

Joe has been involved with the Western Region American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, the FFA Alumni Association, Farm Bureau, the San Jose Unified School District Agriculture Program, and the California Agriculture Teachers Association. He has been named an honorary CFFA Member, Honorary State Farmer with FFA and Grange Youth Booster of the Year for California. In 1987, Joe received the Honorary American Farmer Degree at the National FFA Convention and has been recognized as a "Teacher of Teachers" for 10 consecutive years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOOLEY and Representative NUNES, to pay to Dr. Joe Sabol as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Joe many years of continued success.

HONORING THE ELMHURST AMERICAN LEGION, THE BROADVIEW-HILLSIDE AMERICAN LEGION, AND THE COLLEGE OF DUPAGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the commendable efforts and charitable spirit of the Elmhurst American Legion, the Broadview-Hillside American Legion, and the College of DuPage Jazz Ensemble.

In particular, I would like to recognize Mr. Charles Levitt, Commander of the Broadview-Hillside American Legion, Mr. Dante Laudati, Commander of the Elmhurst American Legion, Mr. Anthony Barone, Chief Liaison of the Elmhurst American Legion, and Mr. Tom Tallman, the Director of the College of DuPage Arts Center Jazz Ensemble.

Their unselfish efforts combined with the patriotic spirit of the members of these organizations represent the finest qualities of all Americans. The members of this energetic group held an event on October 19, 2003 in Elmhurst, Illinois to raise funds for the Armed Forces Children's Education Fund. This noteworthy fund is committed to helping the children of military men and women who make the ultimate sacrifice while fighting the war on terrorism. I am proud of the efforts made by these faithful and patriotic citizens. They serve as a fine example of citizens sharing their prosperity with the families of the men and women who risk their lives to secure our freedoms.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and offering congratulations to all of these outstanding Americans.

COMMENDING NASA ON "SPIRIT" MISSION TO MARS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, after a series of failures in trying to land on Mars, NASA's Jet

Propulsion Laboratory's *Spirit* has successfully landed on the red planet. Considering all the electromechanical systems, computer software, and retro-rockets that had to faithfully operate, the success of landing the spacecraft despite uncooperative Martian winds and dust is a testimony to the excellence, grit and determination of a host of planners, engineers and scientists at the laboratory. In a continuation of these successes, last Thursday, *Spirit* successfully rolled off the lander and onto the Martian surface.

In the meantime the *Spirit's* twin is scheduled to land halfway around Mars on Sunday, January 25. The mere thought of the possibility of two rovers exploring Mars is both exciting and a testimony to our Nation's scientific and technical vitality.

Spirit and *Opportunity* are just two of the many offspring of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory that have been sent on exploration voyages over the past four decades, visiting every known planet except Pluto with a few looking out into the universe and beyond our local planets.

In 1930, with the rise of Hitler and anti-Semitism, Theodore von Kármán left Aachen, Germany and accepted an invitation by the California Institute of Technology to come to Pasadena to lead an aeronautical laboratory, later named the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. At age 81 he was the recipient of the first National Medal of Science, bestowed in a White House ceremony by President John F. Kennedy. A crater on the Moon is named in his honor.

Over seven decades, JPL has maintained this dignified position and upheld the reputation of von Kármán's laboratory as world leader in engineering, science and planetary exploration.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES ARMY PRIVATE REY DAVID CUERVO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to another fallen patriot, United States Army Pvt. Rey David Cuervo, who gave the last full measure of devotion to the Nation of which he was not yet a citizen when he was killed in Iraq after his vehicle hit an explosive device in Baghdad.

After almost 5 years in the United States Army, Pvt. Rey Cuervo, a 24-year-old from Laguna Vista, was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad, based out of Fort Polk, LA.

Pvt. Cuervo was one of an estimated 50,000 legal permanent residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces when he died for the country he loved and the ideals he believed in. He died for the United States as a foreign national in the Army . . . and he won his citizenship posthumously.

This is an important point to make to the House of Representatives at a time when many of our members are raising their voices against those who want to have a national policy that appreciates the actual faces of immigrants in this country who wish to be citizens here.

This brave young man was not here to take a job from a citizen. These soldiers play a big part in defending the country. They believe in the hope and opportunity they feel when they come to this country. This young man's death may serve to educate some members of Congress about the importance of soldiers who put their life on the line, be they born in this Nation . . . or new to this Nation.

