

Make no mistake, we take a back seat to no one in supporting the brave men and women fighting in Iraq, and we absolutely support their families. But more of the same is not a plan for our troops. More of the same, more involvement in this civil war, will not end the war in Iraq. This war has made our country, and our world, less safe. The Iraq war has cost 142 Ohioans their lives and wounded another 1,000.

GEN Colin Powell, talking about the President's surge, the President's escalation of this war, has said:

I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work.

Colin Powell, General Powell, recognizes this is a civil war, recognizes that the surge, the President's escalation will not result in a different outcome in Iraq.

Congress will continue, of course, to fight for our Nation's military by working to see that they have the resources and the support they need and the leadership they deserve. The conference report fully funds and fully supports our troops while establishing conditions that will bring our troops home. It provides desperately needed funding to the Veterans' Administration to help care for the hundreds of thousands of new veterans created by this war.

When we think of the carnage brought about by this war, when we think of the literally tens of thousands of men and women who serve this country and who are back from Iraq and who are in the Veterans' Administration health care system, we understand why we need from our Government literally a 50-year plan. What are we going to do for the next five decades for these injured men and women who have suffered psychological injury and physical injury? Yet this administration is not even funding our troops, the health care of our returning troops well this year, let alone planning into the future. This supplemental bill we will send to the President in the next few days begins the process of what we need to do to take care of the health and the welfare of these returning troops, these injured, psychologically and physically injured soldiers.

If the President won't take responsibility for his failures and lead our troops home, then Congress needs to and Congress will. We owe it to our soldiers, to our sailors, to our airmen and women and to our marines, and we owe it to their families.

The President should listen to military leaders and the American people and work with Congress to change course in Iraq instead of threatening vetoes. Vetoing this legislation would deny funding that our military needs in Iraq. It would deny funding our veterans desperately need who have returned home.

The President says there is too much pork, too much spending in this bill, as if every other supplemental bill that

previous Republican Congresses, the House and Senate, have sent to the President every time with other supplemental emergency spending has not. Mr. President: Please read this bill. Don't dismiss it out of hand because you don't like some of the language about Iraq, even though it protects our soldiers, even though it takes care of our veterans, even though it does things such as spend \$3 billion for the mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, vehicles that will make our troops considerably safer than the flat-bottomed vehicles where far too many of our troops have been killed or badly injured.

This supplemental bill we are sending to the President includes billions of dollars for BRAC, billions of dollars for military construction, the kind of work we need to do to make our military even more efficient, even more productive. It spends \$1.6 billion for individual body armor, something the military and the civilian leadership in the White House and the civilian leadership in the Pentagon have fallen short on, providing the kind of body armor for our troops and the kind of up-armor for our humvee vehicles that is needed.

I ask again, Mr. President: Please read this bill before you decide what you are going to do, and then sign this bill. The VA would get \$1.7 billion more than the VA proposal from the President, which was zero; it would have \$39 million in polytrauma-related funding; it would have \$10 million for blind veterans programs. It has \$100 million for VA mental services. It has \$25 million for prosthetics.

This legislation we are sending to the President—again we ask him to read it before making his decision instead of dismissing it out of hand—has all kinds of support for our troops, for their health care, for their supplies, for supplying them in the field. It has way more money for our troops in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and for those troops returning home in our VA system, way more resources than the President has allowed in his budget.

The President has set our Nation on a path that leads nowhere. He did not listen to the voters last fall. He has not listened to the Iraq Study Group, the bipartisan panel of very distinguished Americans. He has not listened to many of the military advisers, free to speak freely, and he has not listened to the House and the Senate majorities about this legislation.

In addition, this legislation provides for help for mine safety. It provides for emergency spending for the LIHEAP program, for elderly indigent people who have had their heating or air-conditioning cut off because they simply can't afford to pay for their energy use at home. It has support for the pandemic flu. It has pandemic flu protections. As Senator STABENOW from Michigan said a few moments ago, it has a minimum wage increase, something this Senate or House has not done for 10 years.

