

as is hope, the opposite occurs. The Iraqi citizens anxious to get rid of Hussien join in his defense, believing foreign occupation and control of their oil is far worse than living under the current dictator. Already we see that sanctions have done precisely that. Instead of blaming Saddam Hussien and his dictatorial regime for the suffering of the past decade, the Iraqi people blame the U.S.-led sanctions and the constant bombing by the U.S. and British. Hussien has increased his power and the people have suffered from the war against Iraq since 1991. There are a lot of reasons to believe this same reaction will occur with an escalation of our military attacks. Training disidents like the Iraqi National Congress will prove no more reliable than the training and the military assistance we provided in the 70's and the 80's for Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussien when they qualified as U.S. "allies."

Pre-emptive war against Iraq may well prompt traditional enemies in the regions to create new alliances, as the hatred for America comes to exceed age-old hatreds that caused regional conflicts. Iraq already has made overtures and concessions to Iran and Kuwait, with some signs of conciliation being shown by both sides. Total domination of the entire Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea regions by the U.S. will surely stir survival instincts in these countries as well as in Russia. As the balance of power continues to shift in the U.S.'s favor, there will be even more reasons for countries like China and Pakistan to secretly support the nations that are being subjected to U.S. domination in the region. The U.S. will never have a free ride in its effort to control the entire world's oil supply. Antagonisms are bound to build, and our ability to finance the multiple military conflicts that are bound to come is self-limited.

The Kurds may jump at the chance, if chaos ensues, to fulfill their dream of an independent Kurdish homeland. This, of course, will stir ire of the Turks and the Iranians. Instead of stability for northern Iraq, the war likely will precipitate more fighting than the war planners ever imagined. Delivering Kurdish Iraq to Turkey as a prize for its cooperation with our war plans will not occur without a heated and deadly struggle. Turkey is already deeply concerned about the prospect for Kurdish independence, and only remains loyal to America because U.S. taxpayers are forced to subsidize an already depressed Turkish economy caused by our Iraqi policies. More money will pacify for a while, but either frustration with the perpetual nature of the problem or our inability to continue the financial bailout will lead Turkey to have second thoughts about its obedience to our demands to wage war from their country. All of this raises the odds that Islamic radicals will once more take control of the Turkish government. These developing conditions increase the odds of civil strife erupting in Turkey.

Islamic fundamentalism in the entire region will get a shot in the arm once the invasion of Iraq begins, especially in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Turkey. Our placing the Shah in power in Iran in the 1950's was a major reason that the Ayatollah eventually made it to power in the late 1970's—a delayed but nevertheless direct consequence of our policy. Balance of power in this area of the world has always been delicate, and outside interference serves only to destabilize. There's no evi-

dence that our current efforts will lead to more stability. Promoting democracy, as it's said we're doing, is a farce. If elections were to occur in most of the Arab countries today, Osama bin Laden and his key allies would win. Besides, it seems we adapt quite well to working with military dictators that have ousted elected leaders, as we do in Pakistan by rewarding their cooperation with huge subsidies and future promises.

In the chaos that may erupt, several countries might see an opportunity to move on their neighbors. Already we have been warned that cooperation from Russia means no American criticism or resistance to its moves in Georgia or Chechnya. China could attack Taiwan. North Korea could renew its struggle against South Korea. India may see this as an opportunity to settle the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan—with the real risk of nuclear war breaking out. It seems the obsession about Iraq's improbable possession of nuclear weapons far exceeds the more realistic possibility that our pre-emptive strike against Iraq may precipitate a nuclear exchange between these two countries, or even a first strike with nuclear weapons by Israel against Iraq.

Expect Israel to use the chaos to further promote their occupation and settlements in the Palestinian homeland and possibly even in Lebanon. Israel's possession of nuclear weapons in a period of outright war will surely serve to intimidate her neighbors and intensify her efforts to further expand the Israeli homeland.

If massive Iraqi civilian casualties result, as indeed is possible though not deliberate, expect more worldwide condemnation and even a U.N. resolution condemning what others will call American War Crimes. Our refusal to be subject to the International Criminal Court, while demanding other be tried in the court, will never sit well with the world community. Our position is a far cry from what it ought to be demanding national sovereignty while promoting neutrality and friendship with all nations.

Our own CIA has warned that war with Iraq will more likely cause Saddam Hussien to use any massively lethal weapons that he might have than if we don't attack him. Also, they warned that the likelihood of al Qaeda attacks on our own soil will increase once an invasion begins. This, of course, could be a wave of well-placed snipers around the United States.

