

In truth, now that the shock of discovering the dirty, bearded American Taliban in Afghanistan has worn off, Lindh seems more pitiable than threatening.

Lindh said he never fired a gun or tossed a grenade. The government had no evidence to the contrary.

Lindh seems more like the "poor fellow who obviously . . . has been misled" described by President George W. Bush than Abdul Hamid, the holy warrior whom Lindh aspired to be.

What Lindh—known as Johnny Jihad to would-be humorists—actually might have done or not done while in the service of the Taliban probably will remain a mystery. Facts other than Lindh's own statements are in short supply.

Under the circumstances, putting the 21-year-old behind bars for 20 years arguably fits the crime. The government had some legitimate reasons to accept the agreement. Lindh has agreed to share information about his tour of duty with the Taliban. The agreement also shields the government from having to reveal details about its effort to root out the Taliban in the war against terrorism.

And if Frank Lindh can just keep quiet, some of the anger and bitterness Americans feel toward his son might subside by the time he gets out prison in 2023.

TRIBUTE TO REX AND ANN THOMAS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the family of Rex and Ann Thomas. For eight generations this farming family has symbolized the tradition of the American family and our community values.

The Thomas family can trace their roots in America back to the early 1700's where their family homestead in North Carolina. The Thomas family remained in North Carolina until the death of William Elias Thomas, who died in the Civil War. His wife, Mary, went south with six of her nine children settling in Alabama. Their grandson, Charles Thomas married Blanche Stevens and moved to Santa Rosa County, FL, to farm new land and raise six children. Upon the retirement of Charles Thomas, he handed the farm over to his two sons, James and John Rex.

Rex Thomas' passions in life were his family and agriculture. Rex farmed from the time of his father's retirement; he also worked in other areas of the agricultural world. This included farm equipment sales, the management of granaries, and the ownership of his farm supply business.

Ann Thomas, with the help of her sons Dale and Richard, farms around 660 acres of row crops and hay while running the farm supply business. John Rex Thomas Jr. lives with his family in Texas, but can be seen helping out around the farm whenever he is home. Lowell, Rex and Ann's second son, can also be seen driving a truck or tractor whenever help is needed.

The Thomas family has been blessed throughout the years by having strong family values. Whether they are watching their grandchildren's T-ball games, enjoying family gatherings or at a local church function, Rex and Ann Thomas like to be surrounded by as many family and friends as possible.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to recognize this special family for the example they have set in their community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that they have done for northwest Florida.

CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we are approaching a solemn time in the calendar of Cypriots. Twenty-eight years ago, on July 20, 1974, the Turkish armed forces invaded Cyprus, in a tragic and brutal disregard for the human rights of Cypriots. Since the devastating attack on Cyprus in 1974, 37 percent of Cyprus has remained under Turkish rule.

This year, PSEKA (the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus), the Cyprus Federation of America (an umbrella organization representing the Cypriot American Community in the United States), SAE (the World Council of Hellenes Abroad) and the Federation of Hellenic Societies are commemorating the anniversary of the invasion with a series of special events in New York. They have chosen to hold these events in New York City out of respect for the terrible tragedy that occurred here on 9/11 and in support of New York, which bore the brunt of the terrorist attack on America. The largest Hellenic Cypriot community outside of Cyprus is located in the 14th Congressional District of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

In a spirit of remembrance and commemoration, a concert will be held on July 20, 2002 at the SummerStage in Central Park, New York, with the participation of two exemplary artists from Greece, Dionyssios Savopoulos and Alkinoos Ioannides. These remarkable performers have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

On July 21, 2002, memorial services will be held for the victims of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus at the Cathedral of Holy Trinity in Manhattan. His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Church of America, will officiate.

The occupation of Cyprus has had a devastating impact on the people of Cyprus. Families have been separated, parents have lost the right to bequeath land that has been in their families for generations, churches have been desecrated and historical sites destroyed. More than 1,500 Greek Cypriots, including four American citizens, were missing after the invasion and we still do not know what happened to many of them. By commemorating the tragic anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus, we keep alive the memory of those who perished and those who have suffered under occupation.

After twenty-eight years of occupation, all Cypriots deserve to live in peace and security, with full enjoyment of their human rights. I am hopeful that their desire for freedom will one day be fulfilled.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring PSEKA, the Cyprus Federation of Amer-

ica, SAE and the Federation of Hellenic Societies and in solemnly commemorating the twenty-eighth anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus. I hope that this anniversary will make the advent of true freedom and peace for Cyprus.

