

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA'S DEBT CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, we face a budget crisis in this country.

America is broke. Without bold action, our budget situation will get worse—not better.

We also face a severe economic recession. The current national unemployment rate is 9.0 percent, and it has been as high as 10.1 percent back in April 2009.

With so many Americans out of work, the federal government should be doing everything in its power to encourage economic growth, not discourage it.

Cutting spending is critical to creating a pro-growth environment. Cutting spending is essential to sustained, free-market job creation.

House Republicans are the only group in Washington showing leadership on this issue.

We have voted repeatedly to cut spending in the short term. And we have passed a budget that would reduce spending by \$6.2 trillion over ten years.

By contrast, it has been more than 750 days since Senate Democrats even passed a budget.

Recently, Sen. REID said: "There's no need to have a Democratic budget in my opinion. It would be foolish for us to do a budget at this stage."

That is a breathtaking statement for two reasons.

First, the Senate is required by law under the Congressional Budget Act to pass a budget.

Second, working families across America live within their means everyday by following a family budget. It's simple: they don't spend what they don't have.

So I ask: Why shouldn't Democrats in the Senate live by the same rule?

Now the White House is asking us to raise the debt limit. Secretary Geithner wrote, "Never in our history has Congress failed to increase the debt limit when necessary."

The White House wants a clean increase in the debt limit. That means they want Congress to approve more debt without cutting back on any spending.

That is a failed policy. The vote we took tonight is a clear indicator that House Republicans reject that approach.

Our message is clear: We will not vote to raise the debt limit without significant reforms that change the culture of spending in Washington.

The American people already owe more than \$14 trillion in debt. Much of it is owed to foreign nations, some of whom are hostile to American interests.

Allowing the government to take on more debt without cutting back on spending is simply irresponsible. Doing so would continue to erode America's financial strength and threat-

en the prosperity for future generations of Americans.

Raising the debt ceiling without spending cuts—akin to simply printing more money—would likely cause the value of the dollar to plunge and the cost of imports, especially gas and oil, to increase.

This would result in a significant increase to the cost of running a household or a business. The volatility and uncertainty would cause businesses to delay investing, growing, and creating new jobs.

The statutory debt limit was intended as a check on government spending. But what good is a debt limit that is always increased?

Instead of addressing the root cause of the growing debt, past Congresses have raised the limit ten times in the last ten years.

I, like many of my colleagues, were sent to Congress to put an end to that.

Our vote tonight is a tangible sign of the commitment we made to our constituents.

But the truth is that Democrats spent this money. They made this mess. They should help clean it up.

If the White House wants us to consider raising the debt limit, they should be at the table proposing significant reforms that yield trillions—not billions—in savings to the American people.

So far, that hasn't happened.

Tomorrow, the President has invited House Republicans to the White House to discuss the debt ceiling.

His request for a clean increase in the debt limit was rejected tonight. I hope that tomorrow President Obama will offer serious proposals to cure Washington's addiction to spending.

No lip service.

No gimmicks.

No smoke and mirrors.

The American people don't want more political posturing. They want transformational reform. They want commonsense leadership. They want discipline and fiscal responsibility.

I hope that is what the President proposes tomorrow. I look forward to evaluating his ideas.

MEMORIAL DAY 2011 SPEECH BY
ASHLEY SZATALA**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in the RECORD the Memorial Day address offered by a rising star in our district in Ohio. Ashley Szatala, a student at Sandusky St. Mary's High School, presented her remarks during the Memorial Day 2011 opening ceremony in Sandusky. The following is Ashley's Memorial Day 2011 speech and the ceremony program.

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of volunteers have placed flags at the graves of our

Nation's soldiers. Many local communities lined their streets with flags in honor of Memorial Day. Hundreds of you this morning gathered at the roadside waving a small American Flag as parade participants passed by. The flag goes wherever our leaders go. It has gone before soldiers in battles and is draped atop the casket of fallen heroes. For over 200 years the American flag has been the symbol of our Nation's strength and our unity. The Stars and Stripes—as we affectionately refer to it—stands for the ideals we hold true—liberty, equality, and freedom. Its history tells the story of perseverance by our Nation's veterans as they fought in defense of our liberty.

