

But Stars and Stripes raised questions about what those visiting dignitaries saw in Iraq. "Many soldiers, including several officers, allege that VIP visits from the Pentagon and Capitol Hill are only given hand-picked troops to meet with during their tours of Iraq," the newspaper said in its interview with Sanchez. "The phrase 'Dog and Pony Show' is usually used. Some troops even go so far as to say they've been ordered not to talk to VIPs because leaders are afraid of what they might say."

The newspaper also noted in that interview that its reporters were told that some soldiers who had complained of morale problems had faced disciplinary actions known as Article 15s, which can result in reprimand, extra duties and forfeiture of pay. Sanchez said he did not know of any such punishments, but he added that they would have been handled at a lower level.

The paper's project recorded significant differences in the morale of various units, but overall found that Army troops tended to sound more dissatisfied than Air Force personnel and Marines, and that reservists were the most troubled.

Uncertainty about when they are returning home was a major factor in dampening morale, according to the newspaper. The interviews were conducted at a time when some reserve and regular Army units were learning that their tours had been extended. The Pentagon has since sought to provide a clearer rotation plan and has begun granting troops two-week home leaves.

Although Pentagon officials say they have seen no sign yet of a rise in the number of troops deciding against reenlisting, the survey suggested that such a surge may be coming soon. A total of 49 percent of those questioned said it was "very unlikely" or "not likely" that they would remain in the military after they complete their current obligations. In the past, enlistment rates tended to drop after conflicts, but many defense experts and noncommissioned officers have warned of the potential for a historically high exodus, particularly of reservists.

HONORING ALBERTSON'S INCORPORATED OF BOISE, ID

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a quiet patriot from Idaho. Our National Guard and Reserve troops who have been called up to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq have left behind not only families, but in many cases, full-time jobs. Many employers go the extra mile to provide support to their deployed employees, their families, and communities. One such employer-patriot is Albertson's Incorporated, headquartered in Boise, ID.

Albertson's Incorporated recently received recognition from the Department of Defense for its extraordinary ongoing efforts in support of deployed employees, and those employees' families. The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, has chosen Albertson's Incorporated as one of only four companies nationwide to receive the 2003 ESGR Home Front Award. The Department of Defense recognizes the efforts of these companies to take steps such as providing pay differential, the continuation of benefits when their employees are mobilized, and a willingness to advocate Guard and Reserve service among their industry peers.

With many employees currently stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, Albertson's has shown dedication to the values of freedom and democracy, and perseverance in light of limited personnel resources. Albertson's has translated patriotic words into action, and shown that corporations as well as individuals can lend a helping hand to the men and women of the Armed Forces, their families, and our Nation as a whole.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER JASON PRATT

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I honor one of Nebraska's finest who recently gave his life in the line of duty. His service and sacrifice are an inspiration to us all and a reminder of the appreciation we have for our law enforcement officers and first responders.

Officer Jason Pratt began his career with the Omaha Police Department in 1996 at the age of 23. He served honorably for 7 years and 2 days before being tragically killed in the line of duty on September 11, 2003. During his years on the force, his commitment and energy were recognized several times by his fellow officers, community members and superiors.

In February of 1997, Officer Pratt began work as a patrol officer. By April of that year—less than a year on the job—members of the Leavenworth Neighborhood Association were already noticing Jason for the work he and his crew did in the area. Jason's dedication to service did not wane and in May of 2001, he was recognized by the Neighborhood Association again for his efforts.

Jason followed that service with a year in the vice squad, a division of the intelligence unit. During this time, he kept family areas, such as neighborhood parks, safer for our families. Finally, he also spent time in the emergency response unit, placing himself in extreme danger on numerous occasions by taking high-risk offenders off the street.

Officer Pratt will be well remembered for being an officer who always came as back up to help out other officers. In September of 2001, he assisted bike officers with a traffic stop that ultimately led to the suspect being booked on a number of felony charges. In another instance, in April of 2003, he was responding to a house fire where an adult and two children were trapped. Poor weather conditions delayed a second fire unit so Officer Pratt assisted firefighters in carrying gear up to the house. Because of his actions, there were no further injuries that day.

