

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering a divisive and flawed resolution that proclaims that the world has been made safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq. I have great difficulty accepting that proposition, and am deeply troubled that the House Republican leadership is embarking on this transparent, partisan exercise to score political points with their right wing.

Without question, the Saddam Hussein dictatorship brutalized the Iraqi people, and there is universal approval that he has been removed from power. Iraq is moving towards becoming more safe for the Iraqi people, but it is a great exaggeration to claim, as this resolution does, that the world is safer. As we examine the facts on the one-year commemoration of the war in Iraq, there is no direct evidence that Iraq represented a clear and present danger to the United States. President Bush initiated this war which has diverted attention and resources from what should be our primary international objective: discerning, disrupting and uprooting the source of terrorism.

Just as the Bush Administration distorted and manipulated intelligence concerning weapons of mass destruction to initiate this preemptive and unilateral war against Iraq, the House Republican leadership has added to the Administration's credibility problem by advancing this resolution. The Republican majority are deceiving themselves and the American people with this assertion that we are safer as a nation and we live in a safer world. We are not and do not.

We continue to live in a very dangerous world, and we are far from winning the war against terrorism. That is why I am very troubled that the President's proposed budget fails to seek the necessary funds for homeland security. We must provide more, not lower resources, for port security; our firefighters and first responders need additional funding, but the President's budget request falls far short of what is needed to make our hometowns safer.

I am also very disappointed with the manner in which this legislation was drafted and brought to the House Floor. If the Republican majority truly wanted a strong expression of support for our troops and the Iraqi people, they could have done so without inflammatory language in this resolution, and by including the Democrats in drafting a responsible statement of bipartisan national purpose and unity. This intentional failure to bring bipartisanship to bear on this critical national security policy leaves no other conclusion to draw than the Republican leadership places a higher priority on partisan gamesmanship than on statesmanship.

This "Do Nothing Congress" has failed to address the significant challenges at home and abroad, while spending the first three months of this year considering low-priority,

feel-good House resolutions. On the one-year anniversary of our military action against Iraq, the House Republicans have squandered an opportunity to demonstrate unblemished, patriotic support for our courageous troops and the Iraqi people. The American people and especially our troops deserve better from this Congress than the misguided resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE YOLO
HEALTH ALLIANCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Yolo Health Alliance as it celebrates its 10th anniversary of service to the community. Created in 1994, the Alliance is an integrated public-private partnership including Sutter Davis Hospital, CommuniCare Health Centers, Yolo County Health Department and Sutter West Medical Group. The Alliance provides a seamless continuum of medical care to Yolo County's uninsured residents.

During the ten years of its existence, The Yolo Health Alliance has served to maintain a healthy community in Yolo County by ensuring that quality health care is available to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay for services. The Alliance has served to significantly reduce unnecessary visits to hospital emergency rooms and to increase patient satisfaction by providing comprehensive care to the underserved population of Yolo County.

Since its inception, The Yolo Health Alliance has provided health care services to over 24,000 individuals, delivering multi-lingual and culturally-appropriate care to residents representing many ethnic backgrounds. Services have grown to include both primary medical and dental care services through a network of seven community clinics located in Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, Esparto and Knights Landing.

Mr. Speaker, The Yolo Health Alliance has been a cost-effective model that lowered the cost of care per member since its inception and saved local government millions of dollars in indigent health care expenses.

It is therefore appropriate that The Yolo Health Alliance be recognized on its 10th anniversary and commended for its success and good work in providing an exceptional quality "safety net" of health care services for those in Yolo County without any coverage and without the resources to pay for care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was escorting the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security in my Congressional District and missed votes on the following measures:

(1) H. Res. 551—thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on

the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House (No. 58). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(2) H.R. 3733—Myron V. George Post Office (No. 59). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

(3) H. Res. 433—Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferré (No. 60). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my congressional district, on March 17, I missed the vote on H. Res. 557, relating to the liberation of the Iraqi people and the valiant service of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces (rollcall vote 64). I support our Nation's efforts in Iraq, and I wholeheartedly support our troops. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 64.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LUIS A. FERRÉ

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House has taken up and passed House Resolution 433, a resolution that honors and remembers the contributions of a great American and a revered figure on the island of Puerto Rico.

