

right now, I ask that this very thoughtful editorial from the Boston Globe documenting the shortcomings in the current administration policy in Afghanistan be printed here.

[From The Boston Globe, July 10, 2002]

AFGHAN TARGETS

The assassination Saturday in Kabul of a minister in President Hamid Karzai's government, no less than the lethal strafing of Afghan villagers by US aircraft, illuminates America's need to help Afghans rebuild their nation.

It was a calamitous error for the US military to use an AC-130 aerial gunship to attack four villages in Oruzgan province last week, killing dozens of women and children and wounding more than a hundred. Unless President Bush prohibits similar attacks in the future, his phoned apologies to President Hamid Karzai will be remembered as little more than a futile expression of regret from a leader who did not know how to preserve his battlefield victories.

There may be a bit of a mystery about how many villagers were killed in the attack and some unanswered questions about anti-aircraft guns that disappeared from sites where pilots had seen them firing. But US soldiers entered the village of Kakrak after the attack and saw the blood and gore. Something atrocious happened to a wedding party in Kakrak.

There is no excuse for loosing such firepower on an Afghan village without US spotters on the ground who can be trusted when they call in strikes on armed enemy forces.

Strategically, US decision makers are acting like rote managers who cannot see the forest for the trees. They are deploying high-powered US war machines to hunt tiny clusters of Taliban. In reality, the Taliban are finished. They present no immediate threat to the Karzai government. The members of Osama bin Laden's terrorist cult are in a different category, but because those foreigners are generally despised by Afghans, they are at the mercy of local Afghan informers.

The United States has much more to lose by killing innocent villagers than it has to gain by trapping a few Taliban diehards or even by catching their leader, Mullah Omar. The US strafing of wedding guests risks making the Americans, who liberated Afghans from the Taliban, look like just another band of foreign invaders.

Since nobody has claimed credit for the daytime assassination of Karzai's public works minister, Haji Abdul Qadir, the murder is unlikely to be part of a blood feud. It is more likely the work of forces intent on destabilizing Karzai's government.

To help that government survive and prosper, Bush should drop his administration's foolish opposition to expansion of the international security force—now composed of Turkish troops—this is currently confined to Kabul. If Bush wants to keep Afghanistan out of the hands of international terrorists, he must commit US power and prestige to nation-building in that country. Aid money must be funneled directly to the central government for the rebuilding of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation systems. It will be much easier and less expensive to help rebuild Afghanistan than to go on chasing Taliban bandits through the mountains for years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN HICKENLOOPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to praise the lifeworks of Mr. John Hickenlooper. Mr. Hickenlooper plays an active role in the Denver, Colorado community, especially in the conservation of historical sites. It is an honor of this body of Congress to recognize his hard work and determination, which are two attributes highly deserving of our admiration.

John Hickenlooper was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, later receiving his Masters in 1980 in Geology. He worked as an exploration geologist for Buckhorn Petroleum for five years before establishing the Wynkoop Brewing Company, the first brewpub in Colorado. He is considered a business pioneer in Denver's LoDo historic District, and his formerly small brewpub expanded and is now the largest brewpub in the world.

Mr. Hickenlooper has been a valuable contributor to the civic and business communities and has served his community well. He serves on numerous boards, including the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Metro Convention Visitors Bureau, the Institute of Brewing Studies, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and the Chinoch Fund. He also acts as chairman for the Association of Brewers as well as the Colorado Business for the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the achievements of John Hickenlooper. He truly sets an example not only for his community, but also for the entire State of Colorado. His exploits have set an example for all Coloradoans and indeed the entire nation and I am grateful for his service to his community. John, I wish you the best in your future endeavors and thanks for your contribution to society.

AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE IN ITS YOUTH'S HANDS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the remarkable courage the children of Afghanistan have shown by returning to their classrooms this year in record numbers, despite the ongoing violence that has torn the country apart. The U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF, announced last week that over 5 million Afghani children, both boys and girls, have returned to school since the beginning of this year. This far exceeds the previously expected number of 1.78 million children. To the innocent people of Afghanistan who have long suffered from the great injustice, torture and oppression of the Taliban dictatorship, their children are a bright beacon of freedom and hope that a better future lies ahead.

I believe it is incumbent upon us to provide UNICEF with the necessary funds to continue

rebuilding Afghanistan's schools, hire more teachers and provide more books so they can live and learn like our children here in the United States. It is imperative that we keep the hopes of the Afghani people alive by assisting UNICEF's efforts to provide these children with proper food, shelter and clothing. We can help them grow up in happiness and in a safe environment in a country that has known neither in many years.

UNICEF's program in Afghanistan this year has been recorded as its largest educational development effort since its inception. However, the organization estimates that it will still need an additional \$57 million this year to support the newly created education ministry, teacher training and recruitment, the development of curricula and textbooks for primary, secondary and higher education as well as a system of community radio programs to provide basic education to remote, underserved areas of Afghanistan.

Educating Afghani children is essential to the future stability of Afghanistan. With our help, UNICEF has taken on the enormous task of creating an educational system from scratch and has made remarkable progress so far. We must renew our commitment to the citizen of Afghanistan by investing more in UNICEF's efforts on behalf of the citizens of Afghanistan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Monday, July 15, 2002, and missed rollcall votes No. 296, No. 297 and No. 298. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye," on rollcall No. 296, "Aye," on rollcall No. 297, and "Aye," on rollcall No. 298.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST KENNETH LOEHNER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that several acts of selflessness were performed by Missouri National Guardsmen. Specialist Kenneth Loehner, of Jefferson City, MO, heroically helped rescue a group of people in danger of falling into the Savannah River in Savannah, GA, while others protected the area from intrusion by growing crowds.

