

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COMMUNITY VETERANS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the 3-year observance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean war comes to a close.

It is with great pride that I honor the men that served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America during that time and are members of the St. Stanislaus Memorial Post No. 1771 American Legion, Brooklyn, NY.

Since their honorable discharge from the armed services, they have led productive lives and continued to serve their communities, State, and Nation.

Therefore, it is with much honor and appreciation that I salute these brave men: Feldele Aita, Joseph Angerome, John Astrab, Joseph Beneventin, Walter Bielski, Edward Bizinski, Charles Bond, John Borisuck, Nicholas Burdick, Kevin Cahill, James Campion, John Canderloro, Michael Cantelmi, Michael Chorney, Anthony Chorney, Michael Croccia, Edward Czartoryski, Edward Danielski, Joseph Darragh, Everett Deming, Edward Dempsey, Donald Denson, Justin Dudzinski, Vincent Dzirko, Rudolph Fafalak, Louis Franklin, and Sol Friedman.

Michael Garvey, Ralph Gatti, Roman Giblewski, George Gibney, Dan Goodman, Eugene Graboski, John Graham, Richard Haines, Gerard Hammond, Lee Hedberg, George Heiberg, James Hesse, John Hoffmann, John Jablonski, William Janovesik, John Karcinsky, Robert Kelly, Thomas Knapp, Joseph Konzelman, Martin Kost, Walter Kryshak, Daniel Kujawa, Saverio La Rocca, Louis Lasecki, Edward Lentol, Carl Licht, Joseph Lukasiewicz, Bernard Maciejewski, Anthony Mangone, William Martin, Henry McQuillan, Frank Moley, Frank Paterno, Vincent Petitto, Robert Pieprzak, Peter Rago, William Revy, Roosevelt Rhodes, Henry Rusielewicz, Philip Ryzkiewicz, Louis Sieber, Walter Sito, George Skaats, Thomas Skubin, Charles Smith, Raymond Smith, Edward Spaeth, Fred Stiith, Leonard Suligowski, Peter Sullivan, Jean Taylor, Nicholas Teta, Henry Tomaszewski, John Walsh, and Alfred Willett.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 12, Congratulating the Ohio State University for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I football championship, I was regrettably unable to cast my vote at the appropriate time. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THREATS AND RESPONSES: TRACKING TERRORISM; 9/11 RE- PORT SAYS SAUDI ARABIA LINKS WENT UNEXAMINED

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

(By David Johnston and James Risen)

A draft report by the joint Congressional committee looking into the Sept. 11 attacks has concluded that the F.B.I. and the C.I.A., in their investigations, did not aggressively pursue leads that might have linked the terrorists to Saudi Arabia, senior government officials said today.

The report charged among other things that the authorities had failed to investigate the possibility that two of the hijackers, Saudis named Khalid al-Midhar and Nawaq Alhazmi, received Saudi money from two Saudi men they met with in California in the year before the attacks. The committee's preliminary findings, which also accuse the Saudi government of a lack of cooperation with American investigators, have caused a bitter behind-the-scenes dispute between the panel's staff and officials at the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. At each agency, officials have disagreed with draft findings, saying investigators vigorously pursued all available information related to Saudi Arabia.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens, but little is known about their backgrounds and how they were recruited for the attacks. Most of the Saudis were part of a group that investigators refer to as the "muscle." These were men recruited late in the planning for the operation, not as pilots, but as an unskilled security force for the hijacking operation. Their job was to keep passengers at bay as the planes were commandeered and flown to their intended targets.

In a rebuttal report sent to the committee in recent days, the F.B.I. has tried to disprove several specific allegations by the committee. One of them was about Mr. Midhar and Mr. Alhazmi, who lived in San Diego a year before the attacks.

While in California, the two met with Omar al-Bayoumi and Osama Bassnan, each of whom was receiving financial support from the Saudi government. The men were receiving stipends, although officials said it was not exactly clear what kind. The committee staff concluded in its draft findings that investigators should have followed up on the meetings of the four men to determine whether there might have been a Saudi link to the hijacking plot.

The F.B.I. is still investigating how much financial support, if any, was provided by Mr. Bayoumi and Mr. Bassnan to the two men who later turned out to be hijackers. The bureau is also looking into whether senior Saudi officials in the United States may have played some role in distributing funds to Mr. Bayoumi and Mr. Bassnan.

