

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF COALITION SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the news media is quick to provide gratuitous coverage of anti-war protests in Europe and elsewhere. They are quick to provide a forum for critics of U.S. policy in Iraq and even quicker to highlight the problems, misfortunes, and missteps of our coalition forces in Iraq. What they rarely do, however, is to highlight the contributions and valor of our coalition soldiers.

Take, for example, the case of Salvadoran Corporal Samuel Toloza. According to a recent Associated Press story, "One of his friends was dead, 12 others lay wounded and the four soldiers still left standing were surrounded and out of ammunition. So Toloza said a prayer, whipped out his . . . knife and charged the Iraqi gunmen."

The story goes on, "In one of the only known instances of hand-to-hand combat in the Iraq conflict, Toloza stabbed several attackers who were swarming around a comrade. The stunned assailants backed away momentarily, just as a relief column came to their rescue."

According to the reports, Toloza and 16 other members were trapped by members of Muqtada al-Sadr's al-Mahdi militia. They initially did not fire their weapons for several hours, for fear of inflicting civilian casualties, despite the fact that insurgents were peppering the group with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Finally, after fighting back, the group, comprised of Salvadoran and American soldiers, ran out of ammunition. Faced with mounting casualties, they placed wounded soldiers on transports and tried to make their way back to the base. Unfortunately, they ran into a contingent of about 10 insurgents on the way. That is when Toloza, out of ammunition, rushed the insurgents with nothing but his knife, buying enough time for reinforcements to arrive.

"We never considered surrender," Toloza reportedly said, "I was trained to fight until the end."

Phil Kosnett, who heads the Coalition Provisional Authority in Najaf, also has nothing but praise for the nearly 400 Salvadoran troops fighting shoulder to shoulder with American troops in Iraq. In fact, he is so impressed with their valor and dedication to duty, he has nominated six of them for the Bronze Star, and for good reason. The AP story goes on to explain that Kosnett himself believes he owes his life to them. Salvadoran troops, the story continues, "repelled a well-executed insurgent attack on Kosnett's three-car convoy in March."

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the sacrifices and heroism of our soldiers, as well as those of our allies, like Corporal Toloza, for their efforts and contributions to protecting freedom and on their efforts in the war on terror.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY MCGRORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Mary McGrory, who passed away 2 weeks ago at the age of 85. During her magnificent career with the Washington Star and The Washington Post, Mary informed and engaged her readers on every major event of the past half century.

Mary was a keen observer, an elegant writer and a tenacious journalist; and she was an inspiration to so many women. It was a joy to read her columns, and of course, we miss her terribly. That is why I am so pleased to join my colleagues here today, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), who was a very close personal friend of Mary McGrory, and our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who is in the Chamber now, as well as our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), who had the honor of being pallbearers for Mary. What a tribute.

We loved Mary for her insights. No matter how many reporters covered an event, Mary always found the small detail that had large implications others may have overlooked.

She noted the manner in which Richard Nixon's staff reacted to his retirement press conference in 1962, the bearing of Secretary of Army Robert Stevens during the Army-McCarthy hearings, and so many other fine points. At times, it seemed that Mary grasped the significance of everything that she saw.

She saw nearly everything. We loved Mary for her diligence. She was one of the hardest-working people in Washington. Even into her eighties, she would come to Capitol Hill to see firsthand the events of the day.

She was always willing to have a cub reporter, even a senior editor, take her bags; but she would never ask someone else to take her notes.

She was legendary for looking after every detail, even writing out the instructions for her own funeral. She had directed her former Washington Star colleague, Phil Gailey, to talk about her beloved Star in the eulogy, and she told him: "Don't go blubbering on me the way you do when you read a dog story with a sad ending."

Mary's insight and her industry were matched only by her eloquence. We loved Mary for choosing every word with care.

Mary had a vocabulary that would send her editor reaching for his dictionary, and when she wrote about a retiring Congresswoman once that her "black eyes still snap with the old fire," she gave her readers in eight words a better understanding of the congresswoman than lesser writers did in eight paragraphs.

From the Army-McCarthy hearings that brought her to Washington's attention, to her Watergate coverage for which she won the Pulitzer Prize, to her chronicling of the Iraq War debate which proved to be her swan song, her writing enriched our national dialogue. Those of us who were inspired by President John F. Kennedy, as she was, took sad solace in her loving reporting on his assassination.

Here, in the Congress, we were so fortunate to have the opportunity to honor Mary McGrory in March and to see the outpouring of affection and gratitude for her career. We were joined by many Members of the House of Representatives, many members of the United States Senate, many of her colleagues from the press corps. We were her fans, and we were there for her.

God blessed America with Mary McGrory, a beautiful writer, a wonderful person. Her passing is a tremendous loss for us all.

She loved Boston. She loved being Irish, but she also loved Italy; and she had a bond always with the Italians. She visited Italy frequently.

She loved her garden. We all know how much she loved her garden. One could talk all day about Mary McGrory and never be able to capture her in the way she would capture her. Nonetheless, it was an honor and a privilege, and, indeed, a joy to be able to call her friend.

Again, I know that I speak for many in this Chamber who will say thank you, Mary, for what you have given us. Thank you for being a blessing to our country. We will miss you sadly. Thank you.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this week as part of the Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican working group dedicated to rooting out the rampant waste, fraud and

abuse that permeates every corner of the Federal bureaucracy.

