

A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to applaud those colleagues of ours who will join me tomorrow, equally divided between both sides of the aisle. Ten of our colleagues will join me as we travel to Moscow. The purpose of our trip is to lay the foundation for a new relationship with the Russian people and the Russian Government.

Over the past 2 months, we have worked out an in-depth assessment of a way to engage the Russian people. Not to pour massive amounts of American money into Russia, because that is not the answer, but ways to continue to support those efforts that are already underway by private foundations, by nonprofit groups, by academic institutions, and, in some cases, by governmental entities.

The document and the process that will be speaking to our Russian counterparts will include a new era of engaging Russia, the culture, the economy, the environment, justice and legal system, health care, science and technology, defense and security, agriculture, space, local government and energy.

Today, I had a chance to brief our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol in both parties, and the White House and the National Security Council as well. This new initiative is designed to create a new era of opportunity for us where Americans and Russians can work together. We will also be providing an opportunity for the Russian Parliament, the Duma, and the Federation Council to enact a piece of legislation that I will be introducing in the Congress, and they are identical, that calls for a joint task force on terrorism, a legislative task force that has Russian members of the Duma and the Federation Council working with Members of the Congress and the Senate, the House and the Senate. This will follow and support the efforts of our two Presidents. Our meetings will include senior leaders of the Duma, members of the Federation Council, the Minister of Interior for Russia, and members of President Putin's leadership in terms of security and foreign policy and the other major issues that we will be dealing with.

We will leave Moscow on Saturday and travel to Rome where we have planned meetings with the King of Afghanistan, who is in exile, and leaders of the opposition forces in that country. We will be extending our best wishes and our praise to the King as he attempts to reunify the people of that troubled country and to let him know that Americans do not have a problem with the Afghan people, that we want to be their friends.

We will leave Rome and travel on to Turkey where we will meet with the leadership of the Turkish Government, letting them know that we appreciate their support and solidarity with the U.S. and the allies, that we appreciate the work of the Turkish military, and that we appreciate their friendship during this troubled time.

I look forward to the trip. Our colleagues are giving up time that they could be home with their constituents. It is an important role they are playing to support our President in his effort to have a unified world in eradicating the terrorism that has done so much devastation here in this country in this past month.

So I thank our colleagues for being involved in this process. We will issue a report upon our return, giving the response by the various parties that we meet and making recommendations back to our colleagues about future actions.

□ 2100

TRIBUTE TO TED C. CONNELL, A PATRIOT AND TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 16, Texas and the Nation lost a patriot and a true public servant, Mr. Ted C. Connell. My friend, our Nation's friend, passed away at his home in Killeen, Texas, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ted Connell lived a life of service to others and to his beloved country. He was a World War II combat veteran, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a great friend of my political mentor, former Congressman Olin E. (Tiger) Teague, and he was a friend of President Lyndon Johnson and the Johnson family.

Ted Connell was born in 1924 in the small town of Hamlin, Texas, the fifth of ten sons. He dropped out of high school, but finished his diploma while serving in the U.S. Army field artillery on the island of Guam during World War II.

During his 30-month tour in the South Pacific with the 316th Tank Destroyer Battalion of the 98th Division, he also fought in Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He eventually rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

While on Okinawa, in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, Ted Connell rescued a young Marine who had been shot in the chest. He sat with his mortally wounded comrade for 3 hours, comforting him in the last moments of his life. When Ted returned to the United States, he traveled to the Marine's hometown in Colorado to tell his parents in person about their son's death.

That mission of comfort and solace opened a new chapter of service in Ted Connell's life. The Marine's father was heavily involved in veteran's affairs, and encouraged Ted, young Ted Connell, to do likewise.

He did just that, becoming active in his local VFW post, and rising to the leadership at the State and national levels, culminating with his election as national Commander-in-Chief of the VFW in 1960.

Ted Connell was a friend and confidante of President Lyndon Johnson, coordinating and advancing Presidential visits to Guam, Uruguay, Central America, South Vietnam, Australia, and Pakistan, and serving as an on-scene coordinator for a meeting with Pope Paul VI with the Vatican.

He served on several congressional and Presidential fact-finding missions, taking him to Vietnam five times, to Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Korea.

Ted Connell also served the State of Texas with great distinction as a member of the Texas Veterans Land Board, chairman of the Texas Veterans Commission, and as a member of the Sam Rayburn Foundation.

When his hometown of Killeen needed leadership, Ted Connell answered the call to duty once again, spearheading efforts to build the Lake Belton Dam, Central Texas College, and Metroplex Hospital, and to strengthen the U.S. Army's Fort Hood.

He served two terms as mayor of Killeen, was director and president of the Killeen Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Foundation, a director of the Metroplex Hospital, and chairman of the hospital's building fund campaign.

Somewhere in all of this service to the public Ted Connell found time to operate his successful car dealership for 46 years, and to further leave his mark by bringing local airline service to his community. He opened an airline in 1965, eventually merging it with Hood Airlines and with Rio Airways. By 1974, Rio, serving small- and medium-sized cities in central, north, and south Texas, had become the seventh largest commuter airline in the country.

Fittingly, the Killeen City Council recently named the new passenger terminal at the about-to-be-completed, over the next few years, Fort Hood-Killeen Joint-Use Airport in honor of this great veteran and community leader.

Ted Connell fought for his Nation, Mr. Speaker, in time of war, and served his community and country in time of peace. His indomitable optimism and love of country were quintessential American values. He represented the special spirit that makes me optimistic about our Nation's future.

