

Mobile. When he left, he was given a standing ovation by his parishioners.

The citizens of Selma and the surrounding Black Belt counties have come a long way since 1937, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Edmundite Mission and in recognizing its many contributions.

May the glory of the Edmundites Mission continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

□ 1015

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, there is a heartbreaking photo in today's Washington Post showing two small boys, toddler-size, in a hospital in Yemen being treated for cholera. The story says the International Red Cross is now being prohibited by the Government of Saudi Arabia from shipping chlorine tablets into Yemen to treat this disease that has now affected more than 900,000 people there.

This is a humanitarian crisis of the first magnitude and it should not be tolerated. Many people are dying. Most of the victims of this disease are women, children, and senior citizens.

In yesterday's American Conservative magazine, Daniel Larison wrote: "The Saudi-led blockade of Yemen has been starving the population of essential goods for years, but the complete shutdown of all ports threatens to cause massive loss of life if it is not reversed immediately."

The head of the U.N. World Food Programme is warning that hundreds of thousands of children in Yemen will be "on the brink of starvation if the Saudi-led coalition's blockade of air, sea, and land access lasts for even 2 weeks."

David Beasley, of the U.N., told the Associated Press, if access remains shut down, "I can't imagine this will not be one of the most devastating humanitarian catastrophes we have seen in decades."

Mr. Speaker, Saudi Arabia is supposed to be an ally of ours. Those of us in Congress should demand, urge, or at least plead with officials in Saudi Arabia to end this very cruel, inhumane blockade, and allow the Red Cross to get crucial food, medicine, and other supplies in to these people before many more die needlessly.

STATEHOOD FOR WASHINGTON, D.C.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Saturday is Veterans Day. That is the day we set aside to revere those who served in our

Armed Forces, especially today, because all who serve are volunteers.

Only one group of taxpaying volunteers who serve in our Armed Forces serve without a vote, and they are the veterans who reside in the Nation's Capital. They have no final vote on this House floor, though, of course, I vote in committee. They are not fully recognized as American citizens, although the District of Columbia is one of the oldest jurisdictions in the United States.

D.C. veterans, therefore, are at the front of the line, demanding the vote in Congress and other rights granted only to residents of States.

I thank the Members of this body who have cosponsored my bill to make the District of Columbia the 51st State. Each year we have beat last year's record in cosponsors. Today I have introduced a statehood resolution in tribute to the District of Columbia's 30,000 veterans as Veterans Day approaches on Saturday.

The residents of your Capital City have never hesitated to serve or give up their lives in war for their country. They have died for their country without a vote in disproportionate numbers.

World War I, more casualties than three States; World War II, more casualties than four States; Korean war, more casualties than eight States; the Vietnam war, more casualties than ten States of the Union.

There have been three votes to go to war since I have been a Member of Congress: the Gulf war, the Iraq war, the Afghanistan war.

I have gone to Arlington National Cemetery to comfort bereaved families from the District of Columbia who died in those wars. The tragedy of their sacrifice is deepened because these men died securing the vote for others in those nations, while they did not have the vote for themselves in their own nation.

The only remedy to make our veterans whole is to give statehood to their city. The special urgency of our demand for statehood this Veterans Day is particularly pointed up by the fact that, for years now, District of Columbia residents have been number one, per capita, in taxes paid to support the Government of the United States. Understand that, number one above all the other States in taxes paid, all without a vote. That outsize contribution, yet no vote on this House floor, no Senators in the other body.

That is not even a vote on D.C. matters. D.C. matters, some of them, have to come to this floor. The D.C. appropriation, even though D.C. residents raise more than \$7 billion, not \$1 of it is Federal money, yet the city's appropriation comes to this floor.

D.C. laws, sometimes on abortion or guns, are rather controversial matters, but we don't bother the States when they do the same thing, and we certainly should have nothing to say when the residents of the District pass laws of their own.