I hope that soon the House of Representatives will be able to vote on a conference report for the fiscal year 2005 budget. Now, we have historically a large deficit in this Nation; and at this time, many of my Democrat colleagues suggest that it is time to yet again raise taxes on American families. Just last week, many voted against marriage penalty tax relief, the very same marriage penalty that would raise taxes on 30 million married couples by \$369 next year.

Many Democrats keep demanding that we roll back the tax relief that is responsible for the unparalleled growth in our economy, the tax relief that is creating jobs; and the tax relief, if we look at the budget, amounts to 1 percent of the \$28.3 trillion, trillion with a T, 10-year spending plan that we approved last year.

So if they are truly concerned about the budget deficit, perhaps they should focus on 99 percent of the challenge, and that is, the spending side of the equation, much of which, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately proves to be waste, fraud and abuse.

We must all realize that the deficit is the symptom. It is spending that is the disease. It is only the fourth time in the history of our Nation the Federal Government is now spending over \$20,000 per household. This figure is up from just 5 years ago of \$16,000 per household, representing the largest increase in the Federal Government in 50 years.

We have a spending problem in Washington, not a taxing problem; and I, for one, say it is not time to raise taxes on the American family as many Democrats seek to do, but it is time to get serious about rooting out the waste, the fraud, the abuse.

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In other words, it is time to take out the trash in Washington. Let me give a few examples of waste in just one government agency. The Interior Department's Inspector General revealed that the Department now manages approximately 31,000 separate Web sites, presenting between 3 and 5 million pages of information with maintenance costs approaching \$220 million a year. Now, AOL-Time Warner, who I believe is the largest Internet service provider in the world, manages in contrast about 50 sites, but the Interior Department manages 31,000 different Web sites. In an agency that employs 70,000, that means the Department of Interior has almost one Web site for every two employees.

Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes that would pay for more of this?

The Inspector General also reported at the Interior Department that we awarded \$44 million in Federal contracts to the CEO of a tribal Indian corporation who stole and laundered a half million dollars in Federal funds.

The Guam Waterworks Authority, which receives Federal grants, incurred

outrageous overtime costs of \$8.6 million over a 3-year period, failed to collect delinquent accounts totaling \$12.6 million, and failed to charge customers for a half million cost of water line extensions, all of this while using money from the Federal taxpayer. Yet Democrats want to raise taxes that will pay for more of this?

In another example, the National Park Service spent \$800,000 on an out-house, and it does not even work. The only thing it flushes is more of the American worker's hard-earned money down the drain. The list goes on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples of waste in just one Federal agency. The problem is we have over 10,000 Federal programs spread across 600 different agencies with little accountability to anyone. Republicans are trying to work to root out this waste of the American tax dollars. This should be a bipartisan issue, but many of our Democrat colleagues continue to fight us.

Last year our Committee on the Budget passed out a budget asking for authorizing committees to identify just 1 percent waste, fraud and abuse; just 1 percent. Yet Democrat leaders ridiculed the effort. One termed it a senseless and irresponsible exercise.

Mr. Speaker, I believe most Americans would disagree with that statement. In fact, I believe most would say saving taxpayer money and rooting out waste is common sense and the responsible thing to do with their money. The truth is there are many ways we can save money in Washington without cutting any needed services and without raising taxes on our hard-working American families because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money that Washington spends that counts, it is how Washington spends the money.

CONGRESSIONAL OBLIGATION TO SEEK ANSWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today in Iraq, 138,000 American troops are putting their lives on the line. Despite the President's "Mission Accomplished" declaration, more of our brave service men and women died last month since any month since the war in Iraq. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz does not know how much the war costs, or that 764 Americans have died, but that is typical of an administration that refuses to admit its mistakes or explain its policies.

The images of tortured prisoners, broadcast throughout the world, have done irreparable damage to our mission and credibility in the Middle East. Still the majority of the House and the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services said congressional hearings are unnecessary.

Let me quote President Kennedy. "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can succeed, and no republic can survive."

President Kennedy possessed the kind of leadership that allowed him to acknowledge mistakes and accept responsibility. But now there is a different standard, and today America received this response from House majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), commenting on the possibility of a congressional investigation into the scandal of Iraq and the torture of its prisoners, "A full-fledged investigation, that is like saying we need hearings on every case of police brutality. I do not think they are warranted."

This Congress has an obligation to our constituents, to our country, to ask the how and the why about Iraq and seek answers. While refusing to hold hearings on Iraq, here is a list of what Congress has passed since the Easter break: Named, the John J. Pershing Post Office; named, the Wilkie D. Ferguson Courthouse; named, the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office; named, the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office; named, the Richard G. Wilson Postal Facility; named, the Paul Simon Federal Building; named, the James V. Hansen Federal Building; named, the Ronald Reagan Federal Building; commended the Garden Club of America; urged the release of Wang Bingzhang; recognized the importance of music education; congratulated the University of Connecticut basketball teams; congratulated the University of Denver men's hockey team; congratulated Kennesaw State University men's basketball team; authorized the use of Capitol grounds for the Soapbox Derby; authorized the use of Capitol grounds for the Police Officers' Memorial; honored Melvin Jones and Lions Clubs; supported the goals of Financial Literacy Month; supported the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act; authorized the Congressional Medal for Math and Science Education; supported Taiwan's entry into WHO; promoted freedom and democracy in Laos; recognized the importance of increasing autism awareness; increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act; and congratulated charter schools, to name a few.

As worthy as this legislation may be and while we passed all of this unanimously, here is what our brave men and women we all love to acknowledge and respect, here is what their headlines said: Insurgents kill 12 Marines in Sunni Triangle; al