Today, the F.B.I. said in a statement that it had "aggressively pursued investigative leads regarding terrorist support and activity." It added that Mr. Bayoumi and Mr.

Bassnan had both been charged with visa fraud after the attacks.

But by that time, Mr. Bayoumi was already in Britain, where he was temporarily detained and then released because visa fraud was not an extraditable offense. The F.B.I. statement did not say where the two men were now or clarify the status of the cases against them.

Although the disagreement has not been publicly disclosed until now, the debate over possible Saudi connections raises a very sensitive political issue for the Bush administration. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil producer in the world and one of the United States' closest and most important allies in the Persian Gulf at a time when the administration is preparing for a possible war with Iraq.

In its report to the committee, the F.B.I. said that it was no uncommon for Saudis in the United States to receive financial support from their government and that an inquiry into the two men after the attacks had failed to produce evidence that they had any link to the Sept. 11 plot. A C.I.A. spokesman declined to comment about the joint inquiry's investigation of the Saudi matter.

Counterterrorism officials have said Mr. Midhar and Mr. Alhazmi had paid for more of their expenses with cash, which has made the investigation more difficult. They have also denied finding any evidence that funds for the attacks were channeled through Saudi Arabia or that the Riyadh government had any connection to the hijackers.

It remains unclear whether the draft conclusions about Saudi Arabia will be included in the joint committee's final report, which is to be completed in December in classified form. An edited version is not expected to be made public until next year, officials said.

The Bush administration has sought to maintain close ties with Riyadh even as investigators examining the backgrounds of the hijackers have complained that they have received little cooperation from the Saudi government.

Investigators have yet to determine how the Saudi hijackers were selected for the plot, who chose them or whether they had help inside Saudi Arabia. Some American officials have theorized that Mr. Midhar and Mr. Alhazmi may have returned to Saudi Arabia from the United States to pick the Saudi hijackers, but investigators have no firm conclusions.

For their part, Saudi officials have said that they have assisted in important aspects of the investigation—for instance, providing confirmation of the identities of the Saudi hijackers. The officials have also said the hijackers' anti-American extremism did not represent mainstream thinking in the kingdom, even though some American officials have long regarded Islamic militancy as a serious problem that could destabilize the authoritarian government.

The tension between the joint inquiry staff and the F.B.I. and C.I.A. is the latest to evolve from the inquiry into lapses by intelligence and law enforcement agencies related to the Sept. 11 attacks. In a series of interim reports released during committee hearings in recent months, the joint panel had repeatedly criticized the performance of the two agencies.

Those sometimes scathing reports prompted officials at both the F.B.I. and the C.I.A.,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

including the director of central intelligence, George J. Tenet, to criticize the joint panel's methods. Officials have complained that it reached conclusions based on scant evidence and that it took evidence out of context.

The joint committee has already held at least one closed hearing on the F.B.I.'s relationship with a San Diego informer, the landlord of Mr. Midhar and Mr. Alhazmi a year before the attacks. The informer's role has become important because his former tenants are the hijackers who have come under the most intense scrutiny in the joint inquiry.

Mr. Midhar and Mr. Alhazmi, who were aboard the American Airlines plane that crashed into the Pentagon, were identified as Qaeda operatives by the C.I.A. in January 2001. But the C.I.A. did not ask the State Department to place their names on a watch list intended to prevent entry into the United States until late August. By then, they were both in the country. The C.I.A. sent information about the two men to the F.B.I. in late August, but by then there was little time left for the bureau to track them down.

The committee investigating the hijackers was also told by a retired F.B.I. agent who was the bureau's contact with the San Diego informer that he might have uncovered a hint of the plot through his informer network if the C.I.A. had provided the F.B.I. with more information earlier about the two men. <http://www.nytimes.com>

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING MUSICAL WORK OF MR. ANDREW HORWAT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Andrew Horwat, upon his selection to perform with the Honor Band of America.

Andrew has made Robert E. Lee High School history by becoming the first student ever from his high school to be selected for this national Honor Band. Every year student musicians all across the country are nominated by their band directors to take part in this national performance. After the nomination, musicians are evaluated by a distinguished panel of university wind conductors, and selected to attend the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival and National Percussion Festival. This year, the 11th District of Virginia is proud to send one of our own to this selective event.

