

escaped from his Taliban captors in Afghanistan and was on the run for 3 days. Unfortunately, he was recaptured. It shows you that we have those that are still in harm's way as we pull out from Iraq and start to withdraw from Afghanistan.

But we can never forget—we should never forget—the sacrifice that these young men and women have given to this country. They truly are the 1 percent that need to be talked about because they have volunteered at great risk to themselves and to their families.

I have three sons that are currently serving in the United States Army. And I know what it's like to have a son go to war. On numerous occasions now, my sons have been called. And one still is in Iraq today. So we can never forget about the sacrifice not only of the men and women in our armed services but how about their families and loved ones that they leave behind.

The warrior ethos says, We never leave a man behind. And I call upon the President and I call upon this great body to make that same statement, that we will never leave a man behind, that we will do everything within our power to make sure that we get these kids back home. And I call them kids because I have three sons, and I still call them kids, even when they're 30 years old. It is about doing the right thing.

So today we're putting forth a resolution, this resolution, asking for the House to exert its will, to talk about our unending commitment to those that have given up their freedoms to protect us.

In this season of Christmas, we need to think about the families that are out there whose loved one is being held captive, either in Iraq or Afghanistan. We cannot forget them. We should not forget them. And this great country should stand up for those that have stood up for us. We should express our outrage and our feeling that we will never leave a man behind on the battlefield, ever.

Madam Speaker, I just want to implore this body to stand up and vote for this resolution, talking about the sense of this Congress and supporting those men and women who have given so much and have asked for so little.

God bless America.

□ 1120

AMERICA WELCOMES TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join some of the calls of my colleagues and to indicate that I thought this a very special day, December 15, 2011. A few hours ago in Iraq, Secretary Leon Panetta performed the Casing of the Colors Ceremony, which is to acknowledge the col-

ors—the red, white, and blue—that our brave men and women fought under in Iraq.

We have soldiers still fighting around the world, and I was just speaking to my constituency. We know that one brave soldier from North Carolina even lost his life in the waning hours of the ending of this war.

And so at the beginning of December, in Houston, I called for the Yellow Ribbon Campaign and for America to wrap herself in yellow ribbons, both in respect of our returning soldiers, to acknowledge a job well done, and to welcome them home to an unsilent America.

I would like to thank Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, Whip HOYER, and Majority Leader CANTOR for joining and indicating that they would support the wearing of yellow ribbons by our Members today and tomorrow, both in celebration and in recognition of the heroism of our troops and, yes, acknowledgment of our fallen heroes.

This war was almost 9 years, one of the longest wars that America has ever fought. It was a war that used \$800 billion, moneys that I hope we will invest in our returning troops and their families and all Americans as we go forward.

The loss of life was very painful, the idea of the burden on families. So I believe these yellow ribbons, although meager, will symbolize this Congress being unified as Americans, saying thank you to our troops. And, frankly, we have many other challenges that we should be addressing and making sure that our troops come home to a place that is welcoming.

This morning, our whip made a very important point about the maturity of America. Many remember the days of the Vietnam War. We know the passion in that war. But, unfortunately, it appeared that those who were called to battle by the Commander in Chief were the ones who received the ire of those who had a different opinion. America has now matured, and we recognize that whenever our soldiers accept the call of battle, they are for all of us. The treasure that they shed, the blood that they shed, has no respecting of anyone's political affiliation.

So I am grateful to have the opportunity to call upon us in a bipartisan manner to wear these ribbons that were put together by the Young Scholars Academy in Houston. The founding principal is Dr. Anella Coleman. They worked very hard on these ribbons, and I think it is important to teach our children early on to appreciate the democracy that they live in and appreciate the freedom that they have and to recognize those who are on the front lines.

I call upon the Iraqi Government as well. My point is that the soldiers have left them a gift—a gift which they can build on or they can undermine. A gift of democracy, freedom, the understanding of friendship, taking care of children, even in spite of what may be

violent outbursts. Will they have a democratic government? Will they allow those who are in Camp Ashraf, who are stated to be in a camp that will close by December 31, will they resettle the refugees in this camp non-violently, peacefully, Iranian exiles who fled to Iraq? They are concerned about their refugees in many countries, as they do these refugees. I will be calling upon countries to treat the Iraqi refugees fairly, as we all would. But it is a burden on the present Government of Iraq to live peacefully, to accept religious differences and promote religious freedom and the First Amendment and the right to the dignity of life.

And so let me thank the leadership for joining us. Members will find these ribbons in their Cloakroom, each Cloakroom. Let us join together and say: Thank you. Welcome home to our troops, a job well done. God bless you, and God bless America.

ENERGY SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, what does the Iranian nuclear threat to Keystone XL pipeline and the payroll unemployment insurance, doc fix, and jobs bill all have in common? Well, I'm going to use this 5 minutes to tie them together.

Yesterday on the floor, we addressed a concern of the Iranian nuclear threat. We did so with two pieces of legislation: H.R. 1905, the Iranian Threat Reduction Act; and H.R. 2105, the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Non-proliferation Reform and Modernization Act.

Why did we bring these bills to the floor? We brought these bills to the floor because of our concern of a nuclear Iran that has threatened its neighbors and one of our closest allies, Israel.

So what's the Iranian response? Well, I would turn your attention, Madam Speaker, to an article published yesterday, December 13, from FOXNews.com, with the title, "Iranian Official Threatens Military Drill Sealing Off the Strait of Hormuz."

I will read the first two paragraphs: "A high-ranking Iranian official has said Iran's military will practice sealing off the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil transport channel, in a provocative move that illustrates Iran's capability of disrupting the world's oil supply.

"The announcement Monday by Parviz Sarvari sent oil prices up about \$3 to \$100 a barrel based on the speculation of a disruption during the military drills."

Sarvari, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Committee, is quoted as saying, "Soon we will hold a military maneuver on how to close the Strait of Hormuz," in a statement reported by Reuters. "If the