

D.C., with the Navy flag, recognizing that Michael Bitz gave his life for this country and that Michael Bitz was a Marine, a proud Marine.

Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do in this House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, is to say that this is a partnership and has been for the history of the Navy and Marine Corps, and that both should be recognized equally as a team.

And I bring to the floor again to show you what could happen, and would happen if Michael Bitz's family had received this citation of his bravery in Iraq, and that we had a Department of Navy and Marine Corps, what you would have, Mr. Speaker, and what it says here is, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, and it has the Navy flag and it has the Marine flag. That is what we are trying to do in this House of Representatives is to pay respect to the team. The team is a Navy and Marine Corps team. And I hope that the Senate this year, after 3 years will accept the House position.

Mr. Speaker, with that, before I yield back my time, I want to please ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and to ask God to continue to bless America.

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.)

#### COST OF THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because in a moment, we are going to have a historical presentation here on the House floor. It is the 165th time that there has been a consistent voice about getting our troops out of Iraq and ending the war in Iraq. And I know that the voice of the distinguished colleague from California, LYNN WOOLSEY, is being listened to because, eventually, we are going to follow her advice. It is just a question of when. I hope it is not going to take another 165 days.

I would like it yield the remainder of my time to the distinguished Congresswoman representing Marin and Sonoma Counties in California for her 165th presentation on the House floor on this issue.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague. Thank you, Congressman FARR, for those nice words and for standing here with me this evening.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I come to the floor again, for the 165th time, to discuss the costs of the occupation of Iraq. Unfortunately, we all know too well the human cost of the occupation. More than 2,550 of our brave fighting men and women have died. Nearly 100 Iraqi civilians are killed every day.

One might be able to justify these losses if the cause were justified, if Americans were safer because of our action in Iraq. Instead, the architect of the September 11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden, is still at large. The Middle East is literally going up in flames. Terrorism is increasing throughout the world.

And when we turn our eyes home to America, we see so many squandered opportunities as a result of the Iraq occupation. If we hadn't been spending nearly \$5 trillion in Iraq, just think of what we could have done to strengthen our economy and our very own people. Think of the investments we could have made in our future right here at home.

Think about the unmet needs of our children. For the cost of 15 days of the Iraq occupation, we could immunize every child in the United States against serious childhood diseases with all recommended vaccines for the cost of \$4 billion.

For the cost of almost 2 months of the occupation in Iraq, we could hire 460,000 teachers across America to lower average class sizes to 18 students, at the cost of \$15 billion.

For the cost of just over 2 months of the occupation of Iraq, we could provide basic health insurance to every American child currently making due without coverage. That cost would be \$17 billion.

For the cost of little more than 2 months of the occupation of Iraq, we could pay 1 year of tuition and fees at a 4-year public university for the 3 million high school seniors who graduated this spring.

For the cost of just over 5 months of the occupation of Iraq, this could provide a 20 percent pay raise to 3 million public school teachers.

Mr. Speaker, when will we learn?

Congress, over my objections and those of many of my colleagues, gave the President the authorization to go to war. We did not give him permission to occupy Iraq, nor did we give him permission to neglect American children and jeopardize their future.

It is time to bring our troops home from Iraq. It is time to focus on the education and health care of our Nation's children. The Congress can do this by passing my legislation, H.R. 5875, a bill to repeal the President's Iraq war powers. Tonight, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. And I urge the leadership to consider this bill before we head home for the August break, before one more penny is wasted on occupying Iraq.

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

tleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### RECOGNIZING MR. JONATHAN STRICKLAND

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an intelligent, gifted and courageous young man, Jonathan Strickland, who is a 14-year-old African American California resident who began his training to fly airplanes and helicopters at the age of 10 at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. This museum is located in my district at the Compton Woodley Airport in Compton, California, and is a nonprofit organization that strives to give adolescents the opportunity to reach their goal of flight. All program participants are able to receive free training, as long as they perform local community service. The museum director and an accomplished flight instructor, Robin Petgrave, saw fit to create this program that would serve youth in poverty stricken neighborhoods and provide them with a positive alternative away from the streets.

Jonathan Strickland has clearly benefited from Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. I am proud to recognize his incredible achievements. He broke four world records in June, including being the youngest person to solo both a plane and a helicopter on the same day, being the youngest African American to solo a helicopter, and to fly a helicopter internationally. He also flew a helicopter round trip internationally.

On July 1, 2006, Jonathan successfully landed back at Compton Woodley Airport and was greeted by his family, friends, the Compton Mayor Perrodin, well wishers, the media, as well as the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. He was also presented with an application for future employment with the Los Angeles County Fire Department Operations Division.

Ambitious and brave, Jonathan Strickland was able to live his dream because of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. I am proud that this wonderful program is in my Congressional district, and that it is changing young people's lives and creating ways for them to reach their potential and excel.

Jonathan's future goals include becoming a test pilot, attending the Air Force Academy, and eventually becoming a commercial pilot. And as already a world record setter, I am confident that he will surpass every goal he sets for himself.

He has recently graduated from St. Francis Cabrini School, and will enter