The most poignant moment in our Nation's history was made on January 1, 1776. Before laying siege against the British army, General of the Continental Army, George Washington, commanded that the Grand Union Flag be raised. Since that historic raising of our Nation's flag it has been a constant companion to our troops in times of war and peace. On June 14, 1777, the U.S. Congress proposed the "Flag Act," which introduced the American Flag as a prominent symbol of our nation. The original flag was decorated with 13 red and white stripes, and adorned with 13 stars amidst a blue background at the top left corner of our flag. The number 13 represented the 13 original colonies. After a series of changes from 1777–1960 to the original design, the final look of the American flag consisted of 13 alternating red and white stripes, and 50 white stars surrounded by a blue background. The 50 stars represented the 50 United States.

Since its inception, the American flag inspired Francis Scott Key to compose our Nation's anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Like many other American citizens of the day, Key worried that the American flag would not be flying over Fort McHenry during a battle in the war of 1812. Overcome with joy to see the flag of new America, he wrote the song that we hold dear to our hearts today. Since then, the American Flag has journeyed to foreign lands during the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. It has stood as a beacon of light as our brave men and women fought against oppression and tyranny. Today, the American Flag is one of the most revered and respected symbols in America. However, it is not just a piece of cloth, but a symbol of liberty and freedom. In fact, its colors of red, white, and blue have rich symbolism.

A review of that rich symbolism will help you understand why it is only fitting that an American flag stands beside each grave of our fallen heroes. The color red stands for the hardiness and valor. Our servicemen and women are hardy. They are strong in the face of danger. Their collective strength is not measured by how much muscle they have, but by how strong and resilient their heart is. They demonstrate valor as they defend liberty, justice, and freedom against the enemy. They demonstrate personal bravery and courage far beyond what the rest of us will ever be called upon to exhibit.

White in the American flag refers to purity. Our great country remains pure in its ideals. Those ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and freedom have held strong through the years and never wavered. Our veterans and active servicemen and women have rallied around these ideals and have fought and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

sacrificed everything for the sake of these ideals. These ideals continue to be gifted to every American citizen. Their sacrifice gave us all these gifts so today we owe them our sincere gratitude for their service.

Last, the color blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Vigilance is an enduring quality of our military men and women, and our veterans. Throughout the world, they have remained vigilant in their service of protecting the liberty and freedom of American citizens. Perseverance means one never gives up. How true of our service men and women. Despite the terrible conditions of war, they never gave up on the ideals for which they were fighting for. They fought to keep America free and safe for generations of American citizens. Without their vigilance and perseverance, America would not be the great country it is today. Each day, school children recite the words, "With liberty and justice for all," when they say the Pledge of Allegiance. What this means is that America upholds the ideals of pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. Anything that threatens these ideals is perceived as a threat to justice. It's not us, the average citizen, who eliminates the threat, but our country's service men, women, and veterans who stand up and fight for justice for all.

So hold high the flag and its colors. Her story is one of freedom. Through the years, our military has rallied around her and fought and sacrificed so much. They have fought to keep us free. The flag unites us all under her majestic colors.

So, as we are gathered here today, take a look around you. The flowers that decorate the grave sites will one day wither and die. The engraving on the headstones will eventually fade. The sound of Taps will linger silently through these trees. But the one thing that will forever remain, year after year, is the American flag, waving valiantly over the graves of our fallen heroes. Thank you.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 2011, 9:00 A.M., OHIO
VETERANS HOME

THE OHIO VETERANS HOME AND THE SANDUSKY
MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY—OHIO VETERANS
HOME

Mistress of Ceremonies: Linda L. Johnston,
OVH Volunteer Coordinator

Invocation: Rev. Paul Birmingham, OVH
Chaplain

Star Spangled Banner: Combined Bands
Presentation of Grand Marshals: Steve
Matune, OVH Deputy Superintendent

General Order #11: Matthew Burr, Civil
War Union Soldier re-enactor

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: Jaz Bluhm,
Howard N. Kautz (WWII Paratrooper, 17th Air
Division) Family Scholarship Award Recipient

Placing of Tributes: Veterans Organiza-
tions

Armed Forces Medley: Combined Bands
Student Speaker: Ashley Szatala, St.
Mary's Central Catholic High School

America the Beautiful: Combined Bands
Benediction: Fr. Edward M. Czech, OVH
Catholic Chaplain

