the United States and they have 2.8 million military. They have another reserve of 1.2 million. They are the worst human rights violators in the world. Their own statistics indicate that they execute more in 1 year than all of the rest of the countries in the world, and yet we play up to them. We know that they send nuclear and chemical arms to rogue nations that we have to deal with.

Again, I hear a lot of people in the well now supporting this issue who were not here when 1.8 million Sudanese found death through either starvation or because of execution. What

was the difference? Where were we then? Who was here in the well claiming that somehow or other we should enter that civil war? What about 2.6 million refugees in Afghanistan at the present time, and the other 1.5 million who the Afghan government has dislocated? Who is crying about our involvement there or whether we should be involved?

As I indicated yesterday, when the administration came before us and said we are going into Bosnia for a year, I asked what are we going to do in a year? It began in the 4th Century, the problems in the Balkans. It began in the 4th Century with the fall of the Roman Empire. It was exacerbated in the 10th Century with the rise of the Ottoman Empire. What will we do in a year to undo all the hatred that has been built through all of those centuries? And of course the answer, as we now know it, is nothing. Four years later and \$7 billion later we are still there.

And when the White House came before us and said we are going into Haiti for a year, I said this will be the 11th time; the last time we were there 15 years. What will we do differently this time? The answer is nothing, because again we are still there and still spending the money of our taxpayers.

I got to the point where I talked about apples and oranges because people like to somehow or other say this has something to do with Hitler and Nazi Germany. That is nonsense. It has nothing to do with that at all. There is no correlation at all.

What happened at that particular time is the free world did the same stupid thing we do always. After a war, we melt down our defenses. We sat there and we watched Germany build the largest war machine anyone could ever imagine. And so when poor old Chamberlain has to go and try to do a little negotiating to buy time, we blame him as an appeaser. What else could he have done?

We saw a big military buildup in Germany not with the idea of staying within Germany, of course, but with the idea of moving all over the continent, and perhaps all over the world. So there are no similarities in that particular situation.

It is important that we as a Congress be part of this decision-making process when we decide that we are going to enter someone's civil war. Why? Number one, the draft. We positively have to come with the draft. We have spread our forces so thin that the Secretary of the Army last week was out recruiting on his own, trying to get people to join, because we have depleted our forces dramatically. So we better be involved because the draft will be an issue.

We better be involved because body bags will be coming back. We better be involved because, as someone said in an article this weekend, an all-volunteer

army is dangerous. It is dangerous because it is used very quickly without much thought. Yes, I am concerned about three GIs. I am also very concerned that GIs would have been where they were. What kind of planning was that? I am also concerned about our raining bombs and missiles on trains carrying passengers who have nothing against us and have not participated in the efforts going on in Kosovo at the present time.

So, again, I call on my colleagues. Join with me and merely say that the Congress of the United States has to be very much involved when we determine which civil war is to our interest and our security and which is not. We will be making decisions, and draft will be one of those decisions, and that will change public opinion dramatically.

RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED U.S. VETERAN JOE P. POE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the Congress a distinguished United States veteran by the name of Joe Poe from Dunn, North Carolina.

As our Nation focuses on the mission of our men and women in uniform in Yugoslavia and other parts of the world, I rise to pay tribute to one who has already served. Joe, his wife Marilyn, and their children suffer from undiagnosed Gulf War related illnesses.

Joe served in the United States Army for 20 years before retiring in 1992. His assignments have included serving in the 82nd Airborne and the 101st Airborne Divisions, as a drill sergeant in Panama in Operation Just Cause. He also served in support of joint special operations, and as a team sergeant for a forward surgical team in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

During his career, one of Joe's greatest contributions was helping write and implement the Army's doctrine on forward surgical teams. He is the recipient of the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and other high honors, decorations and badges.

The Gulf War should have been Joe's last battle, but it was not to be. Following his service, Joe began to experience disabling side effects as a result of his service in the Persian Gulf. Six years later, and thanks to the determination of Joe, his family and the efforts of Kate Darwin, a dedicated social worker on my staff, Joe became designated as 100 percent disabled and became one of the first acknowledged cases of Gulf War related illnesses by the United States Department of Defense. I am grateful to Kate and com-

mend her for her tireless efforts battling the Federal bureaucracy on behalf of Joe and other veterans.

Even though his speech has slowed considerably now, the whole world listens to Joe Poe. He spends countless hours on the internet contacting other Gulf War veterans and lawmakers to organize them to support Gulf War veterans and their causes.

Late last year, with limited time remaining in the legislative session, Joe and other North Carolina veterans arrived in Washington to press lawmakers to pass legislation on behalf of Gulf War Veterans. As a result of their efforts, H.R. 4035, the Drugs and Informed Consent Act, and H.R. 4036, the Persian Gulf Veterans Health Act were passed, thanks to Joe and his boundless determination and his continuous effort.

I learned things from this. Never underestimate Joe Poe and never underestimate the unshakable will of the human spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I provide for the RECORD an article dated September 30, 1997, from the Daily Record of Dunn, North Carolina, on Joe Poe.

ONCE FIGHTING FOR COUNTRY, NOW FIGHTING
FOR HIS LIFE

JOE POE WORKS EVERY DAY TO FIND ANSWERS
FOR HIM AND OTHERS ABOUT WHAT HAS
CAUSED HIS GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(By Andy Rackley)

Talk with Dunn's Joe Poe and it is easy to understand why so many people have rallied around him and feed off his determination.

Visit with Mr. Poe for more than 10 minutes and it is also easy to see why friends, family members and casual acquaintances call him an unsung hero.

Mr. Poe, a 20-year retired Army veteran, was once the lean, mean fighting machine which invokes the spirit of the elite soldiers in the U.S. Army. He tells of numerous military stories with a fire in his eye which keeps even the non-interested drawn into his tales.

However, the final few years of Mr. Poe's service saw him journey to what he thought would be his final battle—less than a year before his retirement—on the desert basin of the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Poe was team sergeant for a forward surgical team during the Gulf War. There were only two such teams. The team was part of a doctrine in which Mr. Poe's brilliant mind helped design.

NOW USES CANE

Now, a little more than six years after Mr. Poe's participation in the Gulf War, Mr. Poe's mind is still beaming with brilliance, however, it has slowed somewhat.

The soldier which used to walk several clicks (kilometer) in an hour with a 60-pound rucksack on his back, now has to walk with the use of a cane and can barely support his own weight. The man who helped rewrite the Army's doctrine on forward surgical teams, now takes about 30 minutes to type a paragraph on a computer. Regardless of the obstacle and the limitations caused by his illness, he gives a smile and carries on in his fight.

According to Mr. Poe and his family, he has Gulf War illness. He has been poked and prodded by numerous hospitals from Fayetteville to Winston-Salem to Washington,