

told we can't afford to prevent foreclosures or to improve child nutrition. Now we are being asked to borrow another \$33 billion for nation-building in Afghanistan.

We don't have the money to help American working families, but when it comes to supporting a corrupt and incompetent Karzai government, we are supposed to be a bottomless pit.

Not so fast, Madam Speaker.

Last week a bipartisan group of us sent a letter to the Speaker, urging that the House not consider the supplemental before some serious questions about our policy in Afghanistan are addressed. Even if we move forward this week, I hope that we are given an opportunity to have a thorough debate on this issue and to get a clean vote on whether or not we should continue our funding at current levels. This is life and death. This is about sending our troops into harm's way. This is about whether or not we can afford to continue this policy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think long and hard this week about this critical issue.

U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST MATTHEW CATLETT FROM TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we honor a fallen American warrior today—a Texas soldier who gave his life serving this country, this country he loved.

U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Catlett was an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky—one of the most prestigious and decorated divisions in the entire United States Army.

The Screaming Eagle warriors landed in Normandy on D-day, and fought the Battle of the Bulge—the crucial turning points of World War II. The Screaming Eagles fought in the rice paddies of Vietnam. They've stood vigil in the deserts and towns of Iraq, and they're leading in Afghanistan the fight against the cowards in the desert—the Taliban.

I have been to Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me tell you something, Madam Speaker, that there is no better fighting machine in the world than the 101st. They were the first conventional unit to deploy in support of the American war on terrorism.

The 101st's "Easy Company" was portrayed in the series "Band of Brothers," and like those in the 101st who have so nobly held that line in their storied history, Matthew gave his life with four other fellow soldiers that day. It was the bloodiest day of the war so far this year.

Madam Speaker, this is a photograph of Matthew Catlett. He and his fellow soldiers were killed when their Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device. That is called an IED. That is the

cowards' way, the Taliban's way, of fighting our troops.

Though, as Shakespeare said, "They shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

□ 1650

Matthew Catlett, this young American hero, was only 23 years of age when he gave his life for this country. There is nothing as noble as the character of a man who so willingly dedicates his life for others. The American warriors serving our military understand that better than anybody. They embody what is meant to be an American, and Matthew Catlett was such a man.

He gave his life on June 7 on a battlefield in Afghanistan, fighting the terrorists who attacked America on September the 11th from that desolate, faraway land.

Matthew grew up in Cypress, Texas. He joined the United States Army right out of Cyprus Ridge High School, always knowing he wanted to be a military man, a soldier in the United States Army. He served a tour of duty in Iraq 3 years ago and had just been redeployed to Afghanistan in April of this year.

Our American warriors make great sacrifices in the heat and the dust and the deserts and the rough, rugged mountains of Afghanistan, where summer temperatures reach almost 120 degrees in the parched desert landscape. Our soldiers track down terrorists under the worst possible conditions, but no matter what hole these cowards try to hide in, our soldiers are able to hunt them down and to keep America safe.

We grieve the loss of this American warrior, but we celebrate and honor his life and his service. We are fortunate that a man like Matthew ever lived. Matthew stood for the best of those American ideals and values exemplified in our fighting infantrymen.

General Robert E. Lee once said, "Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less."

Matthew Catlett did his duty. He served this Nation as the fine soldier he always wanted to be. All of his fellow soldiers gave some, but Matthew Catlett gave all in defense of this Nation. He fought for liberty for a people he did not know in a land that he had never been. He was the American breed. He was a rare breed. So we honor our American warrior, and we honor the families left behind who grieve the loss of their loved one.

Specialist Matthew Catlett was buried with full military honors in Houston's Veterans Memorial Cemetery. His draped coffin was surrounded by flags carried by the old war horses of the Patriot Guard. Those are motorcycle riders, mainly Vietnam veterans, that surround fallen soldiers and their families during a time of grief.

So today I extend my prayers and condolences to Matthew's wife, Brytnee; his two young daughters, Ryann and Stephanie; his parents; his relatives; and his friends. Their American warrior is home, his duty is done, and he is at peace.

George Orwell said, "We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Our grateful Nation will always remember that Specialist Matthew Catlett stood always ready to do his duty for us.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO MANUTE BOL

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, this morning I rose to honor the passing of Ruby Archie, a great hero to all of those in southern Virginia; an educator, a civic leader, and a tireless advocate for fairness. Tonight, I rise for the passing of another individual, Manute Bol, who was laid to rest at the National Cathedral earlier today.

Many know Mr. Bol as the tallest player ever to have played in the NBA. But to those of us who followed issues in Sudan and in Africa, he is a giant for other reasons. He is a giant for his humanitarian work. He is a giant for having stood up for justice and fairness, particularly in Africa's longest-running civil war against the southern Sudanese, where so many Christians and traditionalists have been suffering for so many years.

Too many in our country fight to become famous as an end in itself. Here was an individual of such tremendous character that he used fame as a means to help those less fortunate.

After growing up in Sudan and having a chance to remove himself to the United States, where he could have lived a comfortable life of riches, he chose instead to give everything he had, his money, his time, and his energy, to protect those suffering back in his homeland.

Manute Bol became a hero, not just on the basketball court, but he became a hero to many evangelical Christians, to people of all faiths, to lost boys back in Sudan, and to people all over the world for being a shining example of someone who chose to always stand for justice, a word engraved in the dais behind me, and understanding that as feared as he was as a shot-blocker, he was even more fearless in his own life in standing up. And not just doing the