

Fatherlessness affects our children in more ways than we can count, preventing our children from fully reaching the potential we know they have within. While there are millions of fathers who actively support their children, there are many others who do not due to financial or social circumstances. Many absent fathers are part of the working poor and may wish to aid their children but simply cannot financially.

The goal of the fatherhood resolution is to promote responsible fatherhood, the emotional and financial support of one's children. In wishing all of God's children, all of our Father's children, a happy Father's Day, which is coming up on Sunday, I wanted to call my colleagues' attention to the promotion of this effort, of the bill that we have in, H.R. 1300, which would authorize block grants to fund programs at the local and State level, nonprofit organizations, et cetera.

The Responsible Fatherhood Act of 2001 has already garnered broad bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, and I would encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bill to provide men with the tools and the resources necessary to become responsible fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my Happy Father's Day to you too.

#### MISSILE DEFENSE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would take the well and talk a little bit about the hearing that we held today in the Subcommittee on Military Research and Development of the House Committee on Armed Services concerning the issue of missile defense.

What we did today, Democrats and Republicans, is talk to General Kadish, who heads the missile defense program for this administration, for this Nation; and we talked specifically about tests: where are we, what have we done, what works, what does not work, and where do we need to go.

One thing that General Kadish led with, which I thought was very important for Americans to understand, is that we have made progress and that we have accomplished some very important things for America. The first one goes back to the killing of 28 Americans in the Desert Storm operation when Iraqi scud missiles, which are ballistic missiles, they go about 50 percent faster than a 30.06 bullet, came in and hit a concentration of American troops, resulting in 28 deaths. We fired back as much as we could with the then Patriot missile system. At the end of that conflict, we had MIT come in and analyze whether or not we had gotten any of those missiles. One of the

experts from MIT said he did not think we got any. The Army said they thought we got about 80 percent, they were not sure, but that we did have some problems.

Well, since that time, since the early 1990s, during Desert Storm, we have developed a missile defense system, now called PAC-3, the Patriot 3 missile defense system, which can shoot down on a regular basis, on a consistent basis, on a reliable basis, those incoming scud ballistic missiles. We have now had eight tests, and every one of those eight tests has intercepted.

I hear a lot of folks talking about whether or not we can hit a bullet with a bullet, because it sounds so impossible. Well, a bullet from one of our Capitol Hill policemen, a 38 bullet, for example, goes about 1,200, 1,400 feet per second. A scud missile goes maybe 7,000 feet per second. That is a scud ballistic missile. So it goes as much as four to five times as fast as some bullets. And even if we take a very high velocity bullet, a big-game rifle or a rifle that one would use on the battlefield, like a 30.06 that goes about 3,000 feet per second, a scud missile even goes about twice as fast as that bullet.

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And the Patriot missile system that we fire at that thing, goes in excess of 4,000 feet per second. So both the target missile, that is the ballistic missile, and the missile that we shoot up to knock it down, go faster than a bullet. And eight times in our tests, we have successfully hit a bullet with a bullet.

What does that mean. Well, it means to Americans who are thinking, as they sit around the breakfast table with their family and child who may join the armed services and be stationed in the Middle East or on the Korean peninsula, it means that this country, in response to the missile threat, working as hard as it can in developing technology as quickly as possible, has developed a defense, at least against these scud missiles that are being proliferated around the world, which we are apt to see in a conflict in the near future.

It means when you have a base camp with a Marine expeditionary unit filled with 19- and 20-year-old kids from all of the farms and cities of this country or a part of the 101st Air Mobile Brigade out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky or an Air Force unit stationed somewhere enforcing the no-fly zone, it means if our adversaries launch a ballistic missile, that is a pretty slow ballistic missile as they go, but still as fast as a bullet, if they launch a scud missile attack at that contingent, our PAC-3, our Patriot 3 system which we are now in the business of fielding, we have tested it, would be able to handle that attack and allow our young men and women to come home alive.

So we established that. Now, General Kadish, having established that,

showed the members of the Committee on Armed Services the footage of a number of tests that we have made. He said, We have missed some; and we have hit some. He laid out a program that we need to undertake in the next 5-10 years to develop a capability that is better and better. We are moving ahead. We are going to have robust testing. We are going to defend America.

#### FATHER'S DAY IS ABOUT MORE THAN PRESENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Issa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, all over America we are hearing the words, "Happy Father's Day." I come to the floor this afternoon to remind America that Father's Day is about more than presents. What are the children without fathers to do?

Fully a third of our children in our country are without fathers, being raised by one parent, usually a woman. The numbers are increasing at an alarming rate. The only thing harder than raising children is one parent raising children. Often that is the case today. If there are one-third of children without fathers today in the home, in the African American community that number is two-thirds.

The results are appalling to family formation. Chronic joblessness among black males, disproportionate numbers in prison which keep family formation from occurring in the usual way, led me to search for answers. I have been involved in a number of activities, and the most recent was inspired by the Million Man March in 1995. I was concerned that something concrete should come out of this march to capture the energy of almost a million African American men coming to Washington to indicate they were going to do something about reconstruction of their communities and of black family life itself.

Yet when they went home and said what am I to do, well, some in fact found lots to do. But for the average unaffiliated black man, there was nothing to capture that energy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that government and business and unions and communities ought to have a response so that this energy could be used to the highest and best effect. I conceived the idea of a commission on black men and boys that would allow black men and boys in the District of Columbia to get together to indicate what to do and how to do it. Recently we received funding from the Department of Labor.

This commission, set up in the District of Columbia, will be holding hearings; will identify available sources of government and community and private assistance for black men and boys