Salute to the Dead: OVH Rifle Squad, Com-
manded by Arthur Weisz

Taps: Christa Widman & Victoria Downey,
St. Mary's Central Catholic High School

Combined Bands under the direction of
Brian Panetta, St. Mary's Central Catholic
High School

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Ohio State Highway Patrol; Erie County
Sheriff; AMVETS Riders; OVH Police De-
partment; St. Mary's Central Catholic Band;
AMVETS Post 17 Color Guard; Grand Mar-
shal Eugene Fitzthum; Grand Marshal Paul
Mettert; Grand Marshal Fred Ferdindansen;

Grand Marshal Jack Ferdindansen; Grand
Marshal Ruth Singler; Grand Marshal Linda
Johnston; AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary; Sons
of AMVETS; OVH Road Soldiers Cycling
Club; OVH Senior King & Queen; Erie County
Veterans Service Office; Boy Scouts of
America; Local 744 Carpenters Union; Erie
County Relay for Life; Salvation Army;
United States Border Patrol; Marines For-
ever; Disabled American Veterans Chapter
16; Catholic War Veterans Post 1905; San-
dusky Transit System; United Indians of
Ohio; Don Likes 1955 Truck; St. Stephens
UCC & Kiddie College; Firelands Habitat for
Humanity; Kids Care Clubs of the Volunteer
Center; DAR Martha Pitkin Chapter; Erie
Metro Parks; Girl Scouts of NE Ohio; Erie
County Jr. Fair Royalty; Tom's Cruz Lim-
ousine Service; Erie Co. Firefighters Assn.;
Perkins Fire Dept.; Perkins Police Depart-
ment; Perkins High School Band; Veterans
of Foreign Wars; VFW Auxiliary; Dads of
VFW; VFW Youth Baseball League; Lake
Shore Corvettes; Knights of Columbus;
Firelands Patriots; Big Brothers-Big Sisters
of Erie-Seneca Counties; Double S Indus-
tries; YMCA Twirling Amp'd; Sandusky Fire
Dept.; Sandusky Police Department; San-
dusky High School Band; American Legion
Color Guard; American Legion Riders; King
Baer Productions 1929 truck; Elks Lodge 285;
in memory of Bernie Wilson 1978 F150;
Calvery Baptist Church Kidettes Baton
Corps; Friends of Pipe Creek Watershed; Vol-
unteers of America; Freedom Institute; John
Snoble 1957 Pontiac; Randy's Balloons;
Kandi-Land Stables.

Thousands of men and women have died so
you can attend this event as a free person in
a free land.

As our American Flag passes in review, or
is presented, our veterans ask you to please
honor those veterans who have given their
lives by showing respect for the flag in the
following manner:

Cover your heart with your right hand. If
you are wearing a hat or cap, with your right
hand, place it at your left shoulder with your
right hand covering your heart.

A Special Thank you to the Exchange Club
of Sandusky for their years of support and
dedication. Each year they distribute the
American Flags to parade viewers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to a family
emergency, I was unable to participate in the
following votes. If I had been present, I would
have voted as follows:

May 26, 2011

Rollcall vote 375, on passage—H.R. 1540,
to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012
for military activities of the Department of De-
fense and for military construction, to pre-
scribe military personnel strengths for fiscal
year 2012, and for other purposes—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 376, On Motion to Concur in
the Senate Amendment to the House Amend-
ment—S. 990, Small Business Additional
Temporary Extension Act of 2011—I would
have voted aye.

May 31, 2011

Rollcall vote 377, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1484,
Veterans Appeal Improvement Act—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 378, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass—S. 1082, Small Business Ad-
ditional Temporary Extension Act—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 379, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass—H.R. 1954, To Implement
the President's request to increase the statu-
tory limit on the public debt—I would have
voted nay.

June 1, 2011

Rollcall vote 380, On Consideration of the
Resolution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted
aye.

Rollcall vote 381, On Ordering the Previous
Question—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted
aye.