Officer Pratt lost his life while trying to make our city safer. His sacrifices, and those of his family, are another reminder of the risks taken by police officers across the Nation to keep our cities and towns safe. Americans honor their commitment and we stand shoulder to shoulder with them when one is struck down.

I am proud to have witnessed the outpouring of support for his family given by the people of Omaha. His two children, Madison and Jordyn, and his wife Stacy, have lost their father and husband and he can never be replaced. But the people of Omaha have shown again and again that they will do whatever necessary to help the Pratt family in the weeks, months and years to come. Officer Pratt will not be forgotten and all of Omaha will work to ensure his family is safe.

Jason Pratt died doing what he always wanted to do. He died protecting his and our community through public service alongside his friends and fellow officers. In his memory, those officers will continue to serve every day knowing that if he were still alive; he would be standing at their side. I join with my fellow Nebraskans in thanking Officer Pratt and his family for all they have given to us and pledging to remember his work and his life and the difference he made in our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MOTHER TERESA

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mother Teresa and to acknowledge her upcoming beatification of the Vatican. The process leading up to her beatification has been the shortest in modern history. In early 1999—less than 2 years after Mother Teresa's death—Pope John Paul II waived the normal 5-year waiting period and allowed the immediate opening of her canonization process. The rule has traditionally been used to allow for a more objective look at a person's life and achievements. However, the life and works of Mother Teresa were so astounding that Pope John Paul II was convinced that he did not need 5 years to objectively determine that she should be beatified.

Mother Teresa, the "Saint of the Gutters," was born in what is now Macedonia in 1910. She took her final vows as a nun in 1937, and in 1946, while riding a train to the mountain town of Darjeeling to recover from suspected tuberculosis, she received, as she says "a call within a call" from God to, "serve Him among the poorest of the poor." And it is in this capacity that the world came to know of Mother Teresa's endless charity and love for all human life. She confronted this monumental task one hovel at a time. She created a religious order to help the aged, the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the disabled to live and die with dignity. She received approval from the Pope to establish the Missionaries of Charity, which focused much of its attention on giving comfort to the dying. The year before she died, Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity were operating 517 missions in more than 100 countries. In addition, she opened schools, orphanages, and homes for the needy, as well as homes for AIDS victims, and hospices.

Mother Teresa was a woman who fought passionately for dignity for all

human life—from the leper on the streets of Calcutta, to the ailing AIDS victim in New York, to the unborn child inside a mother's womb. Her passion for protecting all human life was clear when she spoke to Members of Congress at the National Prayer Breakfast in February 1994. She said,

I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?

She continuously reminded people around the world of the plight of those weakest in the world; those least able to protect themselves. In 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize and accepted the award "in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to society and are shunned by everyone."

Mother Teresa touched the lives of those most in need in this world and she inspired others to service in every corner of the globe. Certainly the work she performed in her life was miraculous, and I have no doubt that those in need will continue to find solace and comfort in Mother Teresa and the continuing work that her missions still perform.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FOR IRAQIS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to discuss something that I consider a major cornerstone to any free society—religious freedom.

I recently offered an amendment during the markup that would condition the money going to the Coalition Provisional Authority, CPA, by ensuring the preservation of "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals, including a prohibition on laws which would criminalize blasphemy and apostasy." The first part of that phrase, "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals," is extremely important given the recent historical record on constitutions that established Islam as the official religion of the state. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic in which the constitution extends some rights to groups to engage in their religious practices.

However, the constitution does not allow for the freedom of conscience of individual believers, either within different sects of Islam or for those wishing to convert. Therefore, the biggest danger may be to those who do not subscribe to the prevailing interpretation of Islam. With the Afghan constitution just now coming to light, the international community and the Afghan people are slowly becoming aware that their constitution will not preserve their individual right to believe what they wish.