JAN NOWAK SAYS, "THANK YOU, AMERICA"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to do two things today. First, I want to pay tribute to Jan Nowak, who like me is an American by choice. Second, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues in this House an outstanding article by Mr. Nowak that appeared in The Washington Post earlier this month.

Jan Nowak is a Polish patriot and an American patriot. He was born in Poland, was a Ph.D. student in economics at Poznan University, and was drafted into the Polish army in 1939 as his native land was threatened by Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. Jan was captured by German troops, but he successfully escaped from a German prison camp. During World War II, he became a critical link between the underground fighting against the Germans in Poland and the Polish government-in-exile which was forced to flee to London. He recounted his experiences during this time in his autobiography *Courier from Warsaw*.

Jan was in Poland at the time of the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. In that heroic but tragic battle, the Soviet army stood just east of Warsaw poised to march into the Polish capital, but Stalin did not order his troops to assist the heroic Polish partisans as they fought a losing battle against the Nazi German forces. The city of Warsaw was largely destroyed and much of the partisan movement was killed by the Nazis. This eliminated Polish leadership in Poland and made it much easier for the Soviet Union to impose a communist regime at the end of the war. During the Warsaw Uprising, Nowak ran the radio station "Lightening" to keep Poles informed of partisan activities, and he managed to escape from the German forces as they destroyed Warsaw.

Mr. Speaker, in 1951 with Central and Eastern Europe under Soviet dominance, the United States established Radio Free Europe (RFE) to provide information and democratic ideas to the peoples of these communist countries. Jan Nowak was asked to direct the Polish Service of RFE. He continued in that key position of responsibility for 25 years—until his retirement in 1976.

Following his retirement from RFE, Jan Nowak came to Washington, where he served as a consultant on Central and Eastern Europe to the National Security Council staff of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. He has continued to promote freedom and democracy in Poland, and he has been one of the most visible and vocal leaders of the Polish community in the United States. Certainly one of the highlights of his recent activity in behalf of Polish democracy—and one that Jan most enthusiastically welcomed—was Poland's admission to NATO in 1999. A reflection of his continued vigor and involvement in

Polish-American issues was his attendance at the state dinner last week in connection with the visit to the United States of Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Jan recently celebrated his 89th birthday, and he has decided to return to Poland—though he will retain his American citizenship. We will certainly miss his wisdom and energy on issues involving Central and Eastern Europe, but we wish him well as he changes his residence.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his departure from the United States and on the occasion of the celebration of American Independence on July 4th, The Washington Post published an article by Jan Nowak—"Thank You, America." The Post not only published Jan's article, it editorially commented on his "Fourth of July thank-you note to the United States for its support of freedom in his native Poland during his nine decades."

As the Post editorial observed, the consistent and steadfast American commitment to freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe—for which Jan Nowak expresses eloquent thanks to the American people—must continue to be an integral part of our nation's foreign policy. We must pursue democracy and respect for human rights with the same tenacity in Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan and Indonesia and China in the current century as we did in Poland and Hungary and Czechoslovakia throughout the Cold War of the last century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Jan Nowak's excellent article be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Nowak for his great contribution to democracy and respect for human rights in the United States, in Poland, and throughout the world.

[From the Washington Post, July 3, 2002]

THANK YOU, AMERICA

(By Jan Nowak)

This July 4, many Americans may feel baffled and disappointed by the waves of anti-Americanism sweeping through countries that, not too long ago, were either saved or helped by the United States. Allies such as France and Great Britain and former enemies such as Germany and Japan benefitted greatly from America's generosity and support in their time of need, as did Belgium, Holland, Italy, Russia, Poland, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and others. Without the United States, some of these countries might no longer exist.

Those of us who remember and remain grateful should no longer remain silent. For people like me—and there are millions of us—this Fourth of July is a good opportunity to say, "Thank you, America." My old country, Poland, is a good example. I was born 89 years ago on the eve of World War I in Warsaw, when Poles were forced to live under the despotic rule of the Russian czars. In 1917 Woodrow Wilson made the restoration of Polish independence one of his 14 conditions for peace. If it had not been for Wilson, Poland might have disappeared forever from the map of Europe. The United States did not have any strategic or economic interests in this remote eastern part of the European continent. But thanks to America, the ambitions of the Hohenzollern empire to dominate all of Europe were thwarted.

The war in Poland did not end in 1918, however. For six more years, the wheels of war rolled over the Polish countryside as Poles fought to repel the invasions of the Red Army. The country was left in ruins. Food was scarce. The undernourished population

was hit by epidemics of typhoid and Spanish flu.

