that the nation would probably not support a second mass force, since there are already over 150,000 soldiers to be had. Military victory would require occupation of the country, and therefore a draft, and, incidentally, colonial occupation for the better part of a decade. (Military) and more troops is still the option. Sen. John McCain prefers, though he does not mention the word “draft.”

The other day, Murtha, the first Vietnam vet elected to Congress (31 years ago) and the military’s best friend on Capitol Hill, could take it no more. Not long after one of his visits to wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he called a press conference, which he almost never does. His message: Get our troops out as quickly as it may be done.

He has actually introduced a piece of legislation. It says:

—Redeploy the U.S. troops in Iraq to the periphery of the country immediately.
—Create a quick reaction force in the region.
—Create an “over the horizon” presence of Marines.
—Use diplomatic channels to pursue security and stability.
—Take Iraq over to the Iraqis.

Murtha said he thinks it will take about six months. He said there is no military objective left for our military to achieve. They have done all they can.

Second, he said he is now convinced that the presence of our troops actually makes the nation less stable. They are the targets of the terror and unrest. They are the cause of continuing war, not the solution. Our soldiers have done all they can.

Second, he said he is now convinced that the presence of our troops actually makes the nation less stable. They are the targets of the terror and unrest. They are the cause of continuing war, not the solution. Our soldiers have done all they can.

Murtha rocked the capital and reignited opposition to the war.

John Murtha also has two Purple Hearts.

“Are they going to call him a traitor?” asked a friend.

Well, yes.

The speaker of the House immediately accused Murtha of delivering “the highest insult to the troops.”

The Republican floor leader said Murtha was “starting a war.”

A congressman from Texas said Murtha wanted to “take the cowardly way out.”

About a week ago, the president started this round. He said if we do not end the war gives comfort to the enemy, he said.

Criticalizing war policy demoralizes the troops.

Then the vice president said it.

Then the president repeated it. Twice.

And all Republicans have since spoken with one voice: If you don’t want your son or daughter to die for a war Bush and Cheney have no idea how to win, you are a disloyal daughter to die for a war Bush and Cheney

But that abuse was as nothing compared to the president’s. Then the president repeated it. Twice. Then the vice president said it. Then the president repeated it. Twice.

But Murtha probably knows more generals, officers, and grunts personally than anyone in Congress. He insists that they should not be asked to die, or suffer lifelong maiming, in vain.

Murtha’s retort to the suggestion that he is undermining the fighting men and women he has devoted his life to: “This is not a war of words, it is a real war, and people are getting hurt.”

Rep. Simmons went on to speak of the lack of support for Vietnam veterans during Vietnam and the mistreatment many suffered when they came home—they were not honored as they should have been and some were taunted and blamed for the war of their president.

True.

But that abuse was as nothing compared to the fighting in that war that our government had given it up.

And most Americans, even then, could tell the difference between brave soldiers and a bad policy.

This country loves its fighting men and women in Iraq. The people have backed them all the way. The government criminally—has not.

During Vietnam there were plenty of us who wanted to end the war but honored and admired those willing to fight and die for their country. And it was a family thing for many of us.

And we were intensely proud of their bravery and sacrifice. We could also see the futility of the war and the cynicism of the war makers. It is possible to do both. Most Americans get that, Rob Simmons should too.

A few weeks ago, I was in Washington when the big national protest of the war was going on. The city was full of “peaceciks.” I met one of them on a subway. He was a man in his middle to late 70s who had been wounded in Korea, the forgotten war—my Dad’s war. He said, “This man came to me and said, ‘Veterans for peace.’” And this is what he told me we owe our troops: “Certainty. We have to be sure it is worth it. We have to know what we are doing. Or don’t go. If we screw it up, we have to fix it.”

That doesn’t sound unpatriotic to me.

When this war was about to start, Rep. Simmons was not for it. He said that from the intelligence he had seen, Saddam was not a lethal and imminent threat. He said we needed to clean up Afghanistan. He said the war on terrorism was actually an intelligence war, not one of bombs and tanks. He said it would be a long and complicated war and we needed to make friends, not enemies, in the developing world.

He changed his mind.

But he was right the first time.

And I wish he had spoken out and broken with his president then.

That would have had an impact.

When military men stand up to an unjust war, it makes a difference.

Sen. Richard Russell, the lead military expert in Congress during Vietnam, told President Johnson to get out in 1966!

But LBJ was afraid to lose a war, and Russell kept silent. Imagine if he had spoken out.

That is why Murtha is an American hero. He fought bravely in the Vietnam War and he is trying to end the Iraq War. His speaking out may save American lives. Rob Simmons is also a good man—a brave, decorated vet, and a fine public servant.

But the odious tactic of questioning the loyalty and patriotism of people who want to end the war is beneath him.

And you know what else?

The people in power who kept the Vietnam War going for at least seven years after they knew the war was lost, and kept sending good boys to die knowing it was lost, and called the people who tried to end the war unpatriotic, they are the ones whose names stand disgraced in history.

And the does who saw that the war was hopeless—the people the president called “weak” and “soft” and “Nervous Nellies”—they were right. Far from being treasonous, they were patriots. Far from being demoralizers, they were trying to save soldiers’ lives.

John Murtha is trying to save lives now. He is right.

And courageous.

And the loyal friend of those who fight.

TRIBUTE TO DARRELL TALBERT

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Darrell Talbert for the leadership and dedication he has displayed while serving as mayor of the city of Corona, California. On November 29, 2005, Darrell’s term as mayor came to a close and I want to thank him for his commitment and service.

