

if the Ambassador from the United States to England wrote a poem extolling terrorism and attacking the leader of an ally, the President of the United States would have his or her head on a platter the next day. They would be fired.

What would happen if an ambassador of the United States to another great country wrote a poem that extolled the virtues of some Saudi citizen who—like bin Laden—attempted to assassinate or was engaged in a plot to do harm to the royal family? What would the Saudis expect of us? What would the Saudis, or any civilized nation, expect the United States President to do? They would expect him to do exactly what he would do: Fire the person on the spot, and vocally, in more than one language, disavow the poetry.

Since September 11, we have become all too familiar with the term “madrassa,” a term probably few had ever heard of in the United States. We have learned that madrassas are religious schools. We have learned the extent to which funds from Saudi Arabia have supported madrassas, over 7,000 of them in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. We have learned that many madrassas indoctrinate children with distorted and hateful ideas.

But now we have learned that the problem with education is not simply outside of Saudi Arabian borders, but within the kingdom itself. According to an article in last October's New York Times, 10th grade textbooks in Saudi Arabia warn students to “consider the infidel their enemy.”

Saudis claim such quotes are taken out of context, but in what context is religious prejudice acceptable?

Of course, hateful diatribes and words of incitement also are found in Palestinian textbooks.

While Arafat is talking about peace in Oslo, the textbooks in the West Bank talk about “the hated Jew.” And they have long been accompanied by schoolroom maps in the Middle East that pointedly do not show, even on a map, Israel as a state. When our Saudi friends argue their support and funding for Palestinian causes is for humanitarian and educational purposes, I think it is fair to ask why they continue to turn a blind eye toward this fomenting of hate that exists in their region and their country.

I mention these examples to illustrate why there is a disconnect when we hear Saudi leaders talk of making peace with Israel.

Peace will not happen by itself. It has to be nurtured. Certainly those Arab nations we put in the moderate camp ought to prepare their people for the “normal, peaceful relations” they espoused in Beirut. If the Crown Prince means what he says about normal, peaceful relations with Israel—and I believe he does—then it is time for his government to prepare Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab world for this new day. No responsible leaders want to see bloodshed continue in the Middle

East. We all want for it to end immediately. All of us would like to see a peaceful settlement. To make it happen, everyone—everyone—must shoulder responsibility.

It is time for big nations and serious leaders to stand up, to stand up and speak the truth. It is time for nations with the ability to directly influence events to exercise simply mature leadership.

I am not expecting the Saudis to all of a sudden take a pro-Israeli position. But I am expecting, I do demand of them as a civilized nation and a mature country, to do the right thing.

The United States must do its part, too. I have urged the administration to increase its involvement, not only in resolving the current crisis but also convening an international peace conference that would move the parties quickly to a political solution or at least provide a political horizon.

The Arab world must demonstrate mature leadership as well. It cannot simply demand that the United States abandon Israel, something we will never do.

Let me say that again: Something we will never do. Over my dead physical political body will we ever abandon Israel. But that does not mean we believe everything Israel does is right. It does mean, though, we will fight for Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Mature leadership means taking risks and confronting those forces that hinder progress—not abetting those forces.

Mature leadership means condemning terrorism—not extolling the virtues of “martyrdom.”

Mature leadership means halting the flow of funds to terrorists—not providing financial incentives for more terror.

Mature leadership means creating an educational system that provides the foundation for future progress—not text and textbooks that promote religious bigotry.

Mature leadership means being responsive to the legitimate demands of one's citizen for political openness and transparency—not stifling dissent and exporting your problems elsewhere.

Mature leadership means sitting down with the Israelis and talking peace—not treating them as pariahs.

I find it fascinating that the President was criticized for authorizing and directing the Secretary of State to sit down with the person who many Israelis consider a pariah—Yasser Arafat. The Saudis thought that was essential. Why will they not sit down? Why will they not sit down with a man who is the elected leader of Israel, regardless of whether or not they think on the West Bank he is a pariah as many Israelis and Americans think is the case with Mr. Arafat?

