

Mr. Speaker, we do not live in a safe world. America faces new threats and dangers each and every day, and yet we continue to cut our defense budget.

The President's request for the fiscal year 1999 defense budget represents the 14th consecutive year of real decline in defense spending. Our forces today are 32 percent smaller than they were just 10 years ago. In 1992, we had 18 Army divisions; we now have 10. And that same year we had 24 fighter wings; we now have 13. We also had 546 Navy ships in 1992; we now have 333.

Our forces are dwindling and yet threats to our freedom are ever increasing. Quite frankly, we seem to be taking our freedom for granted. This is a foolish thing to do. Just ask any veteran or any American who has lost a loved one in service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in the name of all those who have fought and who have died for this country, we must continue to maintain a military readiness. We cannot throw away the security America has fought so hard for.

Right now while nuclear missiles are aimed at United States cities, our troops do not even have the basic ammunition they need. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million. I want to repeat that, Mr. Speaker. The Army is \$1.7 billion short of basic ammunition and the Marine Corps has a shortfall in ammunition of over \$193 million.

At the same time the President has cut defense nearly in half, he has deployed troops over 25 times during his tenure. Thirteen billion dollars-plus has been spent on these peacekeeping deployments, which have exhausted funds that would have otherwise been used to maintain our military readiness and have stretched our forces to the limit.

These peacekeeping deployments have also kept our men and women in uniform away from their homes and families for lengthy periods of time and have thereby decreased their morale. We cannot continue to ask our military to do more with less. This is why I was especially disappointed this year, to see that the President requested more than \$100 billion in new domestic spending but failed to propose one dime in increased defense spending.

Mr. Speaker it is past time to once again provide our military with the resource its needs to do the very important tasks it faces of protecting America.

I urge my colleagues to help preserve our freedom and security and to support our Armed Forces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may God bless America.

#### NATIONAL OCEAN CONFERENCE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week I will be participating in the National

Ocean Conference in Monterey, California. This historic gathering is taking place just up the road from the district I am privileged to represent along the central coast of California. I am pleased to be joining the President, Vice President, several Members of the Cabinet, some of my House colleagues, and hundreds of scientists, scholars, and conservationists from around the world at this important event.

This conference will highlight the important role the ocean plays in the daily lives of all Americans. Today over half of the population in the United States lives and works in coastal areas.

Mr. Speaker, one of every six jobs in the United States is marine-related. This is particularly true in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties, where our tourism, recreation, fishing, education, and business communities are all dependent on a clean ocean environment.

Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to meet one of the world's renowned ocean explorers, the 1998 National Geographic Society Explorer of the Year, Dr. Sylvia Earle. Dr. Earle, who will be speaking at the Ocean Conference, is part of an incredible undertaking: the Sustainable Seas Expeditions.

This 5-year project will explore, document, and provide scientific data on America's 12 national marine sanctuaries, including the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in my district. To do this, she will be using a deep-ocean submarine that is able to go thousands of feet underwater to explore uncharted territories.

I am one of the Members of this body who often speaks in this Chamber about the marvels of space exploration. Well, there is another world out there to be explored and instead of going up, we must go down. Down to the depths of the vast oceans to discover the wonders of the sea where we might find new resources, cures for diseases, and answers to scientific questions. But all of these diverse uses of our ocean's abundant resources are dependent on a clean and healthy ocean.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the sponsor of a bill, the Coastal States' Protection Act, which ensures the protection of our Nation's fragile coastline from new, unnecessary offshore oil and gas development. This is a bill that respects States' rights. The legislation stipulates that when a State establishes a moratorium on new oil drilling in State waters, this protection should be extended to adjacent Federal waters. Oil knows no boundaries and it does little good to protect coastal State waters without simultaneously protecting our adjacent Federal waters.

After all, as we in Santa Barbara know too well, an oil spill in Federal waters will not stop there. It will contaminate State waters and ultimately our shores. It will spoil our majestic beaches, devastating the tourism,

recreation, and fishing industries that all depend on a clean organization.

I urge my colleagues here in the House to support this important legislation. I also hope the President takes the opportunity at the ocean conference to support this legislation and protect our Nation's coastlines.

To this end, I intend to bring with me to the conference evidence of the strong local support for this proposed moratorium. I will be presenting to the President letters from a wide variety of constituents including the business, fishing, and tourism community as well as local elected officials all united in expressing their strong opposition to any new offshore oil development off the spectacular coastline of California.

If Members think this opposition to offshore development is just a position taken by environmentalists, think again. A recent report issued jointly by the San Luis Obispo County Chamber of Commerce and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County demonstrates the unified community position against offshore oil development.

The study points out that in 1998, the tourism industry is expected to generate over \$60 billion in the State of California. Mr. Speaker, I quote from this report: "The travel industry is healthy and growing in San Luis Obispo County, with total visitor expenditures in 1997 in the county of \$394 million. This would all change if offshore oil and gas development occurred in our community."

As policymakers, we must emphasize our commitment to the research, exploration, sustainable use, and protection of our oceans. Our economy and, indeed, our future depends on it.

As a representative of the central coast of California, I must do all I can do to protect our beautiful and valuable coastline. I look forward to participating in the exciting landmark conference which will recognize this as the International Year of the Ocean.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GOODE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO LEROY COLVIN

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of