Rollcall vote 382, On Agreeing to the Reso-
lution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 383, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 802, To
direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to es-
tablish a VetStar Award Program—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 384, On Agreeing to the Reso-
lution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 385, On Agreeing to the
Cicilline of Rhode Island Amendment—H.R.
2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 386, On Agreeing to the Royce
of California Amendment—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 387, On Agreeing to the Poe of
Texas Amendment No. 8—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 388, On Agreeing to the
Cuellar of Texas Amendment—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

June 2, 2011

Rollcall vote 389, On Agreeing to the Clarke
of Michigan Amendment—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 390, On Agreeing to the Ses-
sions of Texas Amendment—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 391, On Agreeing to the
Lummis of Wyoming Amendment—H.R. 2017,
Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 392, On Agreeing to the Carter
of Texas Amendment No. 1—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 393, On Agreeing to the Price
of North Carolina Amendment—H.R. 2017,
Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 394, On Agreeing to the Sher-
man of California Amendment—H.R. 2017,

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 395, On Agreeing to the Gosar of Arizona Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 396, On Agreeing to the Scalise of Louisiana Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 397, On Agreeing to the King of Iowa Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 398, On Agreeing to the Cravaack of Minnesota Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 399, On Agreeing to the Amash of Michigan Amendment No. 1—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 400, On Agreeing to the Amash of Michigan Amendment No. 2—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 401, On Agreeing to the Amash of Michigan Amendment No. 3—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 402, On Agreeing to the Rokita of Indiana Amendment No. 1—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 403, On Agreeing to the Rokita of Indiana Amendment No. 2—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 404, On Agreeing to the Cole of Oklahoma Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 405, On Agreeing to the Gohmert of Texas Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 406, On Agreeing to the Mica of Florida Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 407, On Agreeing to the Polis of Colorado Amendment—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 408, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 409, On Passage—H.R. 2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

June 3, 2011

Rollcall vote 410, On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 294, Providing for consideration of H. Res. 292 declaring that the President shall not deploy, establish, or maintain the presence of U.S. Armed Forces in Libya, and for consideration of H. Con. Res. 51 directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the U.S. Armed Forces from Libya—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 411, On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Res. 292, Declaring that the Presi-

dent shall not deploy, establish, or maintain the presence of units and members of the United States Armed Forces on the ground in Libya, and for other purposes—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 412, On Agreeing to the Resolution—H. Con. Res. 51, Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Libya—I would have voted nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent because of a family illness on May 26, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall No. 354—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Mica No. 38)—“no”

Rollcall No. 355—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Flake No. 40)—“no”

Rollcall No. 356—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Smith No. 42)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 357—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Buchanan No. 43)—“no”

Rollcall No. 358—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Maloney No. 47)—“no”

Rollcall No. 359—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Mack No. 48)—“no”

Rollcall No. 360—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Langevin No. 49)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 361—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Amash No. 50)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 362—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Campbell No. 53)—“no”

Rollcall No. 363—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Campbell No. 54)—“no”

Rollcall No. 364—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Chaffetz No. 56)—“no”

Rollcall No. 365—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Polis No. 60)—“no”

Rollcall No. 366—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Conyers No. 61)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 367—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Flake No. 62)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 368—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Ellison No. 63)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 369—On Agreeing to the Amendment (L. Sanchez No. 64)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 370—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Jackson Lee No. 111)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 371—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Turner No. 148)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 372—On Agreeing to the Amendment (Cravaack No. 152)—“no”

Rollcall No. 373—On Agreeing to the Amendment (McGovern No. 55)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 374—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions (H.R. 1540)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 375—On Passage (H.R. 1540)—“aye”

Rollcall No. 376—On Passage (S. 990)—“aye”

HONORING KATHY FLETCHER, AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Fletcher for her lifelong dedication to bettering the environment within Washington State and across the Nation.

Kathy Fletcher is retiring after 20 years serving as the Executive Director of People for Puget Sound, a citizen's organization she founded in 1991 to preserve the Puget Sound and Northwest Straits. The organization has inspired countless individuals through its education and volunteer programs. It also has successfully lobbied to strengthen environmental safeguards throughout the Puget Sound. Kathy has had a distinguished career spanning over 30 years of environmental activism, beginning with a position on President Carter's White House Domestic Policy Staff handling environmental and natural resource issues. A fifth-generation Washingtonian, she moved to Seattle to become the first chair of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority and has since sat on the board of many local and national environmental organizations. Through her efforts, Kathy has helped protect Washington State's coastlines from disintegration and degradation and has made environmental activism more accessible to all.

Kathy, thank you for your environmental leadership and for your tireless efforts to improve Washington State for the benefit of all.

REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN LIBYA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH J. HECK

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 292.

On March 19, 2011, in response to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, the Obama administration, in cooperation with our NATO allies, commenced Operation Odyssey Dawn to enforce a no-fly zone in Libyan airspace.