On October 1, 2003, the New York Times published an op-ed piece written

by members of the United States Commission on Religious Freedom which precisely outlined the significant importance of only supporting a constitution that, and I quote, "clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom." We must not settle for anything less and we must not encourage the Afghan people to settle for any less. As stated in the article, "After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States."

In addition, the last part of the phrase which would prohibit criminalization of blasphemy and apostasy is equally as important. As much as the constitution must be absolutely secular, those who would freely renounce their faith, apostasy, or those who would speak out profanely against religion, blasphemy, must have their rights preserved. The freedom of religion is more than just the ability to practice one's faith, but is central to other rights and freedoms, including a free press, public assembly, free speech or the right to petition the government. All of these freedoms will be circumscribed if religious freedom is not part of an Iraqi constitution and a reconstituted Iraq.

My amendment, which also appears in the House language, would also require the President to submit a report to the Congress every 90 days detailing efforts to make religious freedom a major tenet of the Iraqi constitution. If Secretary Powell's recent statement is correct, then there should be a constitution in six months. That would, at most, require two reports on the status of the constitution if completed within 6 months.

In my view, religious freedom is the bedrock on which freedom, hope and progress rest and should be a top priority as we discuss the many foreign policy issues at hand.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times op-ed article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 1, 2003]

SILENCED AGAIN IN KABUL

(By Preeta D. Bansal and Felice D. Gaer)

WASHINGTON.—American efforts to build a democratic, tolerant Afghanistan are facing a serious challenge: the draft of the Afghan constitution, which may be made public as early as this week, does not yet provide for crucial human rights protections, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The United States and the international community should insist that the draft presented by the constitutional commission explicitly protect these core human rights for all Afghans.

Despite reports to the contrary, the current draft versions of the constitution enshrine particular schools of Islamic law, or Shariah, that criminalize dissent and criticism of Islam through blasphemy laws.

If this draft is ratified in December by the *loya jirga*, or grand council, the freedoms of Afghan citizens would continue to be in the

hands of judges educated in Islamic law, rather than in civil law. Official charges of blasphemy, apostasy or other religious crimes could still be used to suppress debate, just as they were under the Taliban.

Making changes in the draft is all the more important because, as Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission and the United Nations' Assistance Mission in Afghanistan have reported, Afghan reformers seeking to express their views on their new constitution have been hindered by threats, harassment and even imprisonment. In one case, an editor and a reporter have been charged with blasphemy for publishing an article questioning the role of Islam in the state.

On our recent trip to Kabul as members of the bipartisan United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, we met many Muslims who recognize the compatibility of Islam with human rights. Yet these Muslims are being intimidated into silence by vocal and well-armed extremists.

Freedom-loving Afghans won't be able to rely on conscientious judges to protect religious freedom without an explicit reference to it in the constitution. Afghanistan's chief justice, Fazl Hadi Shinwari, for example, has shown little regard for those who disagree with his hard-line interpretation of Islam. He told us that he accepted the international standards protected by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights—with three exceptions: freedom of expression, freedom of religion and equality of the sexes. "This is the only law," the chief justice told us, pointing to the Koran on his desk.

Even in a self-proclaimed Islamic republic, however, all citizens, Muslims as well as non-Muslims, must be free to debate the role of religion and to question prevailing orthodoxies without fear of being subjected to trials, prison or death. At a minimum, Afghan leaders should amend the draft constitution to specifically ensure the human rights guarantees that Afghanistan has already accepted and ratified in six international treaties. Afterward, the United States must ensure the safety of reformers who want to speak out at the *loya jirga* to ensure that the constitution of Afghanistan makes possible a free and just society based on the rule of law.

While respecting that Afghans should determine their own future, United States officials must not let a "hands off" policy lead to political conditions that will embolden repression and enable a few to hijack the future from the many Afghans who hope to embrace freedom.

After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States. Unfortunately, the message that the Afghan draft constitution is giving Iraq is the wrong one. We should instead send our own message to President Hamid Karzai, to Afghan officials and to the Afghan people: Americans will only support a state with a constitution that clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom.

COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 300

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for S. 300, the Jackie Robinson Congressional Gold Medal bill, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: