

Karim Khalili and Mr. Ahmad Zia Massoud. Mr. Massoud is the brother of the late Ahmed Shah Massoud, the renowned commander of the Northern Alliance, an organization that includes members of the Tajik ethnic group and other communities. Both of the nominees are individuals of high standing and integrity and are committed to the process of reform and the disarmament of private militias.

Afghanistan will not survive as long as the private militia run rampant without control, threatening and terrorizing those farmers and others who are seeking peace, economic prosperity, education and democracy.

I commend President Karzai's brave stand against the warlords and his committed leadership in liberating Afghanistan from private militias and the rule of the gun. These warlords and militia threaten to destabilize constitutional governance, impede economic development, and facilitate narcotrafficking. Their disarmament must continue to be a major priority of the new Afghan administration.

Mr. Speaker, we have a challenge and a job to do as well. We must provide the funding, but also the resources, the compromise, the collaborative peacekeeping troops. We must be able to work together.

President Karzai and the people of Afghanistan have come a long way since the fall of the Taliban. They deserve praise and continued support from the United States and NATO.

Let us hopefully find an opportunity for collaborative work for peace in Iraq. But we should never forget Afghanistan and the brave soldiers who have stood on behalf of the United States and many coalition fighters to ensure democracy in Afghanistan; never forget the people and their challenge, their journey, their fight as well.

I hope with this election there will be increased human rights for the people of Afghanistan and the women will be further empowered as well. I hope that the march toward education for all children will continue. Good luck to Afghanistan and its people in the journey toward full democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Afghan Caucus, I would like to congratulate the government and the people of Afghanistan are in the midst of a historical turning point. Leading up to the elections this Saturday, October 9th, there has been great progress made in the registration process. Of an estimated 10 million eligible voters, over 9 million voters—more than 40 percent of whom are women—have registered for the country's first Presidential election. I applaud the high percentage of registered voters and the diversity of the 24 candidates for the Presidency, symbolizing the commitment of the Afghan people to pluralism and an open electoral process.

I am pleased with President Hamid Karzai's choice for his two running mates, Mr. Karim Khalili and Mr. Ahmad Zia Massoud. Mr. Massoud is the brother of the late Ahmed Shah Massoud, the renowned commander of the Northern Alliance, an organization that includes members of the Tajik ethnic group and

other communities. Both of the nominees are individuals of high standing and integrity, and are committed to the process of reform and the disarmament of private militias.

I commend President Karzai's brave stand against the warlords, and his committed leadership in liberating Afghanistan from private militias and the rule of the gun. These warlords and militias threaten to destabilize constitutional governance, impede economic development, and facilitate narco-trafficking. Their disarmament must continue to be a major priority of the new Afghan Administration.

President Karzai and the people of Afghanistan have come a long way since the fall of the Taliban. They deserve praise and continued support from the United States and NATO to ensure that there is adequate security for the upcoming elections to be free, fair, and broadly inclusive.

I hope with this election there will be increased human rights for the people of Afghanistan and the women will be further empowered, as well, the education for all children will continue.

Good luck in the journey toward full democracy.

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

(Ms. NORTON 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 Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT 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 Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

REMEMBERING THOSE DEFENDING AMERICA'S FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to head back to our respective districts and likewise as we prepare to engage in the exercise that typifies

this constitutional Republic, where our government operates only through the consent of the governed, I believe it incumbent upon Members of this House and, indeed, Mr. Speaker every citizen of these United States, to pause and remember, and, yes, in this case to hear from one of those young Americans defending our freedom in Iraq.

Recently on the pages of the Arizona Republic there appeared a letter from Captain Scott Moore. Captain Moore, with the United States Army, lives in Sholo, Arizona. His civilian job is that of a high school history teacher in White River on one of our tribal reservations in rural Arizona. How appropriate it is that Captain Moore, through his letter, teaches all of us about the nature of the men and women serving this country and reminds us of the special gift it is to be an American.

This letter was written February 1. It was composed in a military plane headed for Kuwait. Captain Moore writes:

"If you were with me, you could tell this plane I am on is heading to a combat zone. All the passengers are dressed in desert camouflage uniforms and carrying weapons. I have an M-16 and a 9 millimeter Beretta, which will be in my possession until I go home in about a year from now.

"As I sit on this plane taking us to war, I cannot help but think about who is with me. No African Americans are going to war, no Asian Americans are going to war, no Mexican Americans are going to war, no Native Americans are going to war, no Hispanic Americans are going to war, no Arab Americans are going to war, no Anglo Americans are going to war. Only Americans who happen to have different ethnic backgrounds are going to war with me.

"I assume Americans from different religions, such as Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, et cetera, are going to war together on this plane. We don't really know who practices what religion, and don't really care. Only Americans are going to war.

"Americans from all over the United States are going to war together on this plane. They are from different States, from urban cities to rural towns. Once we left the United States, this didn't matter anymore. We were from only one place, and that was the United States of America.

"Americans from all walks of life are going to war together on this plane: doctors, custodians, teachers, police officers, store owners, engineers, the unemployed, college students, post office employees, restaurant workers, retail sales workers, veterinarians and countless other people with different civilian jobs are going to war together. These citizen soldiers left their civilian jobs and are now all American soldiers fulfilling their commitment to the Army Reserves and the United States.

"Americans going to war on this plane are grandparents, parents, daughters, sons, single parents, granddaughters, grandsons, nephews, nieces,