

## Congressmen vote to lift Vietnam embargo

WASHINGTON — Twenty years after the last American soldier left Vietnam, two senators who bear the scars of that war helped convince their colleagues Thursday the time has come to lift trade sanctions.

It's time to "put the war behind us," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., a Vietnam veteran who was wounded three times.

The 62-38 vote urging the administration to lift the trade embargo is not binding, but it provides considerable impetus for the administration to move toward normalizing relations with the former enemy.

Veterans' groups, who want to see a full accounting of Americans still missing from the war, were angered by the vote.

"We were somewhat stunned that they didn't listen to the veterans and families" who feel Vietnam is still not forthcoming on the POW-MIA issue, said Phil Budahn, spokesman for the American Legion.

Yet it was the Vietnam veterans in the Senate - led by Kerry and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. - who were the most eloquent in urging an end to the enmity and the beginning of trade relations.

"If you want to put the war behind us and act in a statesmanlike fashion and move to the future and protect the interests of this nation you will vote to lift the embargo," Kerry said.

McCain spoke in a hushed voice of his own six years in captivity in a North Vietnam prisoner-of-war camp. He said the fates of those still missing could best be learned by expanding relations with Hanoi.

"I don't often discuss my past experiences in the Vietnam War," McCain said, recalling how his communist jailers threatened that those prisoners who didn't cooperate would never return home.

Six of the eight senators who served in Vietnam approved the legislation, including Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., a Congressional Medal of Honor winner who lost part of his leg in Vietnam.

Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., led the battle against the amendment, arguing that it violates the will of veterans and the families of MIAs.

"They are petrified that this amendment is going to pass and they will lose the leverage they have to get the answers about their loved ones," Smith said.

Smith was in the Navy during the Vietnam War, serving in the Gulf of Tonkin. He proposed an opposing amendment that would have required the president to certify that Vietnam is fully complying with the search for MIAs before trade sanctions could be lifted. It was defeated 58-42.

## Harding admits knowing details

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tonya Harding admitted Thursday that she failed to come forward with what she learned after the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, but pleaded not to be denied "my last chance" at an Olympic gold medal.

The U.S. Olympic Committee said it was "deeply concerned" about Harding's admission. The committee and the U.S. Figure Skating Association have said Harding could be removed from the team if she is linked to the attack.

"I had no prior knowledge of the planned assault on Nancy Kerrigan," Harding said. "I am responsible, however, for failing to report things I learned about the assault when I returned home from nationals."

"Many of you will be unable to forgive me for that. It will be difficult for me to forgive myself."

Her statement came as her ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, spoke to investigators for the second consecutive day in what a source said was an attempt to cut a deal in exchange for implicating Harding in the Jan. 6 attack.

Harvey Schiller, executive director of the USOC, issued a statement saying the organization is concerned about the comments Harding released Thursday.

The figure skating association said Harding would be on the list of official entries in the Lillehammer Games submitted to the USOC, but the association has appointed a hearing panel to investigate, a first step in the process that could lead to her removal from the team.

Schiller said Harding's name would be on the U.S. roster submitted to international Olympic officials Jan. 31, but that list can be changed as late as Feb. 21.

Harding and her lawyer said they would fight to keep her on the team.

"I have devoted my entire life to one objective: winning an Olympic Gold Medal for my country," she said. "This is my last chance. I ask only for your understanding and the opportunity to represent my country with the best figure skating performance of my life."

## FBI reassigns supervisors to step up fight against crime

WASHINGTON — FBI Director Louis Freeh, declaring "we need fewer agents behind desks," announced Thursday temporary reassignment of 150 headquarters supervisors to investigate crimes around the nation's capital.

He also said he planned later to shift 600 of the FBI's 10,078 agents permanently from supervisory and administrative work to crime-fighting jobs in every state.

Attorney General Janet Reno, joining Freeh at a news conference, said, "We are not talking about shuffling papers ... We are ... putting people in the streets to fight crimes."

"Crime is so severe in Washington that extraordinary steps must be taken to make the nation's capital safer," Freeh said. The city has seen record murder rates in recent years and

unsuccessfully sought National Guard assistance with crime recently.

"Like Washington, other parts of our country are also virtual war zones, and they, too, need more agents," Freeh added.

He said he acted in Washington first because of budget limitations. He can move 100 agents temporarily to the Washington metropolitan offices and 50 to the Baltimore office. He said the move should be completed in 60 days.

By the end of the year, if the White House budget office and congressional committees agree, Freeh said he intends to transfer 300 supervisors from Washington permanently to the most overtaxed of the 56 field offices around the nation. He said the offices to get more agents have not been selected.

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Editor **Jeremy Fitzpatrick**  
472-1766

Night News Editors **Jeff Robb**  
**DeDra Janssen**

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