It is now admitted that over 150,000 U.S. servicemen are suffering from Persian Gulf War Syndrome as a result of the first Persian Gulf War. Our government would like to ignore this fact, but a new war literally could create an epidemic of casualties of the same sort, since the exact etiology is not completely understood. The number of deaths and injuries that might occur from an occupation of Iraq is unknown, but conceivably could be much higher than anyone wants to imagine.

Anti Americanism now seeping the world will significantly increase once we launch our attack. Already we have seen elections swayed in Europe, Turkey, and Pakistan by those unfriendly to the United States. The attitude that the world's "King of the Hill" must be brought down will escalate, especially if the war goes poorly and does not end quickly with minimal civilian deaths.

Al Qaeda likely will get a real boost in membership once the war breaks out. Membership is already pervasive throughout the world without any centralized control. We should expect

this to continue, with an explosion in membership and a negative impact around the world. Our attack will confirm to the doubters that bin Laden was right in assessing our desire to control the Middle Eastern resources and dictate policy to the entire region while giving support to Israel over the Palestinians.

Our very weak economy could easily collapse with the additional burden of a costly war. War is never a way to make the people of a country better off. It does not end recessions, and is much more likely to cause one or make one much worse. A significant war will cause revenues to decrease, taxes to increase, inflation to jump, encourage trade wars, and balloon the deficit. Oil prices will soar and the dollar will retreat ever further.

Already we're hearing demands for a military draft to be instituted for both men and women. I see that coming, and it will serve as another source of domestic friction as our economy deteriorates and unemployment rises. Under these conditions the standard of living for all Americans is destined to go down.

This war, if of any significant duration, in time will be seen as a Republican war plain and simple. Along with a weak economy, it could easily usher in a "regime change" here in the United States. The conditions may justify a change in leadership, but the return of control to the opposition party will allow them to use the opportunity to promote their domestic liberal agenda and socialize the entire economy.

The net result, regardless of the size and duration of the coming war, will be that the people of the United States will be less free and much poorer. The bigger the war, the greater will be the suffering.

IN HONOR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF CONGRESSMAN BOB CLEMENT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend, our colleague BOB CLEMENT, who is completing a distinguished 14-year career in the House of Representatives. BOB and I both began our service after special elections in 1988, and we have served together on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I have had the chance to get to know his wife Mary and their children, and I wish them all the best as they begin this new phase of their lives.

BOB CLEMENT has upheld a fine family tradition of public service, following the example of his father, who served as Governor of Tennessee. BOB served in the Army and the Tennessee Army National guard, was elected to the Public Service Commission and later appointed by President Carter to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. After success in the private sector, he became president of Cumberland University. BOB carried all of these experiences to Congress, working hard on behalf of our nation's veterans, particularly on Gulf War Syndrome issues, and focusing on the transportation needs of the country. He served as co-chair of the House Education Caucus and passed legislation dealing with the increasing problem of identity theft.

While his legislative accomplishments are substantial, BOB may be best remembered for the manner in which he achieved them. Ever the southern gentleman, BOB CLEMENT has defined comity during an increasingly partisan era. He worked well across the aisle and I hope we can keep his collegial spirit alive despite his absence. In this way, BOB has truly left his mark on this institution, and it is without doubt a better place for his having been here.

Mr. Speaker, I know all of our colleagues will join me in thanking BOB CLEMENT for his friendship and his dedicated service to the United States of America. Knowing BOB, his long, exemplary career will not end here. I look forward to the next chapter.

HERB YASSKY

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, during the 106th Congress, the following statement was submitted for entry into the RECORD but was inadvertently lost. It is imperative that I re-submit this tribute to an outstanding American Point-of-Light.

HERB YASSKY: A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS

Herb Yassky sometimes seems to be climbing perpetually uphill with his efforts to bring medical supplies and equipment to Haiti and other underdeveloped countries. The problems multiply and the disappointments mushroom but Herb toils on in his almost singlehanded effort. He refuses to surrender when a container of hospital supplies is stuck on the docks of Port-au-Prince because there is no money to pay for transportation and the added cost of storage. Because he is quietly stubborn and intensely compassionate about his mission, Herb finds a way to deliver his vitally needed goods. In his spare time, as a volunteer, Herb has sent more than fourteen forty-foot containers of supplies to not-for-profit institutions overseas. This represents just one of many causes in the mosaic of Herb Yassky's Lifetime Struggle and Achievement.

A New Yorker by birth, Herb Yassky attended Stuyvesant High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University, studied Business Administration at Columbia University and became an executive in the electronics industry. He has served on the Board of the Shorefront YMWHA, the Board of Brooklyn Jewish Hospital and many civic organizations. Presently he serves as a Trustee of the Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center and as President of the Rutland Nursing Home. Joining him in his generous contributions to the community is his wife, Paula.

