

the Vice President and the President placed calls to TOM DASCHLE asking that the fog of ignorance around the events prior to and the day of 9/11 not be lifted.

The fact, however, is that September 11 was not a failure of our nation's defenses. Rather, September 11 was a colossal intelligence failure—a failure to act on timely and accurate warnings predicting massive terrorist attacks against our nation. The LA Times and other leading press agencies have identified some of these missed warnings. And this was not the first time that our intelligence agencies have let us down. The same failure to act on critical warnings happened with respect to the terror attacks against our embassies in Africa.

Even the CIA, the FBI and other senior Capitol Hill figures all now agree that there were serious lapses in the handling of perishable and highly significant warnings preceding the September 11th attacks. But instead of examining what went wrong with respect to these warnings and then trying to prevent it from ever happening again, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY now seek to actually prevent the Congress from investigating these and other events surrounding September 11th. Indeed, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee told CNN: "It was a real massive failure . . . In my judgment too many bureaucratic failures, not enough coordination between the Agencies." The active efforts to prevent a Congressional investigation into the events surrounding September 11 not only violate the principles of good government but are an affront to the memories of all those who perished in the September 11 attacks. But sadly, the Administration now chooses to direct us on a path of war while refusing to allow us to know how we got there.

I have been asked by my constituents to explain to them why and how September 11 happened. Indeed, the whole world community continues to search for answers to those exact questions. That cannot be done if the Executive Branch will not cooperate with the Legislative Branch in answering important questions about what was known before, during, and after the tragedies in New York and Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Why doesn't the Executive Branch want us to know answers to these questions? Is there something that they don't want the American public to know?

Instead of working with the Congress to search for answers to these questions the Administration has now become obsessed with finding ways to expand the U.S. military budget. The White House is now using our new War Against Terror as a means of siphoning public attention away from the events surrounding September 11th in order to generate widespread support for the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. The Administration has even identified a dubious "axis of evil" to further justify this increased spending.

The President has requested an increase of \$48.1 billion in defense spending. Sadly, many commenters have already pointed out that his father stands to personally gain immense profits from the President's proposals because of the former President's relationship with The Carlyle Group, a leading defense conglomerate. One particular defense contract, for the development and purchase of a mobile howitzer, the Crusader, exists with the Carlyle Group. Though the company has received millions for this, the Crusader is too hefty to

transport, has not yet reached its production phase despite years of engineering and re-engineering, and is far from fulfilling its purpose or need.

In his testimony before the Congress Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that America can afford this increase just fine. This comes after defense spending snared a whopping 62 percent of all new spending for the year 2002. This accounting is specious, as Rumsfeld himself noted on the eve of September 11th, that "according to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions." Increased spending should occur under no circumstances without increased financial accountability. Does Arthur Anderson keep the Pentagon's books?

Rumsfeld's trick of throwing bones to would-be critics in the form of pay raises for the troops should not obscure the fact that the bulk of this budget hike goes not for pay raises, but for expensive gadgets such as missile defense, three new, separate fighter planes and space-based lasers. Of the \$48.1 billion requested in more funding, less than 5 percent of that increase is for soldier pay raises. And let us not forget that the President's first act in this war on terrorism was to waive the high-deployment overtime pay for our troops who are on the front line of this war.

I might remind Mr. President that we still have veterans from the Vietnam war suffering from the ill effects of Agent Orange, we still have Vietnam veterans impoverished and sleeping on the streets of our Nation's Capital, we still have veterans from the Gulf War suffering the ill effects of Gulf War syndrome and we still have service men and women in our armed forces living on food stamps and residing in poor housing. How in good conscience can the Secretary of Defense come before this Committee and ask for yet more money for aircraft, ships and missiles and not adequately address these critical issues concerning the personal welfare of our veterans and serving men and women?

Sadly, however, at the same time that the President proposes the largest defense spending hike in 20 years, his budget also proposes to cut funds for programs that bridge the digital divide, reducing funds for highway construction and urban development and cutting funding for the EPA by \$300 million. And despite the down-turned economic situation, the President has also proposed to cut back on job training, assistance for low income home heating, and rural housing and utility improvements. Moreover, funds to cleanup the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex are sliced, and abroad, international food aid and peacekeeping funds are also shrunk.

