

If and when Pakistan changes its course, and I hope it will soon, they will find a willing negotiating party in India and a supportive friend in the United States. I just hope that we can resume the India-Pakistan dialogue in the "spirit of Lahore" as soon as possible.

COMMEMORATING MEN AND
WOMEN WHO FOUGHT IN VIET-
NAM WAR

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, May 7, a celebration of sort, a commemoration of sort, took place in all 50 States in this country as we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

Between 1958 and 1975, over 8 million Americans, 228,000 of whom were Georgians, fought in Southeast Asia on behalf of freedom against communism and totalitarianism. That was the war of my generation. It was the legacy that I remember.

America was divided throughout that war and remains, in some cases, divided today over whether we should have been there and our resolve was never what it should have been. But tonight, I rise not to debate that, but to commemorate the men and women who fought and died on behalf of the United States of America, 58,000 of them, 2,042 who remaining missing in action today.

While we debate the positive nature of issues we believe in and condemn others today in contemporary times, we must continue to pause and reflect on the sacrifice made on behalf of all of us.

To that end, I want to commend five individuals from Georgia, Susie Ragan, who founded the MIA/POW force in Georgia and now has moved to Maryland and is doing the same thing so we do not forget those 2,042; Tommy Clack, a triple amputee who returned to a divided America and has committed the rest of his life to see to it that Vietnam veterans get the attention and services that they deserve and their Government promised; Ron Miller, who served as the former executive director of the Georgian Veterans Leadership Program; and Colonel Ben Purcell of Georgia, a member of the Georgia legislature, but 25 years ago a man who ended more than 8 years as a prisoner of war, over 5 in solitary confinement.

We must never forget the sacrifice made by those men and women for our Nation and for our country and the duty and honor and commitment they made to this country and to their God.

And that fifth person to me is a person by the name of Jack Elliott Cox.

Jack died in Vietnam in 1968. But Jack was a volunteer. He volunteered when we graduated from college to go to OSC. And like 70 percent of those who died in Vietnam, he was not drafted, he was a volunteer.

In fact, what is so often not talked about is that 25 percent of those who fought were drafted, 75 percent were people who volunteered for the service in a divided war and a divided time. But they were committed to their country.

Let us not forget the Jack Coxes, the Susie Ragans, the Tommy Clacks, the Ron Millers, and the Ben Purcells, those who fought and live today to fight on for the veterans of that war, and those who died for you and I.

As Members of this Congress, when we go to the 26th anniversary next year, may it be a time that we continue our commitment to the veterans of the United States of America and the men and women who, regardless of conflicts at home, fought and served and, in some cases, died for their country, for our Nation, and for those of us here tonight.

STATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO
PROTECT THEIR OWN WATERS

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, the United States Supreme Court invalidated Washington State's standards for oil tankers entering their waters. That is, it invalidated Washington State's effort to control the tankers in their waters and, in doing so, potentially invalidated laws in 11 other States.

Even while admitting that Federal and international laws may be insufficient protection, the court refused to allow States to protect their own waters. That is hard to believe, but that is what the United States Supreme Court did.

We all remember the *Exxon Valdez* disaster in Alaska in 1989. The huge oil tanker ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska, dumping 11 million gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean and damaging more than 1,000 miles of coastline in south-central Alaska.

The massive spill resulted in billions of dollars in damage claims by over 40,000 people, including some 6,500 Washington State fishermen who have yet to be compensated for their loss.

In response to the Valdez spill, my home State of Washington and many other coastline States issued tougher laws to prevent another catastrophe. Washington's laws created the Office of Marine Safety and added a number of requirements to Federal law. I was in the legislature when we did that.

For example, the State regulation re- quired tanker crews to be proficient in

English in order to prevent miscommunication between American navigators and foreign crews. Does it not seem logical that the people who are running the tankers in American waters should be proficient in English?

Among other rules adopted by Washington are prescriptions regarding training, location plotting, pre-arrival tests, and drug testing for tanker crews.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court invalidated these common-sense regulations. And, again, I cannot imagine how the Supreme Court could come to that decision.

Of course, Federal law must supersede State law in Coast Guard and national security matters, but States should have the right to enact safety standards within their own State waters.

Last week I introduced H.R. 4385, which reinstates the rights of States to adopt additional standards regarding maintenance, operation, equipping, personnel qualifications, or manning of oil tankers. I hope that all of my colleagues who care about States' rights and environmental protection will join me to support this important legislation. We must allow our districts and our home States to protect themselves from another Valdez disaster.

NEW ECONOMY OF THE 21ST
CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address this House today on issues I believe are extremely important to our economy and to working families not only from my State in Illinois, but across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a very diverse district. I represent the south suburbs of Chicago, as well as the southern part of the city of Chicago. I represent bedroom communities and farm communities, a very, very diverse district of city and suburbs and communities.

I often find as I travel throughout the district that I have the privilege of representing, whether I am at the Steelworkers Hall in Hegewisch, a neighborhood in Chicago, or at the Legion Post in Joliet, or a grain elevator in Tonica, Illinois, or a coffee shop in my hometown of Morris, I find that there is a pretty common message whether I am in the city, the suburbs, or country; and that is that the folks back home in Illinois and the land of Lincoln, they tell me that they want us to work to find solutions to the challenges that we face.

Those solutions sometimes require a bipartisan effort. In many cases they