

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can continue its worthwhile conservation efforts in the future.

Additional co-sponsors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005: Congressman NORMAN D. DICKS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, despite many reservations, I am supporting the bill before us today because I believe it is essential that this body unequivocally supports our troops in the field and their families here at home. By providing \$2 billion more than the President's request for equipment and munitions, this bill will help to ensure that soldiers in the field finally have the body armor, night vision equipment, and vehicle armor they should have had since military operations began in Iraq. Additionally, by significantly increasing the Military Death Gratuity and the Subsidized Life Insurance benefit, this bill will help to guarantee that the families of deceased soldiers will have adequate financial resources in their time of need.

While it is critical that this bill provides soldiers and their families with the protection and benefits they so rightfully deserve, I remain deeply concerned that it continues to leave the Administration and the Department of Defense unaccountable for the expenditures in Iraq. I am distressed by the alleged reports of waste, corruption and mismanagement of previous funds earmarked for the military operations and reconstruction in Iraq. Further, I am troubled to learn that, according to several studies, only a portion of every dollar spent on rebuilding Iraq has gone to improving the lives of Iraqis. Unfortunately, the efforts made by me and other members of Congress to insert accountability and transparency into the funding process, including the most recent bipartisan effort to establish a commission to investigate the costs of the reconstruction in Iraq, have been repeatedly rejected by the Majority in Congress.

I am similarly disappointed that this Administration insists on funding the war in Iraq using the emergency appropriations process—a process that should be reserved for true emergencies, like tsunami relief. While the Bush Administration claims that it excludes these costs from the annual budget process because it cannot anticipate future war costs,

the true reason for this exclusion is to make the already massive deficit look slightly, albeit artificially, lower. This Administration is therefore abusing the emergency appropriations process in order to help obscure and hide the extent of its fiscal recklessness from the American people. This is the same sort of fuzzy accounting that was employed by the likes of Enron and WorldCom, and yet, while those corporations were ultimately held accountable, this Administration continues not to be.

While I have significant ideological problems with this bill, I cannot in good faith turn my back on the courageous men and women who have so valiantly served to preserve the peace in Iraq. They deserve to enter the battlefield with adequate armor and equipment and are similarly entitled to an increase in benefits for them and for their families. However, I vote in favor of this bill with the sincere hope that this is the last time the Administration abuses the emergency appropriations process and comes to this body with such a request.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I voted against H.R. 1268 "The Emergency Supplemental Bill for Fiscal Year 2005." While it contained some good measures, humanitarian assistance for Darfur, funds for tsunami relief and aid to support the newly elected leadership of the Palestinian Authority, like many pieces of legislation these days, it also contained an egregious and completely non-germane addition, the REAL ID Bill. I already voted against this bill. It fails to make us safer and it does nothing to reform our immigration laws in useful ways. Instead of focusing on meaningful reform, this bill makes it much more difficult for an immigrant fleeing persecution to find asylum in our country, and essentially mandates a national identity card.

This vote was primarily about our ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. I supported the use of force in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime sheltered and supported al Qaeda terrorists who attacked our country and made plain its determination to continue. I wish we had committed sufficient troops and resources to complete our mission in Afghanistan, kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and commit to the country's reconstruction. I voted against the use of force in Iraq. I wish I had

been wrong, but all that I feared has come to pass. Weapons of mass destruction have not been found. Terrible slaughter continues and civil war may yet break out. But the ongoing violence in Iraq does not constitute a budgetary emergency and should not have been unforeseen. We were at war when the FY05 budget was proposed. Why then the pretense of a Supplemental Budget?

I honor the sacrifice of our soldiers and their families and the courage of the millions of Iraqis who risked their lives to vote in a free election. I hope that their elected leaders will deserve their trust and that they will negotiate an inclusive government and draft a constitution that respects human rights. I hope they can demonstrate a prudence and foresight that our own government has not shown. I voted for the FY05 Department of Defense appropriations bill and I hope that I will be able to vote for the FY06 Defense appropriations as well. My vote was a vote of no confidence in the President and in his conduct of foreign affairs.

REMEMBRANCE OF TILLIE K. FOWLER

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 8, 2005*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, along with my fellow Members of Congress, it is my honor to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague, Tillie Fowler. I extend my very deepest sympathy to Tillie's husband, Buck, to her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, and to Tillie's family on the great personal loss of their loved one. It was my privilege to call Tillie Fowler my colleague in Congress and know her as a friend.

Tillie always had her priorities in order. I always recall her first concern in all matters was for Buck, her husband, and her daughters. Tillie as I knew her also had a great love of our country. She ran for office to make her community, our State of Florida and our nation a better place for all. And she never stopped or hesitated in that effort.

Because of the public service of Tillie Fowler, many lives in the Jacksonville area and across our great land have been changed. Tillie and I were elected to Congress together in 1992. With Tillie's leadership the Congress was reformed, people who only had welfare as a choice had their lives changed and our nation's military found a new, strong advocate at their side. Many lives have been affected by the efforts and determination of Tillie Fowler.

It was my honor to serve with her for eight years and share borders of our Congressional Districts over the years. It was my honor to have her at my side during congressional redistricting in 2002, when I inherited a large portion of her old district and faced a formidable reelection challenge. Her support and

friendship will always have a fond place in my heart and memories.

So, like many, I have lost a great friend. Unfortunately our nation has lost a great leader and patriot. We will all miss Tillie. But each day now without her, we can celebrate her life and better appreciate her many contributions that helped to make our country a better America for all.