In accordance with the War Powers Resolution, the administration must seek congressional authorization for this operation within 60 days.

Madam Speaker, that 60 days has come and gone, and we are now on our 77th day of conducting military operations in Libya. Yet the President has still not sought congressional authorization.

Without congressional authorization, the War Powers Resolution dictates that the President must withdraw our forces within 90 days.

As that 90th day rapidly approaches, this legislation puts the administration on notice that it has 14 days to provide a compelling rationale for our involvement in Libya, or Congress will exercise its constitutional prerogative to withhold funds for this operation.

Since the commencement of operations, the administration has often cited the need to protect civilians in Libya as the basis for our involvement in this operation.

While I understand the moral imperative to assist and protect these civilians as they engage in open conflict with a tyrannical and oppressive government, it cannot be the policy of the United States to commit U.S. troops to every civil conflict throughout the world.

In fact, this is not U.S. policy. The Arab Spring has ushered in an era of civil unrest throughout the Middle East. Civilians in Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Bahrain, Iran, and Tunisia have all risen up in protest against their governments.

The outcome of each of these uprisings has varied significantly, as have the national security implications for the United States. Yet the United States did not come to the aid of these civilians.

So why then is Libya different? Why is it in the national security interests of the United States to involve ourselves in this civil conflict and not the others?

As Members of Congress we have a responsibility to the American people to ask these questions and the President has the obligation to answer them.

If the President is unable or unwilling to communicate a justification that clearly defines U.S. national security interests for committing U.S. troops and resources to Libya, then we have an obligation to compel him to withdraw.

H. Res. 292 does this and it does it in a responsible manner.

The alternative, Madam Speaker, is to support the bill offered by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, and force the President to withdraw our forces in 15 days.

While I commend the gentleman from Ohio for offering this legislation and appreciate his efforts to hold the administration accountable for committing U.S. Forces without congressional authorization, I have a number of concerns with the 15 day timeline.

First, it is logistically impossible to completely and responsibly disengage our forces within this short timeframe. We should not shackle our military leaders with an unrealistic mandate to withdraw because their Commander-in-Chief did not comply with his obligations under War Powers Resolution.

They must be given adequate time to plan, organize and execute this withdrawal. Fifteen days simply does not permit this.

Additionally, while I agree that Congress' ultimate responsibility is to the American people, withdrawing our forces in fifteen days would completely undermine our number one obligation to provide for the common defense of the United States.

The safety and security of our nation depends greatly on the cooperation and commitments of our allies.

The NATO alliance is the centerpiece of our efforts to support and promote safety and stability throughout the world.

Withdrawing our forces from Libya in 15 days pulls the rug out from under our NATO allies and would have dire consequences for our future cooperation and the security of the United States.

Like our military leaders, our NATO allies must be provided ample time to reassess and reorganize their military strategy to carry out operations without our support. Again, 15 days does not permit this.

For these reasons I cannot support Mr. KUCINICH's legislation. While I agree that we must hold the administration accountable, we must not do so at the expense of our allies.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 292 is the responsible alternative. It asserts congressional authority by compelling the administration to adhere to its obligations under the War Powers Resolution, while at the same time ensuring that we do not undermine our allies.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 292, and to vote down H. Con. Res. 51.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. BLONEVA BULLARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the life and legacy of Mrs. Bloneva Bullard. Bloneva was born on October 13, 1936 and was raised in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

As a young woman Bloneva graduated from Carver High School also in Delray Beach. As a young woman, Bloneva showed great promise with her hands as she became a licensed cosmetologist. However, she felt a greater calling for her life—she felt a calling to heal those who were sick. Bloneva Bullard enrolled in Broward Community College and became a Licensed Practical Nurse. She later would complete her training and become a Registered Nurse. As a nurse, she opened doors by becoming the first African-American Recovery Room Charge Nurse at North Broward Medical Center, where she worked until her retirement.

Bloneva was not only a motivated career woman, but she was also a tireless community servant. Her many affiliations include: Founder and Director of the R.U.B. Foundation, Pride of Ft. Lauderdale Elks Lodge #395, Rosebud Heroines of Jericho, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Bloneva Bullard passed away on May 17, 2011 after a very full life. Her life was spent working for the betterment of humankind. Mrs. Bloneva Bullard was a true stalwart that touched the lives of many.