

justice is a model for all law enforcement officers.

Agent Larsen was a key figure in the prosecution of Robert Burke. Burke was convicted of supplying the handcuff key to Jeffery Erickson, who ultimately used it to escape confinement and murder Deputy U.S. Marshal Roy Frakes and Court Security Officer Harry Belloumini in 1992.

For the past ten years, Agent Larsen has worked tirelessly to uncover evidence for this case that may never have been found otherwise. Agent Larsen first located Mr. Burke in Ireland, and then helped facilitate his extradition back to the United States on charges of perjury. He then oversaw over 180 witness interviews, most of which were with inmates, being asked to recall conversations that had taken place over a decade ago. Having nothing to offer some of these witnesses for their testimony, Agent Larsen had to implore upon their sense of decency to bring some closure to the family and the United States Marshals Service.

Through perseverance, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to justice, Agent Larsen was a crucial factor in bringing an emotional case to a close.

Mr. Speaker, John Larsen's record of service and the fruits of his labor speak for themselves. Earning the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the U.S. Marshals is a well-deserved token of the respect that is due him for his efforts. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his commitment to excellence and his desire to see justice carried out.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY
BOUND TOGETHER

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the following article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Rabbi Zoberman's editorial appeared in the Suffolk News-Herald on March 18th.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY BOUND
TOGETHER

This is a time of decision beclouded by political partisanship and posturing at home and in the United Nations. Going to war for a democracy is not an easy undertaking as it would be for a dictatorship. The value of human life weighs heavily upon decision-makers in a nation such as ours whose guiding concern is the individual's welfare. That is contrary to a totalitarian regime where the individual is not an end in itself but a means to goals serving the interests of an autocratic ruler. There is thus a vast difference between the conduct of George W. Bush and that of Saddam Hussein, both representing diametrically opposing systems of government.

America is on the verge of confronting Iraq primarily for the sake of eliminating a growing danger to the world by a leader who proved that he would not hesitate to use mass destruction weapons even against his own people. Hussein has not given up his dream of gaining hegemony over a region rich in oil to be used for his own megaloma-

niac purposes as he seeks to establish a nuclear option. He has only become emboldened to get his way by his past defeat in the 1991 Gulf War and consequent limitations posed on Iraq by the United Nations. A wounded and humiliated lion is more dangerous than an uninjured one. History taught us that dictators do not willingly relinquish power.

No doubt, the evil of 9/11 created a greater urgency to respond to forces undermining the world's stability, propelled by the global terrorism of uncompromising militant Islam assailing the West and its values. It begrudges our superior standing and their own longstanding inadequacies. Its aim is tragically not dialogue but a deadly duel they are bound to lose. Al-Qaida, now on the run following their defeat in Afghanistan, was too successful for its own good. It will be relentlessly pursued. Imagine if Osama Bin Ladin invested his large finances in promoting cultural exchange between civilizations! Hussein contributes to terrorism in a variety of ways, including generous monetary rewards to Palestinian families of suicide-homicide bombers who have terrorized Israel, the West's frontier, for over two years, wrecking havoc that no nation would have tolerated so long. The last terrifying terror act in Haifa was in the neighborhood where I grew up and it was Bus #37 and the stop, which I used only a month ago. My sister, a "Real" school counselor, lost two young teenage students among the fifteen dead.

Another hopeful democracy in the making in the Middle East, the first Arab one, alongside Israel's inspiring example, would bode well for an essential transformation of a critical part of the world once blessing humanity with the vision of the sacredness of each human life and now breeding those who violate it in God's name. America standing up for itself would have a sobering effect on those who believe that it has grown too weak to be the world's leader. That is a dangerous scenario we cannot afford.

Power to defend what we rightfully cherish, touching upon our very security and basic way of life, is not to be snickered at. As son of Polish Holocaust survivors I know what the absence of power meant to the Jewish people in our darkest period. Let us take pride in our hard-earned power and in Hampton Roads' leading role in our nation's military mission for freedom's sake, pledging to support all our heroic servicemen and women as well as their families awaiting their safe return. Eleven members of my own over 300 family unit synagogue are in the Persian Gulf arena. At this trying juncture for humanity, America is called upon once more to assert that divinity, diversity and dignity are bound together.

Mr. Speaker, I comment Rabbi Zoberman for his timely and thoughtful statement. As we appear on the verge of war with Iraq, Rabbi Zoberman's words serve as a strong reminder of the differences between the United States and the evil Iraqi regime.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S
HOMELAND

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of the morning, our men and women in uniform began a campaign to defend America's homeland and lib-

erate a population that has been under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. While thousands of miles away, this nation stands behind these heroes and prays for their safety as they risk their lives in order to protect our freedom and security.

As the great battles of the past have clearly indicated, America's armed forces are the world's strongest, most advanced and will always succeed. While America may be in the early days of this conflict, it is certain that our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen will ultimately prevail and decades of oppression will be lifted from the Iraqi people.

The days ahead represent a struggle to prevent Saddam Hussein's terror from reaching our borders in the future. While the work our soldiers are doing now is in an arena far away, it is a direct accomplishment for the security and safety of America's homeland.

The young men and women in uniform are nothing short of heroic and their country stands proud of the missions they are leading abroad—both military and humanitarian. I would also like to commend their families for the sacrifices they have made for America. These days may be difficult, but the results of their work will forever be remembered and America will prevail.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our nation, along with a coalition of more than thirty supporting nations, entered into military conflict with the nation of Iraq. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve of our American men and women in service and their families. I join today with all of my colleagues in offering the unyielding support for all of our troops in the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Joining the thousands of troops from around the world in Iraq are many brave and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley. I join today with all those who have family members and friends in the region as we hope and pray for their safe and speedy return.

