

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about domestic violence. I was pleased that President Bush proclaimed this month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. However, people should be aware of domestic violence every day. Domestic violence is an offense against our institutional values. One incident of domestic violence is one incident too much.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of domestic violence awareness. In 1999 I was proud to include in the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization language the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. The task force was established to review and evaluate current programs and policies associated with domestic violence in the Department of Defense. It reinforces the importance of preventing domestic violence because deterrence is key. However, when violence does occur, we must protect the victims while holding the offenders accountable.

I am confident that the task force will provide the Secretary of Defense with a comprehensive report and a plan that augments our current efforts to eliminate domestic violence within the military. Furthermore, the task force findings will help in our national efforts to address domestic violence in our own communities.

ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EVERY TRAVELER

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as Americans start flying again, they deserve the peace of mind that can only come from knowing that strict security measures are in place for their protection. The stories we hear about baggage screeners with criminal records are appalling, but the answer is not merely placing these same people on the Federal payroll.

The Federal Government should provide standards and provisions. The private sector should provide hard work and ingenuity in order to update and manage the security measures. We must allow airports to think creatively and act decisively, but always under the watchful eye of the Federal Government.

Most importantly, we should give the President the flexibility to implement the measures by rejecting a one-size-fits-all approach and treating each airport as an individual unit.

I urge my colleagues to support the Young-Mica bill, and ensure that traveling people have the safety and security they are entitled to.

CONTINUE BOMBING DURING RAMADAN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there are those in America that say that we should stop the bombing of the Taliban during the holy month of Ramadan. I disagree. Hitler did not stop on Yom Kippur, Japan did not stop on Christmas or Easter. In fact, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur during the holy month of Ramadan, folks.

Let us get real: This is war. This is not a coffee break nor do or should we take sabbaticals. It is time to root these terrorists out. Keep the heat on.

I yield back the fact that giving this Taliban regime 30 days, they will simply reorganize and kill many more Americans.

PRESENT A FAIR AND BALANCED AVIATION SAFETY BILL

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I take four airplane flights a week. As many Members of Congress do, I fly home every weekend, two segments each time. So I am very familiar with security requirements and that what we have had has not worked.

Our purpose now is to make sure, number one, that we centralize responsibility; number two, that we have one play book that applies to all the rules, and that that play book works and is kept up-to-date. That means that we should put all the responsibility in one location for all modes of transportation.

We need something that is flexible, that is innovative, that can be changed and modified to meet circumstances as they change.

We want something that is non-partisan. We are sorry that the Senate bill became a partisan bill by advocating just one particular position. The House bill will allow the President to choose whether these should be Federal employees or whether these should be contracted out.

I just want to say, I believe the bill that will be before us tomorrow is a fair and good way to approach the issue of aviation security. It will get away from partisan wrangling. It will ensure that the traveling public will be safe and secure.

PROFESSIONALIZE SECURITY AT AMERICA'S AIRPORTS

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the security of America should be our first priority and it should not be turned into politics. Politics should not be part of this debate.

We use over 450 airports and over 3,000 employees to transport people across this country. The size and complexity of our system requires a Federal workforce that is professional, well-trained, and well-paid, not contracted employees making less than fast food wages.

If we are to restore public confidence in air travel, we must make real attempts to address the security problems. We cannot guarantee safety with a system that leaves national security in the hands of private companies that contract to the lowest bidder.

We stand a fighting chance against terror in the skies only if we have professionalism in the law enforcement function, where we can feel confident that they are well-trained, they are competent and they will be able to protect our citizens.

We should not privatize our national security. We do not privatize the Department of Defense, we do not privatize the FBI, we do not privatize security services. We must do the right thing.

COMMENDING THOSE WHO DEVELOP READING SKILLS

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend First Lady Laura Bush and our Nation's teachers who are helping our children develop their reading skills.

Reading is a path to successful life. I have personal knowledge of the role of special teachers and am very thankful for my good friend Dr. Ann Dugger at Will Rogers Elementary School in Stillwater, who spent many hours with our grandson Bradley learning to read.

My nephew, Josh Rogers, is a student in Mrs. Trish Fellers' third grade class at Derby Hills Elementary School in Derby, Kansas. The class read Jeff Brown's book "Flat Stanley," in which Stanley is flattened by a bulletin board and mails himself to visit friends in California.

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My nephew, Josh, mailed "Flat Josh" to my wife and me to stay for a month. "Flat Josh" came to Washington, D.C. to visit his own Congressman, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), so "Flat Josh" is with us today.

I am grateful for First Lady Laura Bush, Dr. Ann Dugger, and Mrs. Trish Fellers and many other teachers like them, and I encourage all of us to read to our children and our grandchildren.