Spc. Kenneth Loehner and other Missouri National Guard members had been training during an annual two-week mission at Fort Stewart in Hainesville, GA. Halfway through their temporary duty, he and other members of his team were given a break and toured the local communities. During the break, Spc. Loehner heard a loud noise at a parking lot near the Savannah River. Part of the parking lot had caved in and trapped 3 tourists in a 10-foot deep crater nearly tossing them into

the river. He immediately jumped into the hole to help the tourists and saved them in a matter of minutes. Several of Spc. Loehner's colleagues successfully directed onlookers away from the chaotic scene.

Mr. Speaker, Spc. Kenneth Loehner and the other Guardsmen involved have distinguished themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of others. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEITH WIER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize the personal achievements of Mr. Keith Wier, of Denver, Colorado. Keith's contributions to environmental technology have been implemented throughout Colorado, our nation, and the world. Moreover, his tireless efforts to preserve our ecosystem have led to the creation of new methodologies for the disposing of toxins.

Keith has used his MBA in Real Estate and Finance in all but the obvious manner. He has devoted his career to the development and manufacture of international products used in nuclear instrumentation. Keith's formation of the Resonant Shock Compaction in 1997 dramatically improved existing methods for contaminated granular waste disposal. He has also capitalized on grants received from the U.S. Department of Energy and the City of Denver Mayor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade to work jointly with the Japanese in the modernization of environmental export programs. In addition, Keith founded an international conglomerate of utility companies that studied the formation of construction products from coal burning byproducts. The published results helped commence the development of industries in India and Japan based on his research and findings.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise today to pay tribute for the works of Keith Wier. The results of his research have transformed former waste into necessary products, which has helped local agencies and the environment in numerous ways. Congratulations Keith and good luck in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that a pressing family matter yesterday forced me to miss recorded vote numbers 296, 297, and 298.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3482, the Cyber Security Enhancement Act, and H.R. 4755, the Clarence Miller Post Office Building Designation Act. I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 3479, the National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary.

The Assistance League of Charlotte is a volunteer organization that has dedicated ten years of hard work to bettering the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community and is deserving of public recognition and commendation.

This nonprofit organization was founded in 1992 as the 93rd chapter of the National Assistance League. Its volunteer members are dedicated to identifying, developing, implementing and funding philanthropic projects to serve the needs of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. In 2001–2002, 113 members devoted almost 26,000 hours of community service to local children.

Its motto is Changing Lives for a Better Community, and the League has certainly lived by this credo, working tirelessly to enrich and uplift the people of Charlotte. Through philanthropic projects such as Operation Check Hunger, Operation School Bell, the Mecklenburg County Teen Court, and a scholarship fund for Charlotte-area seniors, the Assistance League of Charlotte has continually demonstrated its outstanding ability to enact real and beneficial changes in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community.

I am honored to recognize Assistance League of Charlotte on its tenth anniversary and to extend my heartfelt thanks to its members for their vision and integrity in serving the people of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

HONORING JAMES E. BURTON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Burton as he ends his tenure as the Chief Executive Officer of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS). As his friends, family and colleagues all gather to celebrate his departure from over 25 years of public service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated service of this truly distinguished citizen of Sacramento.

Jim Burton came to the California Public Employees' Retirement System in 1992 and was appointed CEO in 1994. During his eight years of guiding the fund, total assets increased 30 percent and now total over \$150 billion. His leadership has provided the 1.3 million California public employees, retirees and their families with a secure future.

Jim's time at CalPERS will not only be remembered by the funds' outstanding growth, but also by his commitment to the participating employees. Providing enrollees with exceptional customer service was high on his list of concerns. This can be seen in the organization's first strategic plan, which he helped shape.

In addition to leading CalPERS through a time of remarkable growth, Jim has served on numerous boards and committees of many prestigious organizations. These include the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the Council of Institutional Investors, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. He also is a former Blue Ribbon Commission member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

In recognition of his excellent work in serving the public employees of California, Jim was recently named Outstanding Public Administrator by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

His service to the citizens of California, which has spanned the course of four decades, will surely be missed. Yet, his commitment to the employees of California and their families will undoubtedly serve as a model for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens, James Burton. His successes have been great, and it is a wonderful opportunity for me to recognize his many contributions to the people of California. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing my friend, Jim Burton, continued success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS, SUE NEUSTIFTER, UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant upon the occasion of her retirement. Sue Neustifter, the elected Register of Deeds of Douglas County, Kansas, which is located in the Third Congressional District, retired at the end of last month after holding that office since her first election in 1972, and after having worked for Douglas County for 43 years.

Sue Neustifter was elected to the Douglas County Courthouse in 1972, as one of the group of Democratic candidates whose election in Douglas County in that year marked the real beginning of two-party politics in the home of Lawrence and the University of Kansas. She joined the Register of Deeds office on June 1, 1959, just a few days after graduating from Eudora High School. With the exception of one six month period when she left the office to campaign for the position of Register, Sue served in the office continuously until July 1st of this year. Elected thirty years ago, she was re-elected her last seven times on the ballot without any formal opposition.

As an active member of the Kansas Register of Deeds Association, Sue has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of that group; she also has been a part of many Lawrence community organizations, such as Soroptimist International of Lawrence, Lawrence Business Women, the local legal secretaries' group, and the Lions' Club, where she was awarded "Lion of the Year" in 2001. She also received a 40-year award from the Kansas Association of Counties.