

the past, have been willing to make a bargain, to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability. Longstanding ties often led us to overlook the faults of local elites. Yet this bargain did not bring stability or make us safe. It merely bought time, while problems festered and ideologies of violence took hold.

As recent history has shown, we cannot turn a blind eye to oppression just because the oppression is not in our own backyard. No longer should we think tyranny is benign because it is temporarily convenient. Tyranny is never benign to its victims, and our great democracies should oppose tyranny wherever it is found. (Applause.)

Now we're pursuing a different course, a forward strategy of freedom in the Middle East. We will consistently challenge the enemies of reform and confront the allies of terror. We will expect a higher standard from our friends in the region, and we will meet our responsibilities in Afghanistan and in Iraq by finishing the work of democracy we have begun.

There were good-faith disagreements in your country and mine over the course and timing of military action in Iraq. Whatever has come before, we now have only two options: to keep our word, or to break our word. The failure of democracy in Iraq would throw its people back into misery and turn that country over to terrorists who wish to destroy us. Yet democracy will succeed in Iraq, because our will is firm, our word is good, and the Iraqi people will not surrender their freedom. (Applause.)

Since the liberation of Iraq, we have seen changes that could hardly have been imagined a year ago. A new Iraqi police force protects the people, instead of bullying them. More than 150 Iraqi newspapers are now in circulation, printing what they choose, not what they're ordered. Schools are open with textbooks free of propaganda. Hospitals are functioning and are well-supplied. Iraq has a new currency, the first battalion of a new army, representative local governments, and a Governing Council with an aggressive timetable for national sovereignty. This is substantial progress. And much of it has proceeded faster than similar efforts in Germany and Japan after World War II.

Yet the violence we are seeing in Iraq today is serious. And it comes from Baathist holdouts and Jihadists from other countries, and terrorists drawn to the prospect of innocent bloodshed. It is the nature of terrorism and the cruelty of a few to try to bring grief in the loss to many. The armed forces of both our countries have taken losses, felt deeply by our citizens. Some families now live with a burden of great sorrow. We cannot take the pain away. But these families can know they are not alone. We pray for their strength; we pray for their comfort; and we will never forget the courage of the ones they loved.

The terrorists have a purpose, a strategy to their cruelty. They view the rise of democracy in Iraq as a powerful threat to their ambitions. In this, they are correct. They believe their acts of terror against our coalition, against international aid workers and against innocent Iraqis, will make us recoil and retreat. In this, they are mistaken. (Applause.)

We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq and pay a bitter cost of casualties, and liberate 25 million people, only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins. (Applause.) We will help the Iraqi people establish a peaceful and democratic country in the heart of the Middle East. And by doing so, we will defend our people from danger.

The forward strategy of freedom must also apply to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It's a difficult period in a part of the world that has

known many. Yet, our commitment remains firm. We seek justice and dignity. We seek a viable, independent state for the Palestinian people, who have been betrayed by others for too long. (Applause.) We seek security and recognition for the state of Israel, which has lived in the shadow of random death for too long. (Applause.) These are worthy goals in themselves, and by reaching them we will also remove an occasion and excuse for hatred and violence in the broader Middle East.

Achieving peace in the Holy Land is not just a matter of the shape of a border. As we work on the details of peace, we must look to the heart of the matter, which is the need for a viable Palestinian democracy. Peace will not be achieved by Palestinian rulers who intimidate opposition, who tolerate and profit from corruption and maintain their ties to terrorist groups. These are the methods of the old elites, who time and again had put their own self-interest above the interest of the people they claim to serve. The long-suffering Palestinian people deserve better. They deserve true leaders, capable of creating and governing a Palestinian state.

Even after the setbacks and frustrations of recent months, goodwill and hard effort can bring about a Palestinian state and a secure Israel. Those who would lead a new Palestine should adopt peaceful means to achieve the rights of their people and create the reformed institutions of a stable democracy.

Israel should freeze settlement construction, dismantle unauthorized outposts, and the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people, and not prejudice final negotiations with the placements of walls and fences.

Arab states should end incitement in their own media, cut off public and private funding for terrorism, and establish normal relations with Israel.

