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At the heart of SMART is the belief that military action should be an absolute last resort, to be reluctantly pursued only after every channel has been exhausted.

SMART Security means fighting terrorism with strong diplomacy, robust multilateral alliances, and improved intelligence capabilities. It means being vigilant about nuclear proliferation and the spread of other weapons of mass destruction. It means more investment in homeland security and energy independence, and less in obsolete, Cold War weapons systems. And SMART Security is about attacking terrorism at its very roots with an ambitious, international development agenda that brings education, debt relief, democracy-building, and economic development to the impoverished nations of the world.

SMART is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. It protects America by relying on the very best of American values: our commitment to freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for global leadership.

Mr. Speaker, there was nothing smart about a war plan that tried to cut corners by sending in too few soldiers. In fact, there is nothing smart at all about this war. Nearly 2,000 Americans dead, a recharged insurgency, political and economic chaos in Iraq, and no end in sight; an immoral war, a dishonest war and, now, even a senior Pentagon official, Douglas Feith, admits, a mismanaged war. That is strike three, they are out.

DEFENDING THE HONOR OF OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the protection we have enjoyed here at home since we took the fight to the enemy has been purchased with the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. The very least we can do in return is to show them honor and respect when they come home.

According to the Greensboro Herald-Journal, middle school teacher Michael Lund of Anita White Carson Middle School in Greensboro, Georgia had that intention when he invited his old college roommate, Marine Sgt Zach Richardson to speak to his middle school students about his experiences in Iraq.

The children in Mr. Lund's class had been pen pals with Sergeant Richardson and several of his fellow Marines in Iraq, so everyone was excited about finally getting to meet in person.

Imagine the surprise when he and Mr. Lund were intercepted outside the classroom by School Principal Ulrica Corbett. She demanded Mr. Lund escort Sergeant Richardson off school grounds immediately.

Principal Corbett later told the media that Mr. Lund did not have approval for a guest speaker to come on campus.

Mr. Lund produced documentation to prove that he had indeed filed the necessary paperwork well in advance, and that Principal Corbett refused to act on it.

Regardless of the reason, this treatment of one of our heroes returning from Iraq is unacceptable and inexcusable.

Under no circumstances should Sergeant Richardson have been denied the opportunity to speak to the students with whom he had been corresponding.

But just as damaging as the disrespect shown to Sergeant Richardson was the impact of this disrespect on the 6th grade students who were waiting to welcome this veteran.

They witnessed their Principal kick a Marine just back from the front off school property, giving our children a real-life lesson in disrespecting our military.

We have a lesson to teach at Anna White Carson Middle School—and across this country. That lesson should be that disrespect for America's service men and women by public officials will simply not be tolerated by the people of this country.

But before we scream too loudly about the speck in the eye of Greene County public schools, we need to take a look at the log in the eye of this Congress.

Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois stood on the floor of our Senate and compared our military prisons to those of Nazi Germany.

Members of this Congress have whined about whether a book was mistreated at Guantanamo, while the comrades of those Guantanamo prisoners cut the heads off innocent, unarmed, civilian prisoners in their custody.

Any reasonable person can see that comments such as these plant seeds of disdain against America, here and abroad.

Are these comments and actions against our military forces now actually encouraging new attacks by our enemies in London and Baghdad?

Madam Speaker, we cannot win this war if we continue to allow a handful of public officials to undermine our efforts with irresponsible comments and actions without paying a price—here and all across our country.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss MCMORRIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL FASNACHT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of First Lieutenant Michael Fasnacht, who served in the Third Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lieutenant Fasnacht died when a roadside bomb exploded near his Brad-

ley Fighting Vehicle while he was on patrol near Adwar, Iraq on June 8. Lieutenant Fasnacht was a native of Janesville, Minnesota who served his country honorably. He lived in Mankato, Minnesota with his wife, Tresa.

An Army Ranger, Michael had followed in the footsteps of his father, Raymond, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He graduated from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. He developed his leadership skills as an outstanding member of the ROTC program. Lieutenant Fasnacht's mother, Marny, said, "He believed strongly in what he was doing. He definitely believed the Iraqi people deserved freedom from tyranny."

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I honor the memory and service of this brave American. Michael Fasnacht made the ultimate sacrifice in the selfless defense of freedom and democracy. Today, the lamp of liberty burns brightly across the globe, thanks to young men like Lieutenant Fasnacht who are serving on the front lines. Indeed, these Americans in uniform are the new "Boys of Pointe du Hoc."

Like countless Americans before them, these men and women know firsthand what President Bush meant when he said that "freedom isn't America's gift to the world; freedom is God's gift to mankind." Everywhere the embers of freedom burn hot, people like Michael Fasnacht are there to give the embers flame.

I thank Lieutenant Fasnacht for his service, and I thank the Fasnacht family for giving their loved one to this service. I hope it brings them some comfort to know that the thoughts and prayers of thousands of Minnesotans are with them.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

FUNDING FOR MASS TRANSIT

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff came before our Committee on Homeland Security with his second review of the agency. It was an impressive review. Of course, the promise lies in the implementation, but he has done a competent job there.