At \$379.3 billion, the President's proposal will not tell us how just a few months ago during the trial of suspects charged with initially bombing the World Trade Center in 1993, a suspect told U.S. officials that bin Laden's group was trying to make war on the United States and in particular would bomb an embassy, yet we did nothing and lost hundreds of lives in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. Nor will this budget explain the Mossad warning of a major terrorist force of 200 individuals entering the U.S., which apparently again fell on deaf ears. What of the supposed warning to German police by an Iranian in Hamburg of an impending attack on the U.S. using hijacked planes? And nor will this budget illuminate for

us who performed the unusual stock trades on the Friday and Monday before September 11th, but has since decided not to pick up the tidy profit that was made. The U.S. Government is now being sued by survivors of the African embassy blasts because it has become clear that the United States had ample warning but chose to do nothing rather than prevent the loss of life. Given the prior warnings, insider stock trades, and convoluted financial interrelationships, September 11th represents yet another wasted chance to save innocent lives.

The most shocking aspect of the President's request involves the New Defense Strategy to be implemented now. Secretary Rumsfeld testified that a major role now for the U.S. military will be to occupy an opponent's capital and replace his regime. In as much as the Secretary has identified some 60 countries, including our own, that host terror cells, and publicly stated his intention to "drain the swamp," we can only surmise that the U.S. military is now in the business of taking over capitals around the world and replacing regimes . . . starting with Washington, DC.

IN MEMORY OF LOWELL F. RUPP

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a man of my district, Lowell F. Rupp, who passed from this life on Monday, January 7, 2002 at the youthful age of 73. Mr. Rupp was a long-time and much loved civic and business leader in Fulton County, Ohio.

Born on a family farm still operational in Fulton County, Mr. Rupp eventually purchased the farm from his father. He produced corn, soybeans, and wheat, selling the seed as well. Even though I came to know him through politics, for me the picture of Mr. Rupp remains with the land, for he was a farmer in his very soul.

Entering German Township politics, he "sought elective office out of a love for people and a desire to make a difference in their lives." That, indeed, he did. After serving for ten years as a German Township Trustee, Mr. Rupp was elected a Fulton County Commissioner. He served in that position for sixteen years, retiring at the end of his final term in 1994. His tenure as commissioner brought a great deal to the residents of Fulton County: he most assuredly did make a difference in their lives, improving their livelihoods, bringing positive progress to the county and always moving forward. Under his stewardship, the Fulton County Courthouse Plaza, a new county health department building and senior centers in four regions of the county were established. He helped to obtain expansion for water lines into the county and improvements to its fairgrounds.

Those who worked with Mr. Rupp in pursuit of projects benefiting the county—myself included—found him to be a most able and honorable man. One of his colleagues describes him as a "rock-ribbed Republican" who never let partisanship get in the way of doing the best job he could for the public good and noted, "He was a gentleman to work with. We were both opinionated and agreed to disagree." Mr. Rupp practiced a style of politics

from which all could take a lesson, and though driven to achieve what he thought was right, still understood the art of compromise.

A man of great yet quiet faith who lived his beliefs, Mr. Rupp was a lifelong member of the Evangelical Mennonite Church. He was also a member of Gideons International and the Archbold Rotary.

Lowell Rupp and his wife Ardith celebrated nearly 53 years of marriage together. As deeply as he surely loved his family, words can do little to assuage the grief felt now by Mrs. Rupp, their children Beverly, Pamela, Bruce, Larry, and Leslie, sister, brother, and grandchildren. May the tangible legacy he leaves behind in what his public service gave to his community help them as they find their way now. Lowell Rupp's memory, his talent, his energy, and his service are the gifts he has left to his family, and to us. While we are saddened at his passing, we are grateful for his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE RIVERSIDE VETERANS, INC.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to salute the Women's Auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans, Inc., from my hometown of Paterson, NJ. On Sunday, October 21, 2001 the post celebrated a proud moment, its 50th Anniversary.

Having spent my formative years in the Riverside section of Paterson, exercising my ability to honor this group in the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is all the more special.

After our Nation's triumph in the Second World War, our heroes from the Riverside section of Paterson returned home and decided to form, under the guiding hand of founder Tony Tirri, the Riverside Veterans Inc., in 1946. Many of these brave men lived and fought together in the same combat units, forging unbreakable bonds that served as the base of this organization.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this chamber knows it was the collective effort and resolve of our entire country that carried us to decisive victory in 1945. The Riverside Veterans were more than cognizant of this fact, as they took the initiative in rewarding the women who served their country on the homefront. In 1951, the decision was made to form a women's auxiliary.