Leaders in Europe should withdraw all favor and support from any Palestinian ruler who fails his people and betrays their cause. And Europe's leaders—and all leaders—should strongly oppose anti-Semitism, which poisons public debates over the future of the Middle East. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have great objectives before us that make our Atlantic alliance as vital as it has ever been. We will encourage the strength and effectiveness of international institutions. We will use force when necessary in the defense of freedom. And we will raise up an ideal of democracy in every part of the world. On these three pillars we will build the peace and security of all free nations in a time of danger.

So much good has come from our alliance of conviction and might. So much now depends on the strength of this alliance as we go forward. America has always found strong partners in London, leaders of good judgment and blunt counsel and backbone when times are tough. And I have found all those qualities in your current Prime Minister, who has my respect and my deepest thanks. (Applause.)

The ties between our nations, however, are deeper than the relationship between leaders. These ties endure because they are formed by the experience and responsibilities and adversity we have shared. And in the memory of our peoples, there will always be one experience, one central event when the seal was fixed on the friendship between Britain and the United States: The arrival in Great Britain of more than 1.5 million American soldiers and airmen in the 1940s was a turning point in the Second World War. For many Britons, it was a first close look at Americans, other than in the movies. Some of you here today may still remember the "friendly invasion." Our lads, they took some getting used to. There was even a saying about what many of them were up to—in addition to be "overpaid and over here." (Laughter.)

At a reunion in North London some years ago, an American pilot who had settled in England after his military service, said, "Well, I'm still over here, and probably overpaid. So two out of three isn't bad." (Laughter.)

In that time of war, the English people did get used to the Americans. They welcomed soldiers and fliers into their villages and homes, and took to calling them, "our boys." About 70,000 of those boys did their part to affirm our special relationship. They returned home with English brides.

Americans gained a certain image of Britain, as well. We saw an island threatened on every side, a leader who did not waver, and a country of the firmest character. And that has not changed. The British people are the sort of partners you want when serious work needs doing. The men and women of this Kingdom are kind and steadfast and generous and brave. And America is fortunate to call this country our closest friend in the world.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

VETERAN TRIBUTE FOR CAPTAIN HENRY (HANK) SCHEIBLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Captain Henry (Hank) Scheible.

Captain Scheible served our country during the Vietnam War in the United States Air Force. He flew 102 combat missions with over 500 hours of navigation combat time. Captain Scheible holds the Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Captain Scheible is also a recipient of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and two Vietnam Service Medals.

At a time when we are once again at war, it is necessary to recognize the achievements of these national heroes. Due to their dedication, service, and sacrifice, they deserve our unwavering admiration and our unending gratitude.

Our country often takes for granted the freedoms and liberties our service men and women risk their lives to protect; yet by continuing to honor our veterans we preserve our nation's future by commemorating their past.

Thank you, Captain Scheible, for your service and sacrifice. You are a true hero.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES HARRY J. KLIENKAUF, CHIEF OF POLICE CRANBURY, NJ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Chief Harry J. Klienkauf, who has served the Cranbury Police Department and the people of Cranbury for 32 years and as chief for 12 years.

In his 32 years of service he has seen the department quadruple in size from four officers to 16. And under his leadership plans for a new police station have become a reality. The

16 officers will no longer have to work in a doublewide trailer, but will have a fully functional station to better serve the community.

Along with his commitment to the department, he has spent numerous hours in the schools teaching children the importance of safety. He established a first aid patrol for students, teaching them the fundamental skills that can save lives.

Aside from being a hardworking and dedicated police officer, Chief Klienkauf found time in his day to volunteer as a firefighter in his hometown. He also spent years serving on the local first aid squad. He remains an active member of the New Jersey State Association of Police Chiefs and the Middlesex County Association of Chiefs of Police.

As an inspiration to police officers in his department and the state of New Jersey, Chief Klienkauf has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING WALTER J. STYER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter J. Styer, retiring Supervisor of Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and commend him for his lifelong service to our community.