Mr. President: Please read this bill before you decide whether you are going to sign it or veto it, and please listen again to General Powell, who said:

I am not persuaded that another surge of troops into Baghdad for the purposes of suppressing this communitarian violence, this civil war, will work.

We are on the wrong course in Iraq. If the President signs this bill, it will help us redeploy our troops more quickly out of Iraq in the most orderly and safest way possible. It will also equally and importantly provide for health care for our troops, for the tens of thousands of injured troops who have returned home from this war.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

HONORING PROFESSOR CHERIF BASSIOUNI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor an outstanding Illinoisan, Professor Cherif Bassiouni, a great legal mind, teacher, and humanitarian, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

For more than 40 years, Professor Bassiouni has made Chicago—and DePaul University—his home. At DePaul, he has made countless contributions to international law and legal education. He has also been a consistent advocate for the rule of law. His legacy at DePaul continues the legacy of his family. The Bassiouni family is widely known for their impact on the struggle for independence in Egypt almost one century ago.

Cherif's maternal and paternal grandparents were lawyers and leaders in the struggle for Egyptian independence. His paternal grandfather led the 1919 revolt against the British. Professor Bassiouni's early instruction was comprised of French Jesuit schooling, Muslim tutors, and European nannies. His upbringing encompassed the best of different societies and was a sign of great things to come. He was introduced to the charitable works of St. Vincent de Paul and since his youth, has been guided by St. Vincent's motto, "to serve God by serving the needs of man." He lived through some of the most dramatic moments in both Egyptian and American history; he was a soldier during the 1956 war but then dissented against Nasser's regime and was placed under house arrest. Soon afterward he immigrated to the United States.

After finishing his law degree, Professor Bassiouni began his teaching career at the DePaul University College of Law in 1964, where he was able to link the experiences of his youth to the work of his adult life. He was steadfastly devoted to the advancement of human rights. He did pro bono work for clients involved in the civil rights movement that culminated in the 1967 Chicago riots and the 1968 Democratic National Convention protests. Ten years later he applied what he had learned to his native land, by advising President Anwar Sadat during the Camp David Peace Accords.

As a legal scholar, Professor Bassiouni's accomplishments are astounding. Several thousand judges and professors worldwide have studied under him. He is considered a world authority in the field of international criminal law. He cochaired the United Nations Committee of Experts that drafted the Convention Against Torture. He drafted this seminal document from his ninth floor office in the O'Malley Building of DePaul, right down the street from my office in Chicago.

At DePaul, Professor Bassiouni has left a lasting mark, perhaps most notably for his founding of the International Human Rights Law Institute. The IHRLI already has impacted generations of students and assisted people throughout the world.

Cherif Bassiouni has been a Nobel nominee and is a recipient of the Illinois Order of Lincoln—among many other honors. He was pivotal in the creation of the International Criminal Court. His has been a voice of reason and experience in complicated situations, including most recently his work as counsel to the Governments of Afghanistan and Iraq as they seek to establish rule of law. I hope he will continue to advise these wounded nations as they move towards peace and democracy.

I conclude by thanking Professor Bassiouni for his brilliant work and contributions not only to DePaul University but also to the lives and communities his work has helped shape. I commend him and his family and wish him an equally brilliant retirement.

IN MEMORY OF REPRESENTATIVE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, a kind-hearted woman whose remarkable life touched so many of us.

Juanita was a loving mother, and a dedicated public servant who approached her work with an upbeat attitude and can-do spirit that was an inspiration to us all.

Her passing is a tragic loss for California, the 37th Congressional District she so ably represented, and the many Members of Congress with whom she has worked over the years.

Juanita's career broke through so many barriers for women and African Americans. Her rise as the first African American woman to chair a Congressional Committee was only the latest of many firsts in her career.

In her seven terms of service in the House of Representatives, she fought valiantly for the rights of women, for the security of our Nation, and for the protection of human rights across our Nation and the world.