Astonishingly, though, Madam Speaker, he mentioned not one word about London or about the vulnerability of rail and public transportation in the United States, even

though we are barely 10 days out of London. There was, as we stood here this morning, a moment in solidarity with those who died in London.

Madam Speaker, WMATA, our own Metro system here, is considerably ahead of most of the country. In fact, WMATA is designated as the lead agency for emergency coordination for the entire region's transit and commuter rail. We are ahead of most of the country, after Oklahoma City began to take real action that most still have not begun to take. In June, 19 million people rode WMATA. That breaks all of its records. Many of those were constituents of the Members of this House and the Senate, because 20 million visitors come annually to the District of Columbia.

WMATA indicates that its most pressing needs are current WMD detection equipment, decontamination equipment and testing, surveillance systems, antiterror equipment for transit police, video cameras for buses. Remember, this is one of the best prepared systems in the country.

Yet, Madam Speaker, yesterday, Democratic Leader PELOSI, Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Committee on Homeland Security, and other Democratic leaders stood with me as I reintroduced the Secure Trains Act, an act I first introduced more than a year ago, simply to bring the country somewhere approaching where we have now, for some time, been in aviation, having gotten there for aviation after the fact.

We are breaking the post-9/11 promise that we would never be caught flat-footed again. In fact, the President's 2006 budget eliminated dedicated mass transportation funding all together. I trust that we will put it back, or something back, before we go on August recess. Ninety percent of the funds that we have allocated have been for aviation security. Yet 9 billion passenger trips are made annually on rail and on public transportation. What are we thinking?

This bill, a modest \$3.8 billion for the basics: cameras, communications systems, explosive detection, security upgrades on tracks and tunnels. Is this too much to ask? More than 4 years after 9/11, is this too much to ask, following more than 50 dead in London, almost 200 dead in Madrid, hundreds injured when you tally them both together?

Mr. Chertoff allowed as how \$8.6 billion was "available for transit operators" under one of the homeland security programs. What he was talking about, Madam Speaker, is that a local jurisdiction can use transit for transit security money, money that we have allocated for first responders. I do not believe we mean transit security to be the stepchild of homeland security when that is where the people are. Far more people than ever consider getting on an airplane, and we are borrowing from first responders who are screaming that they do not have enough funds in order to skim off money for rail

transportation, after Madrid, after London, and after a terrible accident involving HAZMAT in South Carolina, which could just as easily have been a terrorist event.

I beg the House, before we go on August recess, to do our duty, keep our post-9/11 promise to do what is necessary for passenger rail, light rail, ferries, buses, the vehicles, the public transportation that our people get on every day to go to and from work. There is still time to do it. I do not think we would want to go home when every single Member will have a question like this: What have you done for our subways? What have you done for our buses? We do not need to go home and say "nothing," Madam Speaker.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the matter of stem cell research, in light of the emergence of viable alternatives that would continue scientific discovery while respecting human life in all forms and in all stages.

I also rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3144, the Respect For Life Pluripotent Stem Cell Act of 2005. I further would like to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) for not only his steadfast commitment to scientific advancement, but also his steadfast commitment to defending the sanctity of human life.

In a debate that has been dominated by an it-is-the-only-way approach, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) has introduced a solution that could achieve the same objective as the Castle-DeGette bill, while preserving human life at its most vulnerable stage.

Madam Speaker, I recognize that people of goodwill can disagree on the matter of when human life begins. However, no one can dispute that an embryo is at least potential life; and many people, my physician self included, believe an embryo to be a liv-

ing human being, fully vested with the rights that we all enjoy. Therefore, even if someone only believes an embryo to be a potential life, they should support the Bartlett bill because it accomplishes, Madam Speaker, the same ends as the Castle-DeGette bill, while giving the benefit of doubt and erring on the side of human life.

Having practiced for nearly 30 years as a pro-life OB-GYN, I cosponsored the Bartlett bill, because it represents the most moral and judicious solution to the stem cell research debate.

Madam Speaker, the Bartlett bill would provide funding to the NIH, the National Institutes of Health, \$15 million for the creation of a research program focused on perfecting the necessary techniques to extract stem cells from an embryo without, let me repeat, without harming the embryo in any way, shape, or form. This bill further acts in a responsible manner by mandating that no human embryos be harmed or destroyed, even in the initial perfection of the technique, for the research will be done on nonhuman primates.

The Bartlett bill represents an acceptable compromise to most Americans, because they would like to see scientific advancement to cure diseases such as Type 1 diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, spinal cord injury, while making sure human life is never exploited or harmed in the process.

Madam Speaker, I am also very pleased to see that Majority Leader FRIST has decided to shepherd a similar bill in the Senate. This marks an important step in advancing morally sound and acceptable stem cell research. This Congress truly has an incredible opportunity to send to the President's desk a stem cell research bill that respects human life and supports scientific advancement.

I would again like to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) for taking the lead on this issue and for finding an acceptable and moral solution. I also extend my gratitude to Senator FRIST for his efforts to advance this bill in the Senate. I encourage all of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, both pro-life and pro-choice, to take a good hard look at the Bartlett bill. I think they will see that it is the best option to fight disease and find cures in a responsible manner.

This marks an opportunity for this Congress to put partisanship aside and just do the right thing. Madam Speaker, the American people expect no less of us.

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

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