

grants. My bill to reinstate the draft would ensure that. It not only provides the manpower necessary to restore our exhausted troops but repairs the broken military. Furthermore, with a draft in place, decision-makers would be more cautious about sending America's sons and daughters into harm's way.

I believe our troops should be withdrawn from Iraq as soon as possible. But as long as our troops are there it will be up to the President and the Congress to ensure that the whole Nation, in some way, shares their sacrifice.

In times of war it should be the duty of all citizens to contribute to the effort. There is honor and pride in military service, but we do harm to our troops if we make them alone responsible for paying the price.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on July 18, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on Price Amendment to H.R. 3043 (Rollcall No. 653). Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. LOESACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I remember when this bill was signed into law in 1990. As an Iowan, I was proud to be represented in the United States Senate by TOM HARKIN who helped lead the fight for this important legislation and is a true champion to people with disabilities. As an American, I was proud to be a part of a country that understood true equality and was unafraid to take steps toward achieving it.

The ADA was one of the greatest victories in civil rights since the Civil Rights Act of

1964. The effects of this legislation reverberated across the country as those who had been forced into the shadows and treated as second-class citizens were brought into the light and granted the rights and opportunities they long deserved.

While we have made great strides, this fight is not over. Justin Dart Jr., who was widely recognized as "the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act" and "the godfather of the disability rights movement," once wrote, "ADA is only the beginning. It is not a solution. Rather, it is an essential foundation on which solutions will be constructed."

This Congress is ready to answer Justin's call to action. I am a proud cosponsor of the ADA Restoration Act of 2007 which was introduced earlier today by Majority Leader HOYER. In recent years, the Supreme Court has slowly chipped away at the broad protections of the ADA and has created a new set of barriers for Americans with disabilities. Under the cramped interpretation of the ADA by the courts, a broad range of people with physical and mental impairments have been held not to be "disabled enough" to gain the protections of the law. This is not what Congress intended when it passed the ADA. The ADA Restoration Act focuses on the discrimination that people experience rather than focusing on their ability to prove that they have a disability.

I'm also proud to be a co-sponsor of the Community Choice Act which would provide community-based supports for persons with disabilities and older Americans. This legislation just makes sense—it gives individuals more options to remain in their own communities, and their own homes, rather than having to be placed in a nursing home or other institution.

These bills continue to move us forward and closer to our goals. We are building a momentum that will be impossible to stop.

I encourage all of my colleagues to commit to keep the ADA strong. Congress must continue the fight for equal rights for all people.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, July 22, 2007 is the third anniversary of the U.S. Congress's

declaration that the tragedy in Darfur truly is a genocide. That declaration, as well as former Secretary of State Colin Powell's declaration, was intended to clearly delineate to the international community the true extent of the devastating death, destruction, rape and other human rights violations.

Over the years, my colleagues and I have given a number of speeches about Sudan and specifically about Darfur. Yet, with all the proof that NGOs, journalists, and humanitarian workers have presented, the attacks and atrocities against the people of Darfur continue.

Clearly the abusive regime in Khartoum does not care about stopping the suffering, otherwise the Janjaweed militias would not be able to wreak havoc wherever they go.

A recent report by Refugees International details the fact that rape is "an integral part of the pattern of violence that the government of Sudan is inflicting upon the targeted ethnic groups of Darfur." Listen to those words—that means the Janjaweed, under the orders of their masters in Khartoum, are deliberately raping the women to impregnate them and "purify" them racially.

The trauma imposed on the women of Darfur is unthinkable, yet reportedly is simply the implementation of a policy. What kind of government has a policy to ethnically cleanse, via rape, their peoples? Not a government that should have any power.

Madam Speaker, it is beyond comprehension that when the international community clearly knows that genocide is occurring, there would not be enough concern or political will to come down hard on Khartoum to end the death and destruction.

The fact that we must continue to raise the reality of genocide in Darfur means that we, the U.S. and the international community, have not done enough.

The international community has no excuse, because we know what is happening. There is no hidden agenda—the Sudanese government and their brutal militias have made their goals clear. The real question is—does the international community care enough to go after the Khartoum government and its puppet militias?

To the people of Darfur, we stand in solidarity with you.