We almost got the vote on the House floor when we were paired with Utah, a Republican State. And the only reason we don't have that vote on the House floor now is that there was an attachment to the bill that tried to eliminate all the gun laws of the District of Columbia. Absurd. But we had to leave the bill on the table.

The Founders faced a unique situation when they created the District of Columbia as their Capital, but they tried an 18th century remedy that the country has long outgrown. The Nation's Capital must not be under the thumb of the national government, with citizens left without their equal rights.

We must erase the slander that the Framers of our country who went to war on the slogan of "No Taxation Without Representation;" that they would want to leave any Americans who paid taxes without equal representation in the United States, and especially on this floor and in the Senate.

We will bring our statehood bill to the floor as soon as it is allowed. On this Veterans Day, I ask that we bring our D.C. statehood bill to the floor. Do it for District residents. But on this Veterans Day, I ask that you do it for the 30,000 veterans who have served you, who have served their country, and who deserve equal rights in each and every respect.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard. Whether it is a natural disaster in Nebraska or elsewhere in the United States, or doing combat operations in the Middle East, the Nebraska National Guard is willing and ready to assist those in need and are poised to fight our Nation's wars.

The Army National Guard has approximately 3,500 soldiers stationed throughout Nebraska, and the Air National Guard has approximately 950 airmen. Joining us today in Washington are 60 of those soldiers and airmen.

The Nebraska National Guard is made up of selfless and courageous men and women who continue to make Nebraska and the Nation proud through their rescue and assist efforts and during times of crisis.

The Army National Guard has over 80 units throughout Nebraska. These guardsmen are also called citizen soldiers and they respond to national disasters in the State and around the Nation.

There are two Air National Guard units in Nebraska: the 155th Air Refueling Wing in Lincoln and the 170th Group located at Offutt Air Force Base. The 155th Wing is responsible for refueling aircraft worldwide, while the

170th Group provides support to the 55th Wing by training airmen conducting worldwide missions for our Nation.

In addition, they have become a premier example of total force integration between the Active Duty Air Force and the Air National Guard. In my 30 years in the Air Force, this is the best Active Duty and National Guard relationship that I have seen. I think it is the best in the Nation.

Since September 11, the Nebraska National Guard has deployed over 10,000 soldiers and airmen. The guardsmen not only provide assistance to the United States, but throughout the world. There are dozens of Nebraska soldiers deployed to Guantanamo Bay supporting detainee operations. Next year, the Nebraska Air National Guard will deploy to key locations in the Pacific and Middle East.

Most recently, members of the Nebraska National Guard deployed to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with the hurricane relief efforts.

The Nebraska National Guard rescued 461 people and 22 pets, and they served 6,000 pounds of bottled water, 3,000 pounds of food, and 1,000 pounds of medical supplies to the people of Texas.

In response to Hurricane Irma, 102 Guard members were in Florida providing an aviation task force for support operations. Currently, there are 58 soldiers and airmen providing support to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. These efforts range from rescuing people to cleaning up St. Croix's Ricardo Richards Elementary School.

The Nebraska National Guard's value to Nebraskans and Americans across the Nation cannot be understated. Our soldiers and airmen risk their lives to save our neighbors in need.

I thank the Nebraska National Guard for their service to the Nation and Nebraska. All Nebraskans are proud of their service.

ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, marking the 48th day since Hurricane Maria made direct landfall on the island of Puerto Rico.

Wreaking havoc for over 3.4 million American citizens living on the island, this administration's response has been beyond atrocious. I witnessed it myself a couple of weeks ago, and so did a group of 50 registered nurses from across the country who volunteered for a two-week disaster relief fund and mission.

What these courageous women described upon returning was not at all reassuring. The lack of efficient action has led to deadly conditions and consequences: lack of food, water, medi-

cine, proper healthcare services, houses with roofs blown off or infested with black mold, and leptospirosis outbreaks across the island.

Laura Maceri, a registered nurse, said: "It's hell there. The people have nothing, yet they are the first to offer you the shirt off their back."

