

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, interestingly enough, as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and also a Member of the other side of the aisle, I happen to agree with the gentleman from Arizona that the First Amendment protects freedom of religion and freedom of speech, and that the Pledge of Allegiance is protected sufficiently for us to be able to say "under God." I hope we will be able to move forward to give the sense and the obvious position that the Pledge of Allegiance is still a very legitimate expression of loyalty to this country.

Interestingly enough, those of us who have stood fast against the war in Iraq have been accused of being disloyal to the United States of America and unpatriotic. That is why it is important to come to the floor of the House and try to express the voice of millions and millions of Americans and millions and millions of the world family and to again say to the singular voice that is resounding out of Washington and into the airwaves that I thought a democracy represented practice over words; that we would practice the idea that when the people speak, or when the people question, the leaders of government should entertain their concerns, particularly since the people of the United States send their young men and young women to far away shores to defend us. And might I say to the troops that are stationed abroad, there is not one divide amongst us in support of those very loyal troops.

The Constitution clearly enunciates the principle that the Congress has the duty and responsibility to declare war. We well recognize that in the Constitution it also acknowledges that the President is the Commander in Chief, and if and when those troops are deployed, the United States of America will be unified. That is why the judgment of making that decision is so very important.

We have gotten ourselves in a foreign policy shambles. Many people blame it on the United Nations, partly because they do not understand that the United States has consented to be a part of the United Nations through the U.N. Charter 51. And we have lived in peace for almost 50 years because, as much as you malign the United Nations, it has kept a sense of world decorum and order. It means that one nation does not lift up arms against another. It means that the friendship and affection for the United States has been because it has been a leader for peace over war. It has been a defender as opposed to an offender.

Now we have thrown all of that to the winds. We have cast Syria against Iran, and Iran against Syria, and Turkey against Syria, and Turkey against Iraq. We have potentially created a destabilizing situation in that region.

We have not focused on solving our problems with Israel and the Palestinians, a strong effective peace, an abhorrence of suicide bombings, a recognition of the importance of that region

for us. We have totally overlooked North Korea, pointing missiles at Japan and South Korea.

I was in China a few weeks ago asking the President of China to engage. He said, you, the United States, needs to engage in bilaterals with North Korea.

What are the real ways we could engage in true, meaningful debate and respect of the United Nations? First of all, we have been not listening to them as they have argued vigorously for more vigorous U.N. inspections. It does not mean the United States is a wimp, that we cannot defend ourselves. What it means is that you understand the cost of war.

Over \$1 trillion is expected we would have to pay out in this war, now that we have a \$283 billion deficit, and the President is cutting \$470 billion in child care and special education and, most of all, what a horror, veterans benefits. A veterans hospital that I have in my district is closing the door to those veterans who are trying to enroll, those men and women who offered themselves, who wanted to, or if they had to would have sacrificed their lives. We cannot let them get in the hospitals because this administration is cutting \$470 billion on top of a \$600 billion tax cut and disrespecting the fact they have given us no monies and no dollars to account for how much we will have to spend for this war.

So I believe we need action. And what is the action I propose? First of all, I hope we will be debating soon a resolution that I have to ask the question whether this Congress has abdicated its duty to declare war.

Second, I want the U.N. Security Council to have a tribunal and to try Mr. Saddam Hussein as a war criminal. And I want humanitarian aid for Iraq, democracy for Iraq. And we should focus, Madam Speaker, on the Mideast peace solution and have troops, a small number, to ensure the investigation and inspection of the U.N. inspectors.

Madam Speaker, I say there is another way. War should be the last option, and our voices should be heard.

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

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

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

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

CONTROLLING AMERICA'S BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, as we rightfully address the issues that are confronting us overseas and the possibility of sending American troops into harm's way, I think it is also important for us to think about those people who are here in the United States, those citizens, who every day, as a matter of fact, face almost warlike conditions at places on our borders, a place on our southern border especially, that I think there is no other way to describe the activities down there, with the number of people coming through that border illegally. That it is a battle zone, and there are people there who daily deal with this particular problem. I am periodically going to bring several of these folks to the attention of the House.