When Walter Styer first took office as Supervisor, Upper Uwchlan Township was a rural farming community with only 1,200 residents. Today, after three decades of continuing growth and development, there are now 7,000. As the community has grown, so has the job of supervisor. Mr. Styer's primary responsibility during his time in office has been to make sure that Upper Uwchlan grew responsibly and that the needs and desires of its citizens were continually met. In the beginning, his meetings would take 20 min, and would revolve around paying the bills and reading the road report. In recent years, it has not been uncommon to have multiple meetings in a single week for several hours at a time. His participation in the supervising of a rapidly growing community is a true testament to his commitment and his willingness to adapt to the increasing demands of the position. Over the years, as more and more time was required as supervisor, Walter Styer still found time to run his own businesses, remain active in his church and raise four children. What has kept him going all these years was his desire to see all of his projects and undertakings to a successful conclusion—a testament to his character and drive. His tremendous leadership and experience as been an enormous asset to Upper Uwchlan Township and has allowed it to grow responsibly and successfully for all these years.

Mr. Speaker. I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Walter J. Styer for his lifetime of exemplary citizenship and civil works to make Upper Uwchlan Township a better place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUNE VALENTINE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. The Southern Colorado Livestock Association recently named June Valentine Stockman of the Year. June is the first woman to receive this honor in the history of the association, and it is my privilege to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and our nation today.

June has been a rancher in Las Animas County her entire life. As a rancher, June is passionate and knowledgeable. In the ranching industry, June has transcended gender stereotypes and proven herself as able as any rancher in Colorado.

June is also well known for her contributions to the community. She is an avid historian who shares her knowledge of the county's history with her many friends and neighbors. In addition, June is also involved in local government and has held many offices in service of the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to June Valentine before this body of Congress and our nation today. June is an amazing rancher, historian, public servant and friend. Her contributions set a fine example for all Americans. Congratulations, June, on a well deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the following roll call votes:

Roll Call 620 (S.J. Res. 22), Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research;

Roll Call 621 (S.J. Res. 18), Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years;

Roll Call 622 (H. Con. Res. 299), Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, for his service in the United States Navy, and for his lifetime of work as an ambassador for the poor and powerless citizens of the United States of America, and for other purposes;

Roll Call 623 Motion—On Hour of Meeting.

HEALTH EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2002, the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) released a landmark report entitled: Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Among other key findings, the report documented that minorities in the United States receive fewer life-prolonging cardiac medications and surgeries, are less likely to receive dialysis and kidney transplants, and are less likely to receive adequate treatment for pain. Its first and most telling finding States that "racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare exist and, because they are associated with worse outcomes in many cases, are unacceptable." The reasons for these disparities in treatment are wide and varied, and include, but are not limited to: healthcare provider prejudice or bias, the implicit nature of stereotypes, and broader historic and contemporary social and economic inequality. The report included a series of recommendations and interventions for policy changes to eliminate these unacceptable disparities.

Whether it is the recently released IOM report on Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care, the Commonwealth Fund's report Diverse Communities, Common Concerns: Assessing Health Care Quality for Minority Americans or a recent report by Physicians for Human Rights (2003) found that many minority groups receive lower quality evaluation and treatment than white Americans for a wide range of medical conditions, even when each has health insurance.

We are continually reminded that throughout the history of our great Nation, our people have been denied access to the best that medical science has had to offer—often relegated to hospitals with outdated equipment and served by African-American health care providers who, although as capable, intelligent, and gifted as their white counterparts, often could not obtain equivalent training because of racist practices such as segregation.

This segregated health system was largely responsible for the health inequities that existed during the early and middle part of this century. Indeed, in 1951 Dr. W. Montague Cobb, editor of the Journal of the National Medical Association, stated "For nearly fifty years the retarded health status of our Negro population has been common knowledge and the object of sporadic corrective effort". With the Civil Rights came an acknowledgment came greater equality in many aspects of life for African-Americans, including greater access to quality health care.

As an effort to extend such acknowledgment I am proud to introduce the Health Empowerment Zone Act of 2003. This act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Directors of the Office of Minority Health, of the Office of Community Services and National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities to establish health empowerment zone programs in communities that disproportionately experience disparities in health status and health care, and for other purposes.

To be eligible the communities must demonstrate that they experience disproportionate disparities in health status and health care, set forth a strategic plan and create a partnership, with individuals, businesses, schools, minority health associations, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, hospitals, health care clinics, and foundations.