As a businessman and community leader, Ted Connell worked tirelessly for jobs, prosperity, and opportunities for central Texans. His unparalleled

record of public service and his enduring legacy to his community are matched only by his countless quiet acts of caring for those in need.

All those who knew or were the beneficiaries of Ted Connell and his humanity were enriched by his life and are diminished by his passing. Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." By that high measure, Ted Connell's life was a true success.

Mr. Speaker, if I could just finish with one story, at Ted Connell's funeral recently in Killeen, Texas, a friend of his, Gaylen Christy, told the story, in the last 2 years where he and Mr. Connell were sitting in a coffee shop, but this time Ted was a patient of chemotherapy.

Rather than worrying about his own concerns, he heard a middle-aged couple at a table nearby talking about their problems. Their son had just been assigned to Fort Hood, but recently thereafter was asked to go to serve his Nation in Bosnia as a helicopter mechanic.

Their problem was they did not know how to get their son's belongings to the airport in Austin to be freighted back to Pennsylvania to their home, and then to get their son's car back. Mr. Connell, having heard their concern over their son's matters, walked over to their table, gave them a card, and said, come talk to me at my car dealership and we will take care of your problem.

He proceeded to provide a driver and a car to take that son's belongings to Austin, Texas, and then provided a driver to drive their son's car back to Pennsylvania, and paid for that driver to fly back to Texas. When Mr. Connell made this offer to this great family, they responded to him by saying, "Sir, we don't know how we can pay you back." Ted Connell's answer was, "You have already paid me back by raising a son who was willing to serve his Nation in uniform."

That was the man, Ted Connell. Our Nation will forever remember and be better for his spirit and public service.

AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday was an important day in the United States as we come to terms with the senseless terrorist attacks of September 11. In a brief mourning ceremony at Camp David, President Bush watched as the U.S. flag was hoisted to a full staff for the first time in 12 days.

Later that afternoon, thousands of mourners gathered at Yankee Stadium in New York for a multi-faith event to remember their loved ones and all those lost in the terrorist attacks.

Our collective grief and confusion during the last 2 weeks have not waned and will likely remain with us for years. However, Sunday's two events remind all Americans of the strong foundation on which this Nation is built, and of the need to defend our citizens and principles from future threats.

Paramount among America's concerns following the attacks was the realization that terror could strike on our own soil. However, we cannot live in constant fear and hand a victory to the terrorists, so it is incumbent upon Congress to restore faith in national security. We need immediate action to enhance safety in airports and on planes by improving passenger and baggage screening procedures, strengthening airplane security features, and installing sky marshals on flights.

Additionally, we must identify other vulnerabilities in our infrastructure, and work to safeguard food and water supplies, financial institutions, electricity grids, energy production facilities, and transportation and communications networks.

Once we have improved any shortcomings in our infrastructure, we can enact fundamental reforms such as ensuring police departments, firefighters, rescue workers, health care systems, and local governments are prepared in the event of biological or chemical attacks.

The Rhode Island Disaster Initiative has served as a pioneer in developing a model disaster plan for every State in the Nation. I am proud of this initiative, and hope that it will play an integral role in developing national solutions to problems revealed on September 11.

Also, an investment in mental health services, whose importance is often overlooked in times of tragedies, would help Americans, especially children, deal with the trauma of witnessing violence and terrorism around the globe.

All of these efforts must be pursued in conjunction with a careful, coordinated counterterrorism program. The new Office of Homeland Security is an essential step towards preventing terrorism, and Congress must provide this office with the authority it needs to be effective.

By consolidating existing responsibilities from the 40 different agencies managing terrorism prevention, and by establishing information-sharing procedures with the FBI and CIA, the Office of Homeland Security can safeguard our lands, citizens, and facilities from future threats.

I also look forward to working with the administration on its request for increased authority to combat terrorism. As terrorists gain access to new technology, our law enforcement offices must be equipped to intercept and analyze these communications.

However, in our rush to action, any new authority Congress grants must be

consistent with the civil liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and upheld by the courts.

Furthermore, we must focus on the true perpetrators of terrorist crimes, and condemn the unfounded targeting or harassment of innocent Americans because of their skin color, customs, or beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, we are just beginning to fathom the implications of the September 11 attacks. Yet, we may take comfort that our Nation's principles are still intact. The valiant and selfless efforts of emergency responders are to be commended. The generosity of those who have donated to relief efforts and the multifaith ceremony at Yankee Stadium all demonstrate that Americans of all backgrounds join in condemnation of terrorism.

For many years to come, when we look at our flag proudly waving at full staff, we will remember the victims of September 11, but we will also be reminded of the principles that make the United States a great Nation, and which we must always strive to preserve.

INTRODUCING H.R. 2953, LEGISLATION TO EXTEND SOCIAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND MAKE THEM PART OF MEDICARE+CHOICE PLANS PERMANENTLY

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced H.R. 2953, which is legislation to extend and make social health maintenance organizations a permanent part of Medicare+Choice. It is an important benefit option helping seniors maintain a healthy lifestyle longer in their own homes. As such, it represents a fiscally sound approach to managing our long-term health care needs in this country, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I am fortunate to represent one of the four social HMOs that were approved as part of the initial Medicare demonstration project in 1985. This effort, called the Seniors Care Action Network, or SCAN, provides coordinated personal and health care to more than 50,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties in southern California.

The concept actually originated more than 20 years ago when a group of seniors in my district became frustrated with how difficult it was to get both personal care and health care services. The principle underlying SCAN is that some individuals, although relatively happy and healthy, may need some outside assistance to remain in their homes.

These extra services, in the case of SCAN, includes, among other things,