There is no question that Saddam Hussein is destabilizing the region, that he is willing to use deadly force against his own people, and that he is a threat to U.S. security. Yet, regardless of how each of us feels today about entering into this conflict, we must stand resolute behind our Commander in Chief and behind our men and women in uniform. Our hearts and thoughts are with those who will be putting their lives on the line for the sake of freedom in the days ahead.

TUNISIA 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great ally of the United States.

Today, March 20th, marks the 47th year of Tunisia's independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia as she celebrates 47 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, as we continue in our efforts against terrorism, Tunisia remains by our side as a Muslim nation and a loyal ally. Tunisia's ongoing efforts to work with the United States in the campaign to eradicate terrorism has been absolutely critical.

Tunisia's flourishing economy offers great hope for African and Middle Eastern countries, while she also continues to play an increasingly important role in the politics of the international community. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to support a Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in combating international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 47 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 47th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

COMBATTING TERROR AND EVIL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, last night, the United States continued its march against those who threaten the security of the United States. As the United States leads a coalition of nations willing to combat terror and evil, I offer my prayers to our heroic men and women who have been called on to defend our freedom. These brave soldiers are the latest of a long and proud history of courageous Americans dedicated to protecting the citizens of the United States.

For 12 long years, Iraq has failed to disarm and live up to the agreements it promised to uphold. By choosing not to disarm or to surrender power peacefully, Saddam Hussein has left us with no other option but to disarm him by force.

This is a critical moment in American history. We could either choose the path of appeasement or choose the path of forceful disarmament. History has shown that appeasement has never prevented war; it only postponed war. America must not wait for Saddam Hussein to build an arsenal strong enough and deadly enough to blackmail the Free World. The time for action is now. May God Bless America.

ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of H.R. 1307, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003. It is only appropriate during this time of conflict that we take every opportunity to recognize and support the brave men and women of our armed forces. The original version of this legislation provided a number of significant tax benefits for our armed forces, National Guard and Reserves, and I am pleased and relieved to see that the bill has been restored to its original form and intent.

As a veteran of the United States Army, I know firsthand the contributions our military service personnel make in defense of our nation and the tremendous burden their families are forced to bear. Here in the U.S. House, I serve on the Army Caucus, and I have worked on a bipartisan basis to support our men and women in uniform. Furthermore, North Carolina's Second Congressional District includes Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, home to many soldiers now on the ground in Southwest Asia. Our service personnel are dedicated, professional and devoted to duty. Congress must stand up for these brave men and women who risk their lives to defend our country, our ideals and our interests around the world.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1307 includes a number of provisions to reduce taxes for the members of the armed services. It provides capital gains tax relief to soldiers who invest in a home for themselves and their families but have to move due to reassignment or deployment before they satisfy the five-year qualifying period.

The bill also provides National Guard and reserve members an "above-the-line" tax deduction for overnight expenses when they travel more than 100 miles from home to attend National Guard and Reserve meetings, as well as filing extensions and penalty-free withdrawals from education accounts for students attending one of our service academies.

Mr. Speaker, prompt passage of this legislation is a small gesture of support to active duty personnel as well as members of the Reserves and National Guard. In these uncertain times, we must remember that many of our soldiers put their civilian lives on hold in service to our country. More than 50,000 Reservists are supplementing active duty forces for our war against terrorism, and another 120,000 have been mobilized for our conflict with Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I urge quick passage of H.R. 1307 in the House and Senate, and I hope the President will promptly sign it into law as a gesture of support and respect for our armed forces. The brave men and women of America's armed forces need to know that Congress stands behind them, and passing this legislation will demonstrate that Congress will put national interests ahead of special interests.

PATRIOTISM OF THE TOWN OF CORNWALL

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House the strong sense of patriotism sweeping through a small town in the heart of New York's 19th Congressional District. The Cornwall Town Board has passed a resolution in support of all of our troops that are deployed overseas to protect our freedom and liberties.

The Resolution states that the Board supports of those brave men and women of Cornwall currently "serving in the armed forces and of our great country and their families and support the armed services for the great sacrifices they must make in the service of our country in the name of freedom."

I commend the Cornwall Town Board for their patriotic actions and ask that the entire text of the Resolution be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CORNWALL IN SUPPORT OF OUR TOWN RESIDENTS WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES, IN SUPPORT OF OUR ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL AND FOR WORLD PEACE

Whereas, heretofore the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall recognizes the great freedoms and liberties that this great nation of our's provides, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that to insure that these great freedoms and liberties exist it is necessary to provide for a national defense, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that the United States Armed Forces protect and defend our country from all enemies foreign and domestic and thereby serve with great dedication, personal risk and sacrifice in the risking of their lives and sacrificing the comfort of being with their loved ones when serving on distant shores, and

Whereas, the Town Board supports our own brave men and women and all members of the armed forces currently serving and preparing to defend our liberties and freedoms and protect us from our enemies and also supports their families in these times of heightened security alert, and

Whereas, the Town Board recognizes that world peace and security is paramount and we support and pray that all diplomatic efforts to secure world peace and security will succeed, now, therefore, be it

Resolved as follows:

1. That the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall supports our residents who are serving in the armed forces of our great country and their families and support the armed services for the great sacrifices they must make in the service of our country in the name of freedom and democracy.

2. That the Town Board of the Town of Cornwall call upon our leaders and other world leaders to bring about world peace as quickly and with firm resolve as possible by whatever means necessary.

3. That the Town Clerk forward a copy of this resolution signed by all members voting herein to our congressional representative SUE W. KELLY and ask that it be read into the Congressional Record at her earliest convenience.