Moved by the plight of poverty in Haiti, as well as other third world nations, Mr. Yassky founded "Medical Aid for Haiti" and for years worked closely with the New York Consul General, Phillipe Wilson Desir. The two of them teamed up for radio and television programs to make the public aware of the vital need for help in Haiti.

Herb Yassky presently serves as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Health Care Advisory Committee where he works with Congressman Owens to expand his quest for adequate health care for all. Under Herb's leadership the hospitals of the Central Brooklyn Medical Complex-Kingsbrook,

Kingsboro, Kings County, Brookdale and SUNY Downstate Medical Center have collectively become an important developable site in the Brooklyn Federal Empowerment Zone Plan. With Owens, Herb shares the dream of a Clarkson Avenue area where the threat of homeless shelters and detention centers will cease to exist because all available space is occupied by health care related organizations. Facilities for computer related health occupations training; a high school for health care careers; a medical supply shopping mall; offices for doctors and therapists; these are a few of the dreams that may be turned into brick and mortar realities. Yassky is an advocate and a planner who attends to the details and makes great things happen.

Because he is a tireless Champion for Health Care and Human Life, the people of Central Brooklyn are proud to salute Herb Yassky for his Lifetime Struggle and Achievement.

CONGRATULATING THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 14, 2002

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, the Southwest Georgia Regional Public Library System, the sole library provider for the 44,000 residents of Decatur, Miller and Seminole counties, is a recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services, which is recognized as the highest honor that can be earned for community service by the nation's 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which sponsors the award program, could not have made a more worthy choice.

The Southwest Georgia Regional System, often partnering with other community organizations, reaches out in innovative ways to serve a widely dispersed population in the cities and rural areas it serves, including initiatives to raise the educational levels of low-income families. The system sponsors literacy programs, provides full access to the World Wide Web, and maintains close, ongoing support for schools and social service organizations. Utilizing a state-of-the-art bookmobile, the system makes books available to schools, nursing homes, and community centers. It provides special services for the handicapped. It sponsors historic projects and programs. In many different ways, it is helping raise the quality of life throughout a widespread area of southwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the people who make the Southwest Georgia Regional Library System one of the country's very best.

THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Community of Oak

Park, Illinois. I take great pride in expressing my delight and heart felt congratulations as we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Village of Oak Park.

Historically, Oak Park is a community in the Chicago area that has made significant contributions to diversity and is a model for other emerging American communities. Since the 1960's Oak Parkers have seriously planned for the evolution and development of their community. The Village of Oak Park has refused to maintain itself as a status quo neighborhood in the Chicago area. The integration of black and white residents has been a key component in the development of this unique neighborhoods. As the community began to change, the Village government took action by enacting an Open Housing Ordinance in 1968, a statement supporting integrated housing. In 1973 Village Trustees created a policy statement, "Maintaining Diversity in Oak Park." These policies created the building blocks for a community now designated an "All American City."

Revolutionary action was taken by the Village and initiated during a time when visible racial transformation was needed throughout Chicago neighborhoods. Based on the initiatives of the Village of Oak Park, it has become the home of people from various occupations, professions, ages, and income levels.

Oak Park has produced a number of notable people who have made significant contributions to our world in their receptive fields of endeavor. To name just a few, in literature, Ernest Hemingway, and Carol Shields who is one of the finalists for the Man Booker Prize for literature this year. Percy Lavon Julian, an African American Research Chemist whose research led to discoveries in drug manufacturing, hormones, vitamins, amino acids, paint, and paper, Carl Rogers in psychotherapy, other of its better known have been Edgar Rice Burroughs of Tarzan fame, residents are Ray Kroc in fast food restaurants, and Frank Lloyd Wright an architectural genius, who has designed many of the world's most famous structures and buildings, many of which are a part of Oak Park's visible legacy. There is great need to maintain and commemorate the cultural richness and diversity of this unique village.

The Gale Research Center of the Historical Society is a research center, which is a repository of photos, publication, and artifacts that highlight the community's history. Complimented by this are exhibits and special programs that assist in public education. Oak Park can proudly boasts of the Oak Forest River Forest Public H.S. and Fenwick H.S. an outstanding Catholic Parochial School. Centennial celebrations mark the communities effort to proclaim and instill the historical legacy of the Village of Oak Park. The advocacy of community members has been instrumental in nurturing the excellence of Oak Park and in helping to shape public policy. There is virtually no issue that I don't hear from someone in Oak Park about. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Village of Oak Park is one of the most fascinating communities in our country and I commend them as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.