On October 21, 2003, at the age of 99, Puerto Rico lost a hero in the passing of Luis Ferré. Perhaps the greatest political figure in the history of Puerto Rico, Luis Ferré spent his entire life working to make life better for the residents of Puerto Rico. Luis Ferré was a successful businessman and a human rights advocate for people on the small Caribbean island. He was elected to post as both Governor and Representative in Puerto Rico and also served as Chairman of the Puerto Rico Republican Party.

Ferré loved America. One of his greatest hopes was to see his native Puerto Rico become an American State and he worked throughout his life to advance the cause of statehood for Puerto Rico. In 1917, at the age of 13 years old, Ferré along with the people of Puerto Rico were granted United States citizenship. Ferré often recounted that while he could not recall the day Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. Citizenship, that he was grateful to be alive to enjoy the privileges of living in the world's greatest republic.

In 1951, Ferré was elected delegate to the Puerto Rican Constitutional Convention and he was able to directly contribute to the island becoming an official United States Commonwealth in 1952.

In 1968, Ferré was elected Governor and he continued to work toward Puerto Rican Statehood. He remained active in politics up to his death, most notably as the chairman of the Republican Party in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, many people from across the United States and across the globe have taken note of the contributions of Luis Ferré and his life of public service on the islands of Puerto Rico. Most notably, former President George H.W. Bush awarded Ferré with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991, the highest government award a civilian can receive. Ferré is one of four Puerto Ricans to receive this Presidential honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the people of Puerto Rico and I am pleased that this body is honoring a great American and a great Puerto Rican. I extend my condolences to Luis Ferré's family and to all the people of Puerto Rico who cherished this man and his contributions.

COUNTER-TERRORIST AND NARCO-TERRORIST REWARDS PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act, H.R. 3782 seeks to expand the reward tools needed to encourage informants with data to come forward and help prevent or resolve acts of international terrorism against U.S. citizens and property throughout the world. Rewards also can be paid for information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorists who attempt, commit, conspire, or aid and abet terrorist acts. Informants with the knowledge of a location or the identification of terrorist leaders can also be rewarded.

Secretary of State Powell has authorized a reward of up to \$25 million for information leading to the capture of bin Laden and other key al Qaeda leaders, under the provisions of the USA Patriot Act of 2001. That act specifically authorizes the Secretary of State to offer and pay rewards of greater than \$5 million if it is determined that a greater amount is necessary to combat terrorism or to defend the United States against terrorist acts. As we approach the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, it is clear that a greater amount is necessary to entice informants and that the reward program must be publicized widely.

An especially important component of the bill would publicize the existence of the rewards program. The measure would provide additional authority to buy radio, television and newspaper advertisements to publicize the rewards program. It also would change the name of the program from the Rewards for Justice Program to the Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program.

The rewards incentives work. Twenty-nine people whom provided credible information that put terrorists behind bars or prevented acts of international terrorism worldwide have been rewarded with a total of more than \$49 million over the last seven years by the United States. Reward incentives played a significant role in the arrest and conviction of terrorist Ramzi Yousef, for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

This bill would also empower the Secretary of State to make rewards in any combination

of money and non-monetary instruments, including automobiles. This provision is important because people who have specific knowledge about perpetrators or their acts of terrorism may more highly value material objects, like a new tractor for their farm. The bill would also expand the eligibility criteria of informants seeking to receive a reward.

The bill would increase the maximum amount that can be paid by the Department of State for information and assistance. The maximum amount of a reward increases from \$5 million to a maximum of \$25 million and the Secretary of State may further authorize a reward of up to \$50 million for the capture of or information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden.

The bill clarifies that any information that disrupts terrorist financing networks, including information related to illicit narcotics production or international trafficking, is eligible for reward. The money laundering information does not need to be tied to a specific act of terrorism. This is particularly important, because we face threats in our own hemisphere from narco-terrorists. The common denominator for each of the many threats, however, is their funding stream. Being able to seize terrorist money has an immediate impact on their ability to conduct their horrific operations. Compensating an informant for financial information is just as vital as learning of the whereabouts of a particular actor.

The provisions in this bill dramatically improve the power of the tools available to the Department of State and law enforcement agencies to attract and compensate knowledgeable informants. We can't hope to place undercover operatives into the places where terrorist and narco-terrorist leaders plan their deeds. The advanced warning of an attack and the corresponding pre-event interdiction is priceless. Therefore, a reward is easily justified.

ON THE LOSS OF A GREAT AMERICAN, JEFF SCHROCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great American: Jeff Schrock.

Jeff died last month after battling brain cancer. Sadly, he leaves behind a loving wife, Cass, and two doting children, Jenny and Max.

I pay tribute to him as a fallen hero. Why? Because this was a man who represented the best of what America is—a loving husband, a good father, a solid citizen. Jeff Schrock and all the "Jeff Schrocks" of the world are what makes this a great country, are the kind of person that forms the intricate fabric that binds us as a Nation, are the unsung heroes who serve as the massive middle class that exemplifies the American nature at its best.

I loved Jeff. He was as generous a soul as one could hope to meet. His love of the outdoors and business acumen came together in a well-known business that he owned and which became a beach-front institution in Monterey: Monterey Bay Kayaks. At his kayak shop he patiently taught people to explore and enjoy the ocean, up close and personal. And

for someone like me, he rarely giggled when I squeezed into a full-body wet suit and ringed my waist with a rubber spray skirt. I will miss my friend, the gentleman with such aplomb and discretion!

It is sad to lose anyone so close. I want you to know how much I respected and admired Jeff and looked up to him. He was an American hero. He lived a life that bespoke the best of husbands and fathers everywhere. The dedication he showed to his family, the sense of community he exhibited in the way he ran his business, the daily comings-and-goings of Jeff Schrock, Everyman, is how we all ought to live our lives. Why? Because the end result is a life of integrity and honor, a life of quiet determination, and a life full of love. It is the hallmark of how the core principles of American life are manifested in our Nation. Jeff, in his way, knew this and revealed in it. He chose to be a leader for his family by showing compassion and generosity. He chose to be a leader by introducing his business associates to the wonders of economic profits through environmental preservation. He chose to be a leader by getting involved in community issues. He was a beacon for all of us, and those who follow his lead, will be part and parcel of a stronger America, as Jeff truly was.

Mr. Speaker, I miss my friend Jeff Schrock. I lament the death of the fellow who helped me squeeze into a kayak and who opened, so for many of us, an amazing Window to the wonders of Monterey Bay and our world's oceans. I share the grief of his wife and children. But above all, I honor the role model he was and will be for those he left behind.

HONORING LARRY AND JEAN ELLIOTT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple from my district, Larry and Jean Elliott, whose lives tragically ended in Iraq this week.

In life and death, the Elliots saw service as God's calling. Missionaries for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, they intermittently stayed at the mission house of First Baptist Church in Cary when they were in North Carolina. Long stationed in Honduras, they were watching CNN one day when they saw a broadcast of an Iraqi man pulling dirty water from a hang-dug well. It was a scene that struck a chord with Larry. In Honduras, he and Jean had spent years building schools, developing water purification systems to provide fresh water to rural residents, coordinating visits by medical and dental teams from the U.S., and translating for other relief workers. They knew the importance of taking care of basic human needs as a ministry of compassion and sacrifice.

Larry and Jean were not deterred by the dangers of Iraq, and they went without hesitation. A friend said their courage stemmed from a sense of peace and a belief that their destiny was in God's hands.

They were scouting the best location for their water purification project when they became casualties of the war: they were killed in a drive-by shooting in Mosul on March 15. It