Under the leadership of the first year officers—President Mary DeNova, Vice President Addie Pacilio, Secretary Dorothy Tirri, Treasurer Dorothy Malizia, Chaplain Pearl Plavan, Service Officer Rosa Palotta, Mistress-At-Arms Connie Barone, and Executive Board members Angie Tateo, Betty Natoli, Julie Cosgrove, and Delma Cuccinello—the highest standards of charity, family values, and community awareness were set for the Women's Auxiliary's of the Riverside Veterans, Inc.

As a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that better embodies its motto, "The Post That Cares," than the Riverside Veterans Auxiliary. My revered predecessor in Congress,

the Hon. Robert A. Roe, succinctly said it best stating. "It would be difficult indeed to find a more dedicated or hard working group of women than the auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans."

I would like to recognize the exceptional current leadership of this venerable institution: President Delma Cuccinello, whose husband Louis is the Commander of Riverside Veterans Inc., Vice President Janet Rigamonti, Secretary Catherine Spina, Treasurer Ruth Gallo, Chaplain Jean Carini, Service Officer Irma Cantilla, Mistress-At-Arms Ann Cirasuolo and Executive Board members Clover Glloriande, Bette Natoli, Dolly Gorga, Ida Ponte, and Holly Hintzen. These current leaders have carried on the noble precedents set by the founding members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the City of Paterson, veterans across the nation, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of the Women's Auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans Inc.

TRIBUTE TO 125 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE FITCHBURG SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valuable service of the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, located in north Worcester County at the eastern end of my district. On March 4, 2002, the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club will hold its 125th annual banquet celebrating a long and impressive record of serving the local community.

The Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club first met in the late 19th century to organize sportsmen, hold competitions and promote responsible gun ownership. Since then, the Club has continued these activities, and its members have used the Club as a platform to discuss important issues affecting gun owners and the public. There is evidence that the Club originated for the purpose of supporting laws to preserve and protect fish and game, thereby helping to maintain the environmental integrity of the Commonwealth. The Club has also worked with local law enforcement and community leaders to promote gun safety, provide instruction for gun owners, and promote responsible gun etiquette.

Through its varied activities, the Sportsmen's Club has proven to be an influential and beneficial voice in the city of Fitchburg. As the Club reflects on its past accomplishments, I encourage its members to continue their role as instructors and community organizers.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catholic High School in Huntsville, AL, as it kicks off its annual "Community Serv-

ice Day." Today, Catholic High seniors will go out into the community to volunteer their time and hard work throughout Huntsville.

Part of Catholic High School's mission statement is "to serve the families of our Catholic parishes and the wider community." They pledge to guide students into loving service of others through activities such as "Community Service Day." Catholic High School has a student faith development initiative that includes giving back to their community through service and outreach, and becoming more aware of the needs of others. Every year, students are required to spend 100 hours volunteering in the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Catholic High School and each member of its senior class for their strong commitment to serving others. This kind of outreach is extremely beneficial to the Huntsville community as well as to each student as they grow and learn about what it means to reach out to those who are in need. I wish them the best and sincerely thank them as they go out today to serve our community.

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—REAR ADMIRAL HERSCHEL GOLDBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today and pay tribute to a dear friend and true American patriot, Rear Admiral Herschel Goldberg, who recently passed away at his San Mateo home.

Rear Admiral Goldberg was born in Highland, Kansas and raised in St. Joseph, Missouri before graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935. After a year at the Navy Finance and Supply School, Rear Admiral Goldberg was transferred to the U.S. Navy supply corps. During World War II he was stationed in the South Pacific. He served as the Supply Officer of the Navy bases at Bora Bora and Guadalcanal before being promoted to Commanding Officer of the Naval Supply Depot in Noumea, New Caledonia. Mr. Speaker, it was at Noumea, where Rear Admiral Goldberg did what he described as the, "most soul satisfying thing I've done in my entire career." By racially integrating his 2,000 enlisted men work force, Rear Admiral Goldberg advanced the cause of racial equality.

After the war, Rear Admiral Goldberg received his MBA from Harvard Business School and then served as Logistics Planning Officer on General Eisenhower's NATO staff. After being promoted to Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Supply Corps, he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and Paymaster General of the Navy. In 1966 he became the first commander to be officially named Chief of Supply Corps, where he played a dominate role in the continued development of a strong, centrally coordinated and fully integrated supply system that was essential for the maintenance and preservation of the United States as a global naval power. For his extraordinary service to the Navy Rear Admiral Goldberg was awarded both the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.