The President has shown mature leadership. I may disagree with his approach, but why is it expected of us and not of them?

As the birthplace of Islam and the land of the holiest Muslim sites, Saudi Arabia has a critical role to play in resolving one of the most intractable conflicts of our time.

This is an opportunity for the Saudi Royal Family to make a real contribution to peace. They have taken the first steps with bold action that holds out hope for peace as they presented their peace plan.

Now let them take the next step of mature, consistent leadership. Let them denounce the Palestinian leadership that uses terror to gain political leverage. Let them denounce hateful language. Let them denounce the incitement to violence in textbooks and in the media.

I hope they will take the next step so the Saudi initiative will not become just another missed opportunity—an interesting footnote in history.

I hope our relationship with the Saudis can improve. I hope the Saudi Arabian citizens can begin to enjoy the freedom they deserve.

But these things can only occur with farsighted, mature leadership.

There has never been a time when we have needed such leadership more than it is needed now. I hope that kind of leadership will enable our two countries to move forward together to achieve progress and peace—not just for the Israelis and Palestinians but for all the people of the Middle East.

I urge the administration to increase its involvement—not only in the present circumstance but beyond.

Let us be honest. This is a historic opportunity. The Saudis have made a significant proposal. I beg them, do not squander the opportunity to be remembered for the century as the party and the force that was the catalyst for bringing an end to the suffering of the people in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAN L. LOCKER, COMMANDER, 81ST MEDICAL GROUP AND LEAD AGENT, TRICARE REGION IV

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize one of the finest officers in the U.S. Air Force, Brigadier General Dan L. Locker. On July 31, 2002, General Locker will retire from the Air Force and his positions as Commander of the 81st Medical Group, Keesler Medical Center, Keesler Air Force Base, MS, and Lead Agent for Department of Defense TRICARE Region IV. During his time at Keesler Air Force Base, General Locker has exemplified the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all endeavors. Many Members and staff have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him on a variety of Department of Defense health care issues and have come to appreciate his many talents. Today it is my privilege to recognize some of Dan's many accomplishments since he

entered the military 30 years ago, and to commend the superb service he provided the Air Force, the Congress, and our Nation.

Dan Locker was commissioned in the Air Force Reserve in 1970 through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. A proud Texan, he completed his bachelor's degree in biology at Southwest Texas State College in 1967. He entered active duty in 1972, and received his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1973 from the University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio. He then completed residencies in family practice at Scott Air Force Base, IL, and general surgery at Keesler Air Force Base, MS. An active chief flight surgeon, General Locker has logged more than 1,000 hours of flight time in numerous military aircraft, including 21 combat missions and 25 combat hours.

From early in his career, General Locker's exceptional leadership skills were always evident to both superiors and subordinates as he repeatedly proved himself in numerous select command positions. He was the Chief of Surgical Services in his first post-residency assignment at Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID. From there, he went overseas to serve as Chief of General Surgery and Director of U.S. Air Forces in Europe Flying Ambulance Surgical Trauma teams in Wiesbaden, Germany. While in Germany, he also was the military consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for general surgery. Next, he moved to the Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, where he served as deputy commander for hospital services. Then it was back to Texas to command, first, the 96th Strategic Hospital at Dyess Air Force Base, and then the 82nd Medical Group at Sheppard Air Force Base. After proving his staff proficiency as Director of Medical Service Officer Management at the Air Force Military Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, TX, then-Colonel Locker, was summoned to be the Command Surgeon at Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe in Ramstein Air Base, Germany. While in that position, he was responsible for management, resources, and oversight of all health care provided at 12 Air Force clinics, hospitals, and medical centers throughout Europe.