To date, five Mexican nationals have died in the war in Iraq. The willingness of Cuervo and the others to fight and die for the United States is an illustration of the love of this Nation from our immigrant community, and of the extraordinary relationship between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, the entire community of South Texas mourns this fine young man.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the life and service of United States Army Pvt. Rey Cuervo, and in expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family.

ONE IRAQI'S PERSPECTIVE ON U.S. ACTIONS IN HIS COUNTRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as our country wrestles with the consequences of the war in Iraq, I think it is more important than ever to encourage thoughtful and critical discussion of America's role in the world and to be open to a continuing public dialogue on the wisdom of our policies in the Middle East and elsewhere around the globe.

Whether one supported the war or not, I believe our responsibility as elected representatives of the people must include maintaining an open mind on these matters, and to seek out the judgment and opinions of those who may have experiences unique from our own.

In this regard, I would like to submit for the RECORD a copy of remarks written by Mr. Ibrahim Kazerooni, an Iraqi dissident who fought against the regime of Saddam Hussein and who is now a respected clerical leader of the Muslim community in Colorado. I met Mr. Kazerooni shortly after the infamous attacks on our country on September 11, 2001 and have found his insights on the problem of terrorism and democracy in Iraq to be unique and well worth the attention of my colleagues.

[From the Denver Post, Dec. 7, 2003]

IRAQ WAR MAKES US LESS SAFE, NOT MORE

(By Ibrahim Kazerooni)

Having been imprisoned and tortured several times by the former Baathist regime of Iraq, I came to expect any absurdity from that dictatorship.

Under the Baathists, the people of Iraq were fed a steady stream of government-generated lies on just about everything. The regime skillfully operated under the premise that as long as you said something often enough, it didn't have to be true in order to get people to believe it.

Even though the Baathist regime is gone, it appears the Bush administration has adopted their practice of intentionally misleading the public—in this case, the American public—through the incessant repetition of false information.

For example, we continue to be told by the White House that taking over Iraq was necessary for the war on terrorism, despite the

absence of credible evidence of a link between al-Qaeda and the former regime of Saddam Hussein.

On June 26, The Associated Press reported, "The U.N. terrorism committee has found no evidence to support Bush administration claims of a link between Iraq and al-Qaeda, and the United States has provided the committee with no proof."

This should not be surprising, since the secular Saddam Hussein was notorious for brutally crushing any and all Islamist elements in Iraq. As a result, the Islamists and the Baathists had nothing but pure disdain and mistrust for one another.

One of the most respected authorities on terrorism and defense issues, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, reported Oct. 15 that the invasion and occupation of Iraq has had the effect of "swelling its [al-Qaeda's] ranks and galvanizing its will."

Beyond that, the administration's mismanagement of post-war Iraq has created ripe conditions for terrorism to thrive, to the point where it is now feared Iraq is exporting terrorism to its neighbors.

The White House and others also continue to insist that the security situation in Iraq—upon which everything depends, especially reconstruction—is improving. Yet, the facts reveal that the insurgency is spreading.

Part of the reason for the spread of the insurgency is the resentment we've generated among ordinary Iraqis, the very people we said we came to liberate. Dr. Rajaa Habib Khuzai, handpicked by the Bush administration to sit on the Iraqi Governing Council, said in September, "There is considerable discontent with the coalition forces, the majority of whom treat the Iraqi people with violence and contempt."

This analysis is shared by Marco Calamai, a special counselor to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq, who resigned his position in November because he said the U.S.-led CPA has created "delusion, social discontent, and anger" among Iraqis and allowed terrorism to "easily take root."

Calamai's view was confirmed by a classified CIA report leaked in November, which found that more Iraqis are "flooding to the ranks of the guerrillas" and predicted the security situation in Iraq would continue to get worse as the insurgency spreads across the country.

We invaded Iraq on the premise that the Baathist regime possessed stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and would share them with al-Qaeda. Not invading, we were told, could likely result in "mushroom clouds" over American cities.

However, not only was the supposed link to al-Qaeda grossly absent, so are the alleged WMDs. The failure to find Iraq's alleged WMDs is entirely consistent with Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement on Feb. 24, 2001, in Cairo: "He [Saddam Hussein] has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors."

Powell's statement reflects the statements of Iraqi scientists and Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel, who defected to the West in 1995 and was later murdered by his father-in-law for defecting. He told U.N., U.S. and British experts debriefing him in August 1995, "I ordered destruction of all chemical weapons. All weapons—biological, chemical, missile, nuclear—were destroyed."

The invasion and occupation of Iraq has not only distracted us from the war against al-Qaeda and diverted billions of dollars from homeland security to operations in Iraq, it has actually increased al-Qaeda's recruiting and created more sympathizers for the organization among the world's 1.2 billion Muslims.

As long as the White House arrogantly continues to mislead the public with fabricated intelligence and sugar-coated assessments, we cannot possibly expect to win the war on terror.

REMEMBERING JUDGE HARRY LOFTIS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, a wonderful family man, and good friend who devoted so much time and energy to the community of Tyler, Texas—Judge Harry Loftis, who died on December 9, 2003.

Judge Loftis spent thirteen years as a district attorney and county judge. Raised in Tyler, Texas, he earned degrees at Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the Army Air Corps during World War II, and flew glider missions in France, England, and Italy. His bravery earned him several medals and citations. The Library of Congress is privileged to have his wartime accounts on file as part of the World War II veterans project.

Judge Loftis was also a longtime supporter of area institutions of higher education. He was a devoted trustee of Tyler Junior College, and was recognized throughout his term in office with several accolades including the T.B. Butler Award, the Outstanding Ex-Student Award, and the Earl Story Award. He was also a leading advocate for the creation of Texas Eastern University (now the University of Texas at Tyler).

While Judge Loftis's work in higher education was impressive, he was also a tireless community booster. He was a president or board member of the Tyler Jaycees, Texas Junior Bar Association, Smith County Red Cross, Tyler YMCA, Kiwanis Club, Strutters, Mother Francis Advisory Board, Tuberculosis Association, Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas Rose Festival Association. He was also a lieutenant governor of Kiwanis International and served on the Board of Stewards at Marvin United Methodist Church.

Judge Loftis is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret Ann Loftis; sons and daughters-in-law, Harry Lee and Charisa Loftis, Michael George and Jenny Loftis; daughter and son-in-law Mollie Ann and Robert Halpin; and ten grandchildren.

Judge Loftis will be long remembered as a devoted public servant, and the community of Tyler will miss his unwavering commitment to serve others. On behalf of his many friends and fans, I want to take this opportunity in the House of Representatives to pay our last respects to this dedicated public servant and outstanding American—Judge Harry Loftis.

HONORING THE BRAVE SOLDIERS OF THE NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S 106TH AIR RESCUE WING

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep admiration and respect for the brave soldiers of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Air Rescue Wing who recently returned home from service in Operation Enduring Freedom. The brave men and women of the 106th Air Rescue Wing are among the most talented and best-trained rescue specialists in the world.

Of course, while I am pleased these heroes are out of the line of fire, the 106th is never out of harm's way. Most Americans first heard about the 106th because of a heroic rescue effort, which was recounted in the book and movie "The Perfect Storm." They deserve our deepest gratitude for putting themselves on the front lines in war and peace.

The 106th Air Rescue Wing's extraordinary service in Iraq is the latest chapter in the storied history of this unit. During its time overseas, the unit was involved in numerous rescues, including from the October 12, 2003 bombing of the Baghdad Hotel and after a Chinook helicopter went down on November 2, 2003, a deplorable terrorist act that took the lives of 16 American soldiers. After this incident, members of the 106th Rescue Wing recovered two soldiers from the downed helicopter and brought them to safety where they received treatment. There is no more noble service than risking one's own life to save the life of a fellow soldier.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative of Gabreski Airport in Westhampton, Long Island, home of the 106th Air Rescue Wing, I could not be more proud of our soldiers returning home. I am truly privileged to represent this distinguished unit, which is not only a blessing to the people of Long Island, but to all Americans who benefit from its service.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR. AND MRS. HAVER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Charles and Lillian Haver were united in marriage November 4, 1933 and are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary; and

Whereas, Charles and Lillian Haver have demonstrated a firm commitment to each other; and

Whereas, Charles and Lillian Haver must be commended for their loyalty and dedication to their family; and

Whereas, Charles and Lillian Haver have proven, by their example, to be a model for all married couples;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Haver as they celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.