Today I would like to identify Mr. Roger Barnett and his wife Barbara, who own a 22,000-acre ranch located only 2 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border near Douglas, Arizona. Mr. Barnett also owns and operates a towing and propane gas business with branches in Phoenix, Tucson, Wilcox and Sierra Vista.

Almost any evening after dark, Mr. Barnett can get in his truck, ride a short distance across his own land and personally witness groups of 20, 30, 40, 50, even 100 illegal aliens crossing the property. Sometimes, of course, they cross in daylight also.

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Mr. Barnett, his brother, and his wife have personally been responsible over the course of the last year for detaining, calling the INS, and being able to actually take off of his property over 2,000, I say 2,000, people who are trespassing, who are coming across his property illegally and, in fact, coming into the United States illegally.

Now, of course, that in and of itself is a challenging experience for anybody who lives on that border, but along with it goes a whole lot of other problems that are created. Mr. Barnett and all of the other ranchers in the area find that their fences are cut. They are constantly, and I mean constantly, challenged with the responsibility of going out and repairing the fences that have been cut, trampled, gates left open, cattle disappearing, cattle being butchered and eaten right on the spot by the people who are coming through. The water on the property being damaged, the water wells being damaged; the amount of trash that accumulates on these properties is enormous, and it accumulates at something called lay-over sites and these are simply sites where a large number of illegal aliens will gather and they will prepare to be picked up by a truck, by some sort of vehicle in a road not too far away from the site. They discard all of their belongings because they want to pack as many into these vehicles as possible, so they will discard all of the trash that they have been carrying with them and

certainly a lot of the water bottles, even articles of clothing. It is a place of enormous trash and human waste, as a matter of fact. This also gets into the water on the ranch when, after a rain, it destroys the wells; it becomes something that the cattle cannot drink.

The trucks and the buildings on this gentleman's property, as well as many people in the area, have been vandalized. The grasslands needed for food for the cattle are continually trampled by the aliens crossing and making new paths across the land. They discard, as I say, water bottles and trash and plastic bags. The cattle eat the plastic bags and die.

Recently, Mrs. Barnett, Barbara, was driving her truck near her home and saw three illegal aliens crossing her farm. She called her husband, and he and his brother came out and tried to locate them. After following the trail for a period of time, they found a stash of 220 pounds of marijuana hidden in the mesquite bushes.

The Border Patrol has told him that some part of his land is used every single night by drug traffickers, but the Border Patrol does not have the manpower to stop it. Lately, these illegal groups have been coming closer to his ranch house using a creek bed hiding spot not 100 yards from his home. A few months ago, he found a group of 30 and called the Border Patrol to come and get them.

This is happening day after day after day to the people who live in this area. This is not a unique story. I identify these people as homeland heroes, because they are fighting a war on their own land, on their own property, and on the border of the United States; and they are doing it certainly without the help of this government. They turn to their own government, to the Federal Government and say, what can you do? How can you help? What is happening to our property and to our lives? Our lives are essentially being destroyed.

They have to travel everywhere armed. They keep a rifle by the door, a loaded rifle by the door in almost every one of these houses up here because of the number of vandals that have come in, the number of times they have personally been threatened. People have been accosted. Their cars have been stolen, hijacked. The illegal aliens will put rocks up on the dirt road, stop the vehicles, and then hijack the vehicles.

Again, this is something that they put up with every single day. Madam Speaker, what would we do if that was the way we had to face every single day of our lives? I mean, would we not turn to somebody for help and say, what is going on here? This is incredible. This is, by the way, a relatively recent phenomenon, maybe 4 or 5 years. It is a result of a whole lot of things, including the fact that the Mexican Government has chosen to help move people into the United States illegally to serve some of their own needs in the country, Mexico, that is to say.

