

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG WALDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT JAMES CAMERON, MARINE CORPS WAR HERO

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was in New Orleans as the city was preparing to celebrate the 56th anniversary of D-Day and the opening of the national D-Day museum. The event brought together thousands of World War II veterans and attracted even more to pay tribute to the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who risked and far too often gave their lives to protect the freedoms that you and I enjoy every day. These brave Americans make up what is called "the greatest generation." Many of them are our parents and grandparents, husbands and wives, who endured through often unthinkable circumstances to build the United States of America into what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster once said, "God grants liberty to those who love it and are always willing and prepared to defend it." Unfortunately, the

cost of our liberty has not come easy. Throughout our Nation's history, brave men and women have sacrificed their lives in order to defend and protect the principles this Nation was founded upon. Together, they have ensured the strength of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to represent a district with a strong military presence, both active and retired. The Third District of North Carolina is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Air Station Cherry Point and New River, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and the Elizabeth City Coast Guard Station. In addition, Eastern North Carolina is home to 77,000 retired veterans and nearly 13,000 retired military. While each individual can provide a unique perspective and account of their service, I would like to take time today to pay tribute to a gentleman whose service during World War II is worthy of recognition.

Technical Sergeant James Cameron, Jr., was a navigator-bombardier during the Second World War. His remarkable military record both in combat and in peace represents that of many citizens who answered their call to duty and accepted the highest responsibility to preserve peace and freedom both here and abroad. Although regrettably 25 years after his death, Tech Sergeant Cameron was finally rewarded for his service. Earlier this year at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Tech Sergeant Cameron's wife was part of a ceremony to honor her late husband's valiant service to this country. On behalf of her husband, Ms. Cameron received eight air medals. He is also eligible for two Distinguished Flying Crosses which are forthcoming. Technical Sergeant Cameron has also been awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the Air Medal with two gold stars and one silver star.

Mr. Speaker, James Cameron enlisted in the Marine Corps in November of 1942 at the age of 22. After attending the Navy Air Training Center in Jacksonville, Florida and the navigation-bombardier school at Quantico, he joined the 423rd bombing squadron at Cherry Point. He had served his country at war in the Southwest Pacific region from February 1944 to March 1945. His B-25 crew flew more than 50 combat missions, bombing targets in New Britain and New Ireland.

In 1944, his crew was on a crack bomber mission that was raiding Japa-

nese positions when they were caught in the midst of heavy crossfire and were shot down. To survive, the crew was forced to spend 10 hours on a life raft, averting enemy fire, before finally being rescued. Before this mission, Tech Sergeant Cameron and four combat air crewmen helped rescue a downed flyer in the sea off Green Island. Mr. Cameron helped secure a five-man raft and carried it down a 75-foot cliff in order to rescue the pilot. For his brave assistance, he received the Navy and Marine Corps medal for heroism.

On October 2, 1945, Technical Sergeant Cameron was honorably discharged from the Marines. His dedication to his country can only be matched by his dedication to his family. James Cameron married his wife Elizabeth on September 27, 1941. Together they have three sons, James, Bruce and Doug.

After leaving the service, Mr. Cameron served as a mounted policeman in New York City where he helped to train horses and taught other officers to ride horses. He retired from the police force at the rank of sergeant.

Mr. Speaker, Technical Sergeant Cameron died on September 15, 1975 after a long battle with cancer. But today we celebrate and honor his life and his dedication to preserve peace and freedom for all Americans.

In closing, I want to share a quote from one of the Founding Fathers of this country, Gouverneur Morris, who once said, "I anticipate the day when to command respect in the most remotest regions it will be sufficient to say, 'I am an American.'"

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Tech Sergeant Cameron and all United States veterans for their heroic courage in the name of freedom. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are free but it is because of the sacrifice made by many men and women to defend the freedom of this country.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress with a keen interest in having the Federal Government be a better partner in promoting livable communities, things that we can do with the private sector, with business,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

with individual neighborhood associations, with government at all levels to help make our families safe, healthy and economically secure. I found that one of the most powerful things that we can do in the Federal Government is to simply lead by example, for the Federal Government to model the type of behavior that we want the rest of America to abide by.

We have had great fun with a very simple concept that would require the post office to obey local land use laws, zoning codes and environmental regulations. This legislation has already commanded the cosponsorship of the majority of Members of this assembly and has excited people around the country who see the post office as potential building blocks to stabilize their small towns, to stabilize neighborhood installations in over 40,000 facilities around the country.

One of the best opportunities is to be found with the Department of Defense. Our Pentagon budget houses the largest inventory of infrastructure in the world. The value is placed at some \$550 billion. It is a huge land inventory. The Department of Defense is the third largest repository of Federal lands, but unlike BLM or the U.S. Forest Service land, this is oftentimes intensively managed. There are some 12,000 properties in the inventory of the Department of Defense right now that is eligible for historic building status. Over the course of the next 30 years, there will be 50,000 more. These facilities represent important aspects of military history and important elements that lead to actually building the components of communities. We have seen around the country base decommissioning arise as a larger and larger issue where they have to be closed and recycled, turned over to the private sector where there is an opportunity here to revitalize communities. Where at one point this was fought by local communities who felt that they would be losing an opportunity for economic development and security, we are finding as is the case in the transitioning of Fort Ord to private ownership that this can actually be a tremendous source of job generation, new housing and facilities that can make a difference for the community.

Camp Pendleton is the only significant open space between Los Angeles and San Diego. It is home to some 17 endangered species requiring special stewardship on the part of the military establishment. In the area of housing, here too is an opportunity. There is an interesting initiative taking place in the Department of the Army under the leadership of Under Secretary Apgar looking for ways to use the private sector to be able to finance and upgrade and design quality housing that our military employees deserve.

In my own district in Portland, Oregon, there is an opportunity to decom-

mission Navy ships that employs family wage jobs and modern environmental technology to make sure that these ships are dismantled in not only a cost effective but an environmentally sensitive way as opposed to what some would do, simply tow them overseas and allow them to be disposed of in Bangladesh under who knows what standards. It is simply not a responsible activity on our part.

And then there is the issue of unexploded ordnance. Throughout the United States, there are areas where we have used land for training purposes that are filled with bombs and shells that have not exploded. At the current rate, it is going to take us 100 years to be able to decontaminate, to be able to deal with this problem of unexploded ordnance.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that throughout the military establishment, there are challenges and opportunities for the Federal Government to promote more livable communities, a better environment for the men and women who serve in the military, and to protect our environment by providing leadership by example.

I invite my colleagues to join us the evening of July 20 at the National Building Museum for a discussion in greater detail dealing with how the military can promote livable communities.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY COMES UNDER SCRUTINY IN WAKE OF MISSING NUCLEAR SECRETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the option to discuss with the House this morning an issue that does cause me quite a bit of concern. It really revolves around the missing nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos lab. We have spent about \$16 billion a year on the Department of Energy; 15,000 plus employees, 125,000 contract employees and over \$16 billion of spending of the taxpayers' money. On their own website, they have the following two mission statements: To provide affordable and available fuel now and in the future, and the security of our nuclear weapons stockpile.

It would seem to me based on those two statements, those two mission statements by the Department and the amount of money the American taxpayers have put into the fund in order to run the agency, you would have assumed with those types of numbers you would have gotten at least a modicum of success in protecting either the nuclear secrets or providing affordable energy for Americans now and in the future.

I am sure some of you recently have had the pleasure and joy of filling up

your car at the gas station and witnessed prices escalating almost at every week, an increase in prices of fuel. In some areas in my community, prices for regular unleaded are about \$1.65 and in some places in the country, including the Midwest, we see prices upwards of \$2.25. Is that affordable? Yes, it is available but is it affordable? And how much does that take out of the American family's budget weekly, money that they could spend on clothes for their kids, textbooks for school, health care or purchasing prescription drugs? It is a lot of money. Filling up a 20-gallon tank costs somewhere between 4 and 8 additional dollars a week now due to the price of energy. Now, that is the administration that is doing America a favor by spending \$16 billion on the Department of Energy.

We have heard recently that, of course, we do not think there was espionage involved. We do not know obviously because we are not certain where the disk drives were and who had them. But we are comforted by the fact that we are being told by the administration, at least by the Secretary of Energy, that we do not suspect espionage. Initially it was reported that there was a 4-week breach of time between the reporting of the missing hard drives and the notification to the FBI. Then we heard erroneous or maybe possibly accurate reports that it was upwards of 6 months when the hard drives were missing. Then on Meet the Press, Secretary Richardson said, "Oh, no, it wasn't that long, it was only possibly March 28." Talk about the gang that could not shoot straight, nobody can give us definitive answers where the hard drives were, how they were stored, how long they had been missing, and who checks in and out of this secret vault. Just last week testifying before the Senate, the Secretary said, we are going to institute technology like bar coding and putting bar codes onto the devices.

I mean, we bar code lettuce in the grocery store. You cannot leave a record store without paying for the CD. Otherwise, the security devices at the door will make an alarm so that the detectives or guards there can try and stop a shoplifter. But the nuclear secrets of America, the most sensitive of all data stored by our government, is wandering around with nobody watching, nobody monitoring, nobody taking the blame.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a serious issue on our hands. I think rather than politicize it, we need to get to the bottom of it. If this incident occurred to a corporation, the CEO's head would roll. If this announcement of this problem was a stock market activity, the stock would collapse. If this was a student in school, they would fail. Somebody has to take account for the pilferage or the potential misuse or even the missing hard drives.