

will pay any price. We will support any friend, we will oppose any foe to preserve liberty.

That is our mission statement given by President Kennedy over 40 years ago, and that is what our troops are doing.

Freedom has always cost. It always will. Good things have cost. It cost us 7 years of hard war against the British. After we gained our independence, gained our freedom, the British did not believe it, and they attacked us again in the War of 1812. They burned this building down, and they burned the White House. They burned every building in Washington, D.C. except for two because they were trying to make sure that America was not a free Nation. So we had to fight them again.

Freedom has cost this country, and it has cost other countries; and Iraq is one of them. We do not get freedom by sitting down at a conference table and saying, let us reason together so we can be a free people.

There is no substitute for victory. It is the only path to freedom, and I hope that folks in this Nation understand the great job our troops are doing and are as committed as they are to winning the war.

Down in southeast Texas, I have the distinction of having the Port of Beaumont. It is the number one military deployment port of cargo going to Iraq. It comes from Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, and it is the place where our troops come home. Most of the troops coming back to my area are National Guard troops. You see, down in southeast Texas when the National Guard comes home, we have parades for them. Schools and businesses close, and everybody turns out on Main Street waving the American flag. We are proud of what our troops are doing. We understand, as most Americans understand, they are doing a good job and they are putting their lives on the line for that simple word that people since the beginning of the world have wanted, and that is freedom.

So this country I do not think is ever going to flinch and it is never going to flee and we certainly are never going to fear because we will never fail the war against terrorism, and I hope we will be successful.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) allowing me to make these comments. I hope we will continue the dialogue and the perseverance to be successful and to spread the word not only in America but to those terrorists who live throughout the world that they can run, but they can certainly never hide because the American fighting man is going to track them down.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. I thank him for mentioning that our men and women in uniform are volunteers and they have chosen to fight.

I, like him, have spent time with these men and women and their families and on Memorial Day talked with the aunt of a young man who came to one of the memorial services. And after I spoke, she came up and with her broken heart she said, Mrs. BLACKBURN, you're so right, he was there because he wanted to be there and you're so right. He knows, he knew that we were winning, that we are winning the war on terror.

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And yes indeed, he understood the mission. Our families, our military families know this, Mr. Speaker, and they know that this Nation has decided not to play hostage, not to be held hostage. Our men and women in uniform are paying the price to fight this war so that we are not having to fight it on the streets of Washington, D.C., or Memphis or Nashville or L.A. or anywhere else in this country. We have made a choice not to be bullied and not to live with the gun pointed at our head. And I give credit to our President. And, Mr. Speaker, I credit the American people for making a tough decision. War is never easy. War is never, ever easy, but we have to remember the big picture in this and that picture is we have to have a democratic ally in the Middle East. This is about freedom and free people. It is about expanded democracy and education. It is about rooting out terrorists and disrupting their networks and their way of working and their beliefs so that they don't import it and place it on us. It is about slowing them down and eventually making it impossible for them to work.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about whether we are winning or not. And we are winning. But this is not easy. There are going to be a lot of dark days ahead. This is not an easy fight. It is not easy for us. It is not easy for our military men and women and their families. It is not easy for the Iraqi people. And there is a tremendous amount of frustration when they take a couple of steps forward and then a few steps back and a couple of steps forward and another step back. And just as in the past 3 years we have had some victories to celebrate, we have also had some very tough times. But we come to the point of saying, is it a necessary action? And yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is a necessary action. The defense of freedom is a necessary action for our great Nation. It was the only decision that put America on the offensive when it came to the war on terrorism and our national security because freedom is worth fighting for.

As I close the hour this evening and begin this week's debate, I want to focus where I began in talking about the big picture. Ronald Reagan often said, we could bet on hope or we could bet on fear. You can bet on hope or you

can bet on fear. He chose to bet on hope. And, Mr. Speaker, I know why. And I know why the American people choose to bet on hope. It is that hope, that desire that lives in our heart for a better tomorrow.

I love quoting Margaret Thatcher and her comment when she talks about America. She would say it is more than a superpower, more than a great Nation. America is an idea. America is an idea. What a great idea it is. It is the idea of freedom. It is the idea of opportunity. It is the idea of hope. And this week we look forward to talking about hope for our future, hope for the future of our children, hope for the future of the Nation of Iraq.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CARDOZA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. DELAURO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of important congressional business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CALVERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of June 12 on account of taking his son, Alex, to Scout camp.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and June 13 and 14.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, June 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7969. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Requests To Amend Import Regulations [Docket No. 02-132-2] (RIN: 0579-AB63) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7970. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Food Labeling: Health Claims; Soluble Dietary Fiber From Certain Foods and Coronary Heart Disease [Docket No. 2004P-0512] received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7971. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the support services function performed by civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7972. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Deposit Insurance Regulations; Inflation Index; Certain Retirement Accounts and Employee Benefit Plan Accounts (RIN: 3064-AD01) received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7973. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for FY 2002 and FY 2003, pursuant to Public Law 104-193, section 658L; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7974. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No. 02-278]; Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005 [CG Docket No. 05-338]

received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7975. A letter from the Legal Advisor, WTBS, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act and Modernization of the Commission's Competitive Bidding Rules and Procedures [WT Docket No. 05-211] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7976. A letter from the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Request to Update Default Compensation Rate for Dial-Around Calls from Payphones [WC Docket No. 03-225] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7977. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, WTBS, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to Implement Certain World Radio Conference 2003 Final Acts — received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7978. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Coalgate, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 05-274; RM-11274] (Silver Springs Shores, Florida) [MB Docket No. 05-275; RM-11275] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7979. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Dover and North Canton, Ohio) [MB Docket No. 04-377; RM-11077] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7980. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Portage and Stoughton, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No. 04-239; RM-10998] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7981. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Aguila, Apache Junction, Buckeye, Glendale, Peoria, Wenden, and Wickenburg, Arizona) [MB Docket No. 05-270; RM-11268; RM-11272] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7982. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Hallettsville, Meyersville, and Yoakum, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-246; RM-11263; RM-11309]; Reclassification of License of Station KCVY(FM), San Antonio, Texas [BMLH-20001010AC0] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7983. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications

Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Franklin, Addis, and Eunice, Louisiana) [MB Docket No. 05-291; RM-11270] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7984. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Paint Rock and Big Lake, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-31; RM-11150] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7985. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Encino, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-100; RM-11181]; (Steamboat Springs, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 05-153; RM-11223] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7986. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 ft (18.3m) LOA Using Pot or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 060216045-6045-01; I.D. 040606A] received April 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7987. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the loss of life at a U.S. mission abroad and to report and make recommendations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4831; to the Committee on International Relations.

7988. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting a copy of the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2005, pursuant to D.C. Code section 43-513; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7989. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National & Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's Report on Final Action as a result of Audits in respect to the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7990. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's Buy American Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7991. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7992. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Legislative Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report on the Administration's category rating system covering the period from November 23, 2004 through November 22, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.