HALABJA REMEMBERED

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1988 Saddam Hussein brutally attacked Halabja, Kurdistan in Iraq. When the bombing attacks were completed, over 5,000 were dead and over 8,000 injured.

The injured people were civilians. Families died together that day, orphans were made that day, a day that the Kurdish people will never forget.

As the poison gas largely cleared by noon that day, the deadly smoke lay close to the ground, sinking into the basements of the homes where people had gone to seek shelter.

They watched as their skin burned. Some were immediately blinded. Some took shelter among the corpses of their family members. The ones who were able to run, ran, stopping only when they were overcome with pain or exhaustion.

Today, I honor those men, women, and children who lost their lives at the hands of a ruthless killer, Saddam Hussein. The Halabja massacre represents 5,000 of the 200,000 Kurdish people who died or are missing during the genocide campaigns of the Saddam Hussein regime. Hundreds of thousands of other Iraqis were also killed or are missing.

Mr. Speaker, as our Armed Forces battle to build a democratic future for the people of Iraq, we should recall the horror of Halabja, and acknowledge that the hellish tyranny that shackled all but a few Baathist thugs is part of Iraq history and not part of its future. Let's recall the suffering of all Iraqis, especially the Kurds in Halabja, and honor our Armed Forces for the better future they are building in Iraq.

VERNA KING—AN INSPIRATION TO SAN DIEGO

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Verna Lee St. Clair King, born and reared in Berwick, Louisiana, is the daughter of John Westley St. Clair and Florence Ellen Calvin St. Clair. Educated in Louisiana and Texas, she earned her A.B. degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and later an M.A. from San Diego State University.

Verna grew up determined to make life better for others. She eventually became a teacher, making politics and helping others through community service her lifelong hobbies. Her

intelligence and insight led her to the political arena and the fight for equal education.

A professional educator in San Diego for thirty years, Verna has a long history of involvement with the San Diego Teachers' Association (SDTA). Through the SDTA, she represented the National Education Association and served as a member of the National Women's Caucus and Black Caucus.

Verna's unselfish nature led her to become increasingly involved in a wide array of civic activities: she was vice-chair of the 79th Assembly District Committee, served on the 44th Congressional Advisory Committee, and was a charter member of the San Diego Council of Democratic Women. In addition, she is a charter member and past president of Women Inc. She is also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha, CTA, the YWCA, her church, and the Democratic Party. In addition, she has recently served on the Community Service Association Board as well as the San Diego Historical Site Board.

Verna's involvement in the community and politics has allowed her to interact and work with individuals such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, Alan Cranston and Tom Bradley.

Verna is listed in prominent annuals and has received many awards in recognition of her professional and community service. In the past, she has been the recipient of the Democratic Committee's Golden Key Award and received a Key to the City of San Diego for her outstanding work in the field of human relations. For bridging the gap between parents and teachers, Verna was honored with an Honorary Service award by the Ninth District P.T.A. Her current honors reflect the esteem in which she is held by her fellow professionals and by those who have had the pleasure of working with her in political and community activities.

Verna's husband, Alonzo King, now deceased, shared her interests both politically and professionally. In addition, Verna and Alonzo were blessed with a close family that included five children: Joyce L. King Thomas, Verna Lee E. Bickerstaff, St. Clair King, Alonzo King, and Reginald King, the latter two of whom are deceased.

Verna has always been gracious in all of her endeavors, and her knowledge and experiences have been invaluable to professionals, friends, fellow committee members and the community.

She truly has been an inspiration to all San Diego.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRACY O. KING

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas State Representative Tracy King for his many accomplishments in business and in government.

Mr. King was born in Baytown, Texas, in 1960. After graduating from Carrizo Springs High School, he attended Southwest Texas Junior College for a year, and then transferred to Texas A&M University, where he completed his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering.

Upon his graduation, Representative King began working at the Beltone Hearing Aid Center in San Antonio. He moved up quickly, and was responsible for opening the branch office in Uvalde. In 1987, he became owner of the local Beltone Hearing Aid Center, serving 16 counties in Southwest Texas. He has been active in a number of nonprofit organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and the first Methodist Church, and he is a former president of the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

Tracy King was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1994, and is currently serving his fifth term. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, and is Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the House Regulation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Tracy King is an example of what hard work and responsible service can accomplish, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize him here.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY CAMMARANO, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, the Honorable Mary Cammarano. For many years, Mary has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Mary instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others in her community.

A native New Yorker, Mary moved to San Gabriel in 1964 with her husband Mike. As a young mother, Mary was active in her children's activities, volunteering for 3 different Parent Teacher Associations, Little League, Girl Scouts of America, Boy Scouts of America and a foreign exchange student program. Her past involvement also included board memberships on the American Heart Association, the YMCA, the American Red Cross, and the Italian Catholic Federation, where she served as President.

Elected to the San Gabriel City Council in 1989, Mary served on the council for 16 years, serving as Mayor for 3 terms, until her retirement in 2005. She was a long-time member of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and the Independent Cities Association.

Ms. Cammarano's current volunteer service with the City of San Gabriel is extensive and impressive. A 30 year member of the San Gabriel Historical Association, where she provided her homemade lasagna for 15 years for the association's annual fundraiser; she also successfully brought the Ramona Museum to San Gabriel. For 35 years, she has been a member of the San Gabriel Coordinating Council and the Women's Division of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, where she's brought her homemade minestrone soup for