Darrell has called Corona home for as long as he can remember and he continues to demonstrate the extraordinary qualities we expect in our community leaders. Shortly after graduation from California State University, San Bernardino in 1989, Darrell co-founded Odyssey Group, Inc. and Odyssey Publications, Inc. The Odyssey Companies quickly became industry leaders in the autograph and memorabilia business.

Just 5 years out of college and ready to take a more active role within the community, Darrell was elected to the Corona City Council in 1994. During his time on the city council, the city of Corona as well as the surrounding region has experienced significant growth. While this growth is surely a positive sign, it undoubtedly presents our local leaders with a number of challenges. In order to maintain the high quality of life residents come to expect, the Corona City Council has taken a number of steps to provide residents with the necessary infrastructure and services.

The city of Corona has had a balanced budget in each of the years Darrell has served on the city council, and they have done so without implementing new taxes. Under his leadership and due to carefully managed fiscal budgeting, the city has added over 100 acres of new parks, implemented the Downtown Revitalization Project and successfully attracted new retail stores, businesses and nationally recognized restaurants to serve the citizens of Corona and the surrounding communities.

I know I speak on behalf of our entire community in expressing my appreciation for Darrell’s tireless efforts on behalf of our city.
CHEMICAL ADDICTION AND THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize last week’s World AIDS Day and draw attention to the troubling relationship between chemical dependency and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to the implicit dangers associated with intravenous drug use, use of illicit drugs and/or alcohol abuse can lead to poor decisions and unsafe sexual behavior that can result in HIV infection.

America’s youth, our most precious resource, are at especially high risk since adolescents face increased vulnerability to chemical addiction. Studies show that 50 percent of the individuals addicted to illicit drugs begin using drugs when they are between 15 and 18 years old.

That’s why the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) views drug abuse prevention and treatment as essential to stopping the spread of HIV infection, especially for America’s young people.

And while NIDA is an excellent resource that provides some of the top research in the area of chemical addiction, it is equally invested in educating the public about this public health problem. That’s why, in conjunction with World AIDS Day, NIDA is initiating a new public awareness campaign about the dangerous relationship between addiction and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As co-chair of the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, I want to congratulate NIDA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for developing this life-saving campaign and commend these fine organizations for their tremendous research efforts. This educational campaign and impeccable research will help us to better understand and prevent the devastating connection between chemical addiction and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND MASANORI SHOBO OHTA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Reverend Masanori Shobo Ohata as he formally retires from the Buddhist Churches of America and from the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

Reverend Ohata has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Buddhist Studies since 1982. The Institute of Buddhist Studies is the graduate school and seminary of the Buddhist Churches of America. It is the first nonwestern religious seminary to be affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union, an interfaith consortium of seminaries dedicated to study and dialogue in a religious and cultural pluralism.

Reverend Ohata has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Endowment Foundation since 1998. He was involved with the inception of the Endowment Foundation in 1983. The Foundation has provided over $11 million dollars of direct benefit to vital programs of the BCA which include ministerial welfare, educational and supportive services.

Reverend Ohata has also served as a Sanyo (advisor) to the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America and has advised five consecutive Bishops beginning with Bishop Shinsho Hanayama, whose term ended in 1968, through Bishops Tsuji, Yamaoka, Watanabe and Oguri.

Reverend Ohata’s contributions to the community are clearly demonstrated in his compassion and understanding. An immigrant himself, Reverend Ohata is a strong believer in the unifying powers of diversity, faith, tolerance and understanding. He has shared this strength through roles within the community.

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin sits in the heart of my district and opens its doors to people of every ethnicity, faith, nationality, culture and creed in the spirit of sharing and community. Yearly Obon festivals bring hundreds of people into the halls of the Buddhist church for good food and increased understanding among San Jose’s extremely diverse communities of neighbors and friends.

Although Ohata is formally retiring, I am certain that his legacy will continue throughout the sidewalks of San Jose’s Japantown and within the vibrant and diverse communities he has touched.

HONORING RICHARD NEWTON ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Newton, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the first legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Newton was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Newton traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 4.

Mr. Sackett is a former legislator where he served the people of district 4 for many years. Mark is also a very creative man who never stops thinking of ways to assist a friend. Many people of Sheridan, New York may remember the large gavel that he constructed.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Sackett is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOEL E. CAHILL

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, Captain Joel Cahill died last month from injuries he sustained while serving in Iraq. The personnel carrier in which he was traveling hit a roadside bomb, killing him instantly. He was 34 years old. He leaves behind his two daughters, Faith and Briana, and his wife, Mary.

Joel was the son of Larry and Barbara Cahill. He graduated from Papillion-La Vista High School in 1989 and enrolled in the Army a year later. His first act was to register for the draft. Upon finishing high school, he attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha, majoring in general studies. He served in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry from Fort Benning, Georgia.

During his service, Captain Cahill became a skillful soldier. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Soldier’s Medal, which he received for saving the life of a fellow soldier. During a training exercise with live grenades, Joel’s quick action delivered a colleague from harm.

This act of bravery demonstrated how he lived his life; by putting others before himself. Joel Cahill had a strong sense of purpose. When asked about his recent assignment, he responded, with heartfelt emotion in his voice, “I strongly believe that this is what I need to do to keep my girls safe in the future.”

Captain Cahill took pride in protecting America. His brother, Randy, described Joel as a