These are travesties, Madam Speaker, and they cannot be justified in any

way, shape, or form. These people are homeland heroes. I want to bring them to the attention of my colleagues, and I will continue to do so.

SUPPORT VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a D.C. voting rights bill here in the House, and in the Senate it has been introduced by Senator LIEBERMAN with seven sponsors besides Mr. LIEBERMAN; Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. LANDRIEU. I will be seeking cosponsors here in the House from both sides of the aisle beginning next week, and I will be seeking it on this eve of war. I am asking Members of the House to consider what it means to send people to war when those same people have no vote in the House and no Senators whatsoever. We, of course, are second per capita in Federal income taxes. Unless one comes from Connecticut, your constituents do not pay as much in Federal income tax as we do. Most of our residents pay income taxes.

The difference this year is that we are emphasizing something that most of our residents and most of my colleagues' residents have not had to do. On the eve of war, we honor 50,000 veterans of the District of Columbia who live here now. Three distinguished veterans who are also Washingtonians stood with me to announce that we are introducing the No Taxation Without Representation Act. They were former Secretary of the Army, Clifford Alexander, Harvard College, Yale Law School; Wesley Brown, a native Washingtonian, the first black person ever to graduate from the Naval Academy. He is also a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic, served in Korea in World War II, and is the former chair of my Service Academy Nominating Board that nominates young people from the District, selects people from the District for me to nominate to go to the academies. George Keyes, native Washingtonian, Air Force Academy, Yale Law School, Rhodes Scholar, just finished as chair of my nominating board for the service academies.

The present Chair, Kerwin Miller, was to be here. A West Point graduate, he could not attend for a completely outrageous reason. The House has attached a rider that forbids anybody who happens to be an employee of the District government from lobbying for voting rights. This man is head of the D.C. Veterans Affairs Office. What an outrage, Madam Speaker. This veteran, this West Point graduate, could not come here to plead for his own freedom because of a rider that has been attached to an appropriations bill that

should not even be here in the first place because it consists of money raised in the District of Columbia.

The Revolutionary War "Taxation without Representation" slogan has been with us since District residents fought in that war and have fought in every war since. The people I represent have indeed had more casualties in many wars than many others in this House. In World War I, more casualties than three States; in World War II, more casualties than four States; in Korea, more casualties than eight States; and in Vietnam, more casualties than 10 States. And no vote, Madam Speaker.

Since I have been in the House, three wars have taken place: the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, and now we are on the verge of war with Iraq. I have spoken at all three, sent all three off to war, all with no vote.

Madam Speaker, it is one thing to give your taxes to your government without a vote. It is quite another to lay your life on the line for your country without a vote.

Everyone in the military today is a volunteer. There is a freeze so one cannot even get out, making it really a draft. Taxes without a vote in return is awful, particularly in this body that does not want people to pay taxes in the everyday sense of the word. But patriotism without a vote for it is a shame and a shame on us, particularly given the kind of war we now want to fight, a war for democracy in Iraq and in the Middle East.

I am pleased that there are Republicans who have said to me, This is wrong and I am not for it.

Voting is not a partisan issue, except in undemocratic countries. It cannot be a partisan issue in our country today when we are sending young men and women off to war, yes, even from the Nation's Capital. So the people I represent, in whose name I submitted this bill today, standing with three veterans who live in the District of Columbia, I ask this question of this House: how much longer are you going to ask the residents of your Nation's Capital, 600,000 of them, to pay taxes more than most of my colleagues do per capita and to go to war without the right to vote? How long? I hope not very long.

SUPPORT H.R. 5

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend the House on the passage of H.R. 5 and to encourage the other body to immediately take up meaningful medical liability reform, the lack of which constitutes the number one health care problem in America today.

Doctors are being driven out of their practices by staggering medical liability insurance premiums, a direct result