I belong to the generation of children of this era, the early 1920s, who were saved by the benevolent intervention of the United States, in the person of the future president Herbert Hoover. As a private citizen, Hoover organized the emergency supplies of food, medicine and clothing that saved a starving and sick nation. I still remember the tin boxes inscribed "American Relief Committee for Poland."

The Polish state survived, but with no economic resources, no reserves of gold or foreign currencies. Roaring inflation had brought the country to the verge of collapse. The United States came forward once again, providing the Dillon loans, which helped stabilize the Polish economy.

Following the surrender of France in 1940, Hitler was only one step from victory. The United States, by joining Great Britain as it faced alone the greater might of Nazi Germany, and at enormous sacrifice of young American lives, saved European civilization and its values. It is known that Hitler's post-war plans called for elimination of Poland's educated classes, while the rest of the population was to become slave workers.

Once again, the United States saved the lives of millions. I am grateful to have been one of them.

Tragically, the defeat of Nazi Germany did not bring freedom to the nations of east and central Europe. Hitler's tyranny was replaced by Stalin's terror. It was the United States that contained the Soviet Union's drive for domination of Europe. It understood before others that the Cold War would be a struggle for human minds.

One of its major weapons in this war was the skillful use of radio. As a former radio operator with the Polish underground and later a broadcaster with the BBC foreign service, I was recruited in the early 1950s to start the Polish service of Radio Free Europe (RFE). No country but the United States would launch or could have launched such an ambitious undertaking, broadcasting from dawn to midnight.

RFE destroyed the monopoly of the Communist public media and frustrated the efforts of the Soviet Union to isolate the satellite countries from the outside world. Citizens of these countries had only to tune in to the RFE frequency to learn what their governments were attempting to hide from them. People were able to get the information they needed to form their own views, even if they could not speak them. Their minds remained free.

Workers' strikes were banned under communism. So when Polish shipyard workers in Gdansk, led by Lech Walesa, defiantly called a strike in August 1980, the government immediately ordered a news blackout. But within hours, the whole country knew of the workers' resistance and related developments from RFE broadcasts. Because the Communists feared a general strike might follow, they quickly agreed to a compromise settlement with the shipyard workers. Solidarity was born.

The following year, however, the Communist leader, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, sought to destroy the movement by imposing martial law. The United States responded by applying a sophisticated carrot-and-stick policy in which Jaruzelski was never forced into a position where he had nothing to lose and nothing to gain. Economic sanctions were imposed, but economic assistance was promised. The patient and consistent application of this policy over the next eight years resulted in the survival of Solidarity, which emerged triumphant in 1989.

News of this victory spread rapidly to East Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Bucharest and

Sofia, as well as Moscow, through the broadcasts of RFE, Radio Liberty, RIAS (Radio in the American Sector, Berlin) and the Voice of America. The overthrow of Poland's Communist dictatorship inspired millions throughout the Soviet orbit, unleashing an avalanche that brought down the Berlin Wall and led to the reunification of Germany, the self-liberation of the nations of east-central Europe and eventually the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Poland formed the first non-communist government in the former Soviet empire. But the nation's economy remained a disaster area. Again the United States came to the rescue. Poland's first democratic government and the nation's economy were saved by U.S. leadership in proposing and aggressively promoting an emergency international financial assistance package.

In the spring of 1998, I watched from the public gallery of the U.S. Senate as it ratified the admission into NATO of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. For the first time in its history, my old country was not only free but also secure.

Thank you, America.

CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 28th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemorate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people.

It was over a quarter of a century ago that Turkey illegally invaded the island of Cyprus and created one of the most militarized zones in the world on one-third of the island. This invasion resulted in the death of 5,000 Greek Cypriots, and in the expulsion of 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. More than 1,400 people have been missing and unaccounted for since the invasion, including Americans of Cypriot descent. Today, we mourn the deaths of these innocent people and condemn the 28 year occupation of Cyprus by Turkey.

While we honor those who lost their lives in this tragedy, we also must look to the future when the Turkish military forces will withdraw completely and unconditionally from Cyprus, and a bi-zonal and bi-communal republic with respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity can be established. This year marked a turning point in the quest for the independence of Cyprus when both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leadership began direct talks. It is my sincere hope that the division of Cyprus will be rectified by these leaders in the near future.

Nevertheless, it is the obligation of the U.S. Congress to renounce the violence that separated the island nation of Cyprus, and to affirm that the reunification of the island nation is a priority for this Congress and the international community. On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we mourn the losses of the past 28 years, and we continue to encourage the restoration of fundamental freedoms to the people of Cyprus.