Juanita's efforts to reach across the aisle made her one the most effective Members of Congress, but it was her bold initiatives that embodied the courage with which she followed her convictions.

In her first year in Congress, Juanita immediately demanded the attention of the nation when she brought then-CIA director John Deutch to Watts to address a newspaper report that the CIA was using profits from domestic crack-cocaine sales to fund CIA-backed Contras in Nicaragua.

Juanita's commitment to the health of our communities has been profound, and her efforts addressed the needs not only of her constituents, but to the victims of disease around the world.

She led the charge to enact the Mother-to-Child HIV-AIDS Transmission Act that has become the foundation of President Bush's \$15 billion African AIDS initiative. For nearly a decade, Juanita coordinated the annual AIDS Walk in her district to help continue to inform the community and raise awareness of this deadly disease.

During her tenure as the Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Juanita fought to ensure that every ballot that is cast is counted, and that all of the citizens of our country would know their voting rights.

Juanita has been inspiring young women since the beginning of her career as an educator in California, when she served the Los Angeles Unified School District as a career counselor and edited Images, a state textbook which encouraged young women to pursue non-traditional careers.

As the Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she sought to address the plight of women globally, brought together the women of Congress with the first female Supreme Court Justices to discuss issues important to women across the Nation, and sought recognition for the women in uniform who have served our country in times of war with the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Arlington National Cemetery's Women's Memorial.

On so many issues, I have been fortunate enough to consider Juanita a valuable ally and friend, but I will especially miss her work as a leading voice on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As the Representative of a district with two of the busiest ports in the United States, Juanita was a passionate supporter of the effort to ensure that the movement of goods is safe, secure and efficient.

Through these past years, Juanita and I worked together to keep the C-17 production line from being mothballed by President Bush and furloughing hundreds of employees.

I know that Juanita's presence will be sorely missed by communities which she served so tirelessly. Today I send my sincere condolences to her husband James, her five children, her staff, and all those who knew and loved her. Together we will continue her important work.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-two years ago today, on the night of April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government launched a series of raids in which hundreds of Armenian leaders and intellectuals were arrested and subsequently deported or killed. This event marked the beginning of a systematic campaign of murder, deportation, and forced starvation, during which as many as 1.5 million Armenians perished and 500,000 were exiled by the Ottoman government.

We are obliged to remember and speak about their suffering because silence about such atrocities plants the seed for another tragedy.

On the eve of the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, seeking to allay the fears of his aides, Adolf Hitler said: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

And today, the world is again witnessing genocide, one waged by a government against its own people, one involving mass murder, ethnic cleansing, and forced starvation. I am speaking, of course, about the genocide in Darfur.

Let there be no mistake. The ongoing genocide in Darfur, carried out by the Government of Sudan and its janjaweed militias, traces its roots to the silence and quiescence of the international community during previous episodes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, including the Armenian genocide.

By acknowledging and learning from the Armenian genocide, then, we become better positioned to prevent present and future atrocities.

Open discussion of the Armenian genocide serves another important purpose. It enables the descendants of those involved in the Armenian genocide—both perpetrators and victims—to mend the wounds that have not yet healed.

As recently as January of this year, a Turkish-Armenian journalist, Hrant Dink, was murdered because of his outspoken advocacy for Turkish recognition of the Armenian genocide. This incident serves as an important reminder that an open, informed, and tolerant discussion of the genocide is critical.

California is home to many of the descendants of the genocide's survivors, who immigrated to the United States and, over the course of a few decades, built strong and vibrant communities. Working closely with the Armenian-American community over my many years in public service, I know how alive and painful this issue continues to be for many Armenian Americans.

So I rise before you today and ask that you join me in acknowledging and commemorating the Armenian genocide. Together, let us send a strong message that such atrocities will never be accepted, regardless of when and where they take place.

And let us ensure that the legacy of the Armenian genocide is one of reconciliation and hope.