Andrew is currently a drum major in the Marching Lancers, Lee High School's band. In March, he will represent this group when he travels to Indianapolis to perform with all other high school students selected for the Honor Band of America. This experience will provide Andrew with the opportunity to participate in rehearsals, master classes, and special clinics and concerts in addition to rehearsing with the Honor Band.

This experience will not only recognize Andrew for the dedication he has already exhibited, but also motivate him to continue his hard work. Andrew's accolade is a perfect example to young students that hard work and dedication do pay off. I believe that Andrew will serve as an example to his peers and

hope that through this experience, he will be able to share with them all that he has learned.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend this recognition to Mr. Andrew Horwat. His hard work and discipline are an example to all of us. The 11th District of Virginia is honored to have such a young talent in our community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding him for all of his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESSMAN WAYNE OWENS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of my former colleague Wayne Owens, who passed away unexpectedly in Israel on December 18. His death is a great loss to his family, his many friends, and our nation. His death is also a great loss to the cause of peace in the Middle East, an end to which he devoted much of his professional life.

Wayne was fond of saying that President Carter had succeeded at Camp David by taking the leaders of Egypt and Israel each by the arm and refusing to let go until they had worked out their differences. His open admiration for the vision of these peace makers—and for their persistence—said much about his own values. Wayne believed that ordinary people with high ideals, integrity, and determination could work great changes for the good and resolve even the most intractable conflicts. He exemplified these virtues throughout his career with a deep religious faith and his characteristic exuberance, humility, and good humor.

Throughout his eight years of service as a member of the House of Representatives, Wayne followed his convictions, even when they came at a high political cost. In his first term in Congress, for example, Wayne voted his conscience and supported articles of impeachment against President Nixon as a member of the House Judiciary Committee. In his conservative home state of Utah, this was an unpopular decision that probably cost him a victory in his 1974 bid for the U.S. Senate. Nevertheless, Wayne viewed his vote as one of the most important acts of his public life.

When Wayne returned to the House in 1986, he continued to think and act with independence and vision. He fought to protect millions of acres of Utah wilderness. He stood firm to protect a woman's right to reproductive choice. He sought to put an end to nuclear testing, compensate the victims of radiation from past nuclear tests, and end the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. He worked to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone National Park. He struggled to liberate Syria's captive Jewish community. And above all, Wayne strived to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East.

During his service in Congress, where he served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and later as co-founder and president of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation, Wayne worked to support the frag-

ile and often flagging peace process in the Middle East. He traveled frequently and developed close personal relationships with business and political leaders throughout the region. At times when ministers and heads of state found it difficult to communicate with one another directly, Wayne often shuttled back and forth and served as a back channel for information. Leaders such as former Secretary of State James Baker, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and the late King Hussein of Jordan praised Wayne for his role in carrying such messages and noted that he had genuinely helped advance the interests of peace.

Wayne's vision was to bind Arabs and Israelis together through a web of personal and financial relationships, develop the economic potential of the Middle East, and create a shared stake in political and economic stability. In the months preceding his death, Wayne undoubtedly saw that his goal remained elusive and the path difficult to follow. But despite this, I believe Wayne was never daunted and never discouraged. He soldiered on until the very end of his life, and I don't believe he would have had it any other way.

We will miss Wayne and remember him for his vision, leadership, and commitment to peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 11, on the motion to recommit with instructions, H.J. Resolution 1, making further appropriations for FY03. I was regrettably unable to cast my vote at the appropriate time. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of representation and positive activism that has been fostered by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. On this its 30th anniversary, I would like to praise the Caucus members for their diligent continuation of a heritage of public service to the citizens of the great state of Texas. My gratitude and respect as well to the Honorable Senfronia Thompson, the Caucus's only active original members, for her dedicated and tireless service to the Caucus and the State. This group of state leaders has steadily fought to ensure that the policy priorities of Texas reflect the best interests of all of its citizens. The education, economic, civil and human rights initiatives have revolutionized state services and have helped ensure that all Texans are empowered to achieve the American dream.

The Caucus will be hosting its statewide conference from February 5th through 9th, 2003. This year's poignant agenda and focus is entitled, "Without Vision the People Perish."