Another nurse, Hau Yau, expressed: "We couldn't believe this is part of the United States. We did home visits in low-income communities with the public health liaisons there who identified those in need, and helped them do basic blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, to refill their medicine, et cetera. They have already had chronic diseases going on, and now their environment is full of hazardous materials, and the sanitation is very, very poor."

From another nurse, Erin Carrera: "Spent the day in Rio Grande, a hard-hit area right outside of San Juan. No power or water here since Maria. We set up a clinic at the FEMA site for the first time here. People lined up blocks since 10 p.m. last night. But FEMA was only handing out papers—papers, which need to be filled out in order that they may receive some reimbursement eventually. Each person received a small bottle of water, a mini bag of Cheez-It and a little pack of vanilla cookies. Outrageous. We were able to provide care to some, not nearly enough, but one small contribution to this tragedy today."

Another nurse said: "Today we went to a town called Barranquitas. They had almost no water or food there. They were desperate. They are relying on rainwater. One million chickens died during the storm and are now decomposed and causing people to get sick. Overwhelming is the only thing I can say to describe it."

Mr. Speaker, I stand with these nurses in their demands to address the humanitarian crisis on the island of Puerto Rico. This administration must respond immediately.

We need to waive FEMA's cost-sharing requirements in Puerto Rico. Yesterday, Representative GUTIERREZ and I introduced the WEPA legislation—the Waiver of Emergency Payments Act—that chooses and aims to do exactly that.

□ 1030

PROPER NUTRITION FOR EVERYONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about nutrition and, more specifically, malnutrition. My family and I have traveled across the country doing mission work, from the poorest country in this Western Hemisphere, Haiti; to the plains of Kenya; across Mexico; and throughout Central America.

On those trips, I went there as a physician thinking that I could help peo-

ple, but what I quickly discovered was that, despite how many antibiotics or bottles of IV fluids that I had, without proper nutrition, without proper water and sewage treatment, I was simply running into a headwind in a war that I could never win.

Unfortunately, across the globe, there are almost 1 billion people who suffer from malnutrition, and it is a problem that doesn't exist just across the world. It also exists in my own district, in my own communities. We think that actually about 12 percent of the United States households have food insecurity issues, and, in households with children, the number goes up to 16 percent of food insecurity issues.

It would be my opinion, without this hierarchy of needs being met, the hierarchy of the needs of proper water, proper sewage, and proper nutrition, that you will never have a healthy community. Without a healthy community, you will never see economic growth.

This battle against malnutrition is long running. In recent years, many in the hunger community have recognized the value of fighting malnutrition in targeted ways. One way was popularized by Roger Thurow in his book, "The First 1,000 Days: A Crucial Time for Mothers and Children—And the World."

Research shows that good nutrition actually begins before conception. Good nutrition starts before conception, continues throughout the woman's pregnancy, and, especially, those first 2 years after a child's birth are very important.

As a practicing obstetrician for 25 years, I see over and over the impact of proper nutrition. Proper nutrition in those first 1,000 days starts with a well-balanced diet and adequate calories. Additionally, we always try to start our prenatal vitamins at least 3 months before conception.

You might ask: Why is that important? What we have found is that if there is adequate folic acid in a woman's body, along with adequate iron, it decreases birth defects, and it decreases premature birth and low birth weights. Specifically, folic acid decreases neural tube defects. So those two vitamins are particularly important that we continue in these diets preconceptionally, during the pregnancy, then after for at least the first 2 years.

A child that receives the proper 1,000 days of nutrition has a lower chance of obesity, heart disease, and chronic illnesses. The child is 10 times more likely to overcome serious childhood illnesses and is more likely to fulfill their full God-given potential.

What we know and understand is that the most vulnerable will succumb to viruses, whether it is the elderly or the infants, if they don't have proper nutrition. An investment during this critical time period, these first 1,000 days, not only impacts the development of the child, but results in a higher likelihood of healthiness in generations to