

On the last evening of Breast Cancer Awareness month, we must not allow the specter of breast cancer to lurk in the darkness. We must recommit ourselves in the upcoming year to arm our Nation's women with the information, resources and support to combat and survive this horrifying disease. Together, I know we can do it.

REASONS FOR SENDING TROOPS INTO BOSNIA NEED TO BE EXAMINED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. Speaker, I certainly applaud the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] in her comments, and her fight against cancer and her fight against cancer in this institution as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to ask the President to go to the American people and tell us why we must send troops to Bosnia. It is a simple request, but it is one that must be made, and it is one that we must have the President address to the American people. I would submit, from the calls and comments that I received from the folks that I represent in Kansas, that he has not made his case to the American people. He has not make his case to the Congress. I sit on the Committee on International Relations, and we have heard from several of the Secretaries in this administration, and they fail to put forward a clear plan, a clear reason, a convincing case, a compelling case, for why we should send our young men and women into Bosnia.

Now it seems to me that we have discovered the way to handle these sorts of issues some time ago, and particularly this was exercised during the Persian Gulf war when that President, President Bush, initially said, well, Congress, I need a vote of the Congress, but then there was so much pressure he decided, no, I will get a vote of the Congress, and he took his case to the American people, and he explained why we needed to be in that region of the world, and explained it clearly and concisely, and said here is the reason, here is how we are going to go in, here is what we are going to accomplish, here is how we are going to get out, and it convinced American people and convinced this body. A vote was taken, and a supportive vote was taken, and we conducted that engagement very successfully with a great deal of support of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do that in this situation in the world, in Bosnia. The vital interests of the American people have to be explained by the Presidency, and it has not been done to date.

Earlier today a colleague of ours, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON], supplied a certain standard for sending young men and women into combat that I thought was a very good one that we should apply into this case

when the President presents his case as to why we should send our troops in

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He asked the question simply this way: Would I be willing to go? Would I be willing to send my daughter or my son into harm's way for this cause?

It seems to me that is the same standard we should apply in this particular case once we get from the administration what the plan is. Why we are going in? What are the strategic and vital interests? And that has been taken to the countryside, because maybe then we will be convinced that we should be going into Bosnia, we should be protecting that region of the world.

But as of today, we have not seen any compelling case or any real case at all from the administration as to why we should go. Why should we vote or appropriate the funds or allow the use of funds to send our troops into harm's way in that part of the world, when we do not even know what our plan is to go in, to occupy, and how to get out, and what will we declare as victory once we are there.

I have a lot of questions of the administration myself. What is the deployment strategy we are going to have? Let us take that out to the American people. What are the military goals we are going to pursue in this particular area? What is the exit strategy?

Mr. Speaker, I simply ask the President of the United States to do what we have learned over years and years of the history of this country when we engage in military conflicts, when our young men and women can be sent into conflict and some can come home not alive, and that is simply this: Take the case to the American people first. Explain to the American people first what are our strategic and vital interests of why we need to be here. Why do we need to do this? Take it there first. And then, Mr. President, come to this body. Come to the Congress and ask for a vote of Congress, so each of us in our conscience can look and ask ourselves, would I be willing to go? Would I be willing to send my son or daughter into harm's way for this cause? And then let us have a vote. That is how a democracy should operate. That is how we should operate in this particular case.

I call on the administration to act that way. It is in their best interests and the best interests of the American people.

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

[Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

INCREASED MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I believe this evening is a very important evening, and I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership on this issue and for organizing this special order to save lives.

I rise tonight to speak about an issue of vital importance to all of the women of this Nation, and this issue happens to be breast cancer. As a woman and a mother, I feel there are few issues as important as the breast cancer epidemic facing our Nation.

As you may know, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in American women today. I recall just a few weeks ago joining in with the Susan G. Coleman Foundation in Houston, TX, where some 8,000 women, many of them survivors, gathered to fight against the epidemic of breast cancer, and to encourage more research in that area.

But the most pointed and the most striking part of it was to see mothers and daughters being able to fraternize and fellowship because of what had occurred in terms of breast cancer detection, to see the survivors, and to see that they were willing to continue the fight.

Currently there are 1.8 million women in this country who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and 1 million more who have yet to be diagnosed. This year, 182,000 women and 1,000 men will discover they have breast cancer, and 46,000 will die from the disease. Breast cancer costs this country more than \$6 billion each year in medical expenses and lost productivity.

But these statistics cannot possibly capture the heartbreak of this disease which impacts not only the women who are diagnosed, but their husbands, children, and families, and that is what we are talking about today, keeping families together by eliminating this dreaded disease.

We have made some progress in the past few years by bringing the issue to the Nation's attention. Events such as Breast Cancer Awareness Month are crucial to sustaining this attention. There, however, is more to be done. We in Congress must work with the Department of Health and Human Services to implement the national action plan on breast cancer. The plan provides a framework and a plan for activities in three major areas: The delivery of health care, the conduct of research, and the enactment of policy.

It has six major priorities that I think are key to the direction this Congress should take: Identifying strategies to disseminate information about breast cancer and breast health to scientists, consumers, and practitioners using the state-of-the-art technologies available on the information