In 1997, Dan Locker was promoted to brigadier general, and was selected for his current high-profile position as commander of the second largest medical center in the Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base in the great State of Mississippi. General Locker took Keesler Medical Center to new heights, earning the 81st Medical Group the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Department of Defense TRICARE Customer Service Award, and the TRICARE Access to Care Award. The TRICARE honors resulted in a \$100,000 cash award, that was used to improve the quality of life and benefit the more than 2,000 health care professionals of the 81st Medical Group at Keesler. General Locker has worked diligently to

hone the military professionalism of the "Combat Medics" at Keesler Medical Center, which is responsible for the direct delivery of health care to more than 50,000 patients in the Keesler area, and provides referral and consultative services to an additional 605,000 beneficiaries in a 5-State region.

As Lead Agent for TRICARE Region IV, General Locker is responsible for the direction of all managed health care activities at 23 military treatment facilities throughout all of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and parts of Louisiana and Florida. In addition, through a \$4 billion contract with Humana Military Healthcare Services, he is responsible for the provision of care to all military beneficiaries in the region. The Managed Care Support Contract relationship with Humana was so strong that both parties were recognized by the National Managed Health Care Congress with the 2001 AstraZeneca Partnership Award for improving the delivery of health care throughout the Gulf-South Region.

A dynamic and skilled lecturer, General Locker has delivered presentations around the world on a variety of clinical and technological health care issues to a broad range of audiences, both military and civilian. Still active in his surgical practice, he spends a week each winter, leading a team on a humanitarian mission trip to Mexico to help provide much-needed care to rural and under-served patients. Just last week, he was presented the prestigious Excalibur Award by the Society of Air Force Clinical Surgeons for demonstrating the highest personal dedication, surgical competence, and providing leadership and vision to further advance the field of surgery.

I offer my congratulations to Dan, his wife, Cynthia, daughters, Valerie and Rachel, and son, Ryan. The Congress and the country applaud the selfless commitment his entire family has made to the Nation in supporting his military career.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to General Locker. He is a credit to both the Air Force and the United States. We wish our friend the best of luck in his retirement and we look forward to working with General Locker in his next career.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL ROOSEVELT "TED" MERCER, JR., COMMANDANT, JOINT FORCES STAFF COLLEGE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize one of the finest officers in the United States Air Force, Brigadier General Roosevelt "Ted" Mercer, Jr. On May 9, 2002, General Mercer will become the Commandant of Joint Forces Staff College at the National Defense University in Norfolk, VA. He will be leaving the job as Commander of the 81st Training Wing at Keesler AFB MS, a position he has held and executed

with great pride, leadership, and honor. During his time at Keesler, as Commander of the 81st Training Wing, General Mercer personified the Air Force core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence in all things. Many Members and staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him on a variety of Air Force issues and came to appreciate his many talents. Today it is my privilege to recognize some of Ted's many accomplishments since he entered the military 27 years ago, and to commend the superb service he provided the Air Force, the Congress and our Nation.

Ted Mercer entered the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. While there, he completed his bachelor's degree in urban planning in 1975, as well as being a distinguished graduate of the university's ROTC program. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, where he became proficient in Titan II missile combat crew operations, so much so that by 1980 he became an instructor in missile combat crew operations at Vandenberg.

From early in his career, General Mercer's exceptional leadership skills were always evident to both superiors and subordinates as he repeatedly proved himself in numerous select command positions. He was the Commander of the 447th Strategic Missile Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota; Commander of the 45th Logistics Group at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida; and at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota he was Commander of the 91st Operations Group. In June 1998, he assumed command of the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. As I've stated earlier, he superbly led the 81st Training Wing at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi from September 2000 until May 2002.

Ted Mercer also has excelled in a variety of key staff assignments. These include serving as Deputy Director of Operations, Headquarters U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; Vice Director of Plans, Directorate of Plans, Headquarters U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; Chief, Nuclear Division, Directorate of Plans and Policy, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany; and Executive Officer, Directorate of Personnel Plans, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington DC. General Mercer also served as Chief of Congressional Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force in Washington DC, and has been awarded a Defense Superior Service Medal and Legion of Merit among other decorations.

We were all pleased to see General Mercer selected as Commandant of the Joint Forces Staff College at the National Defense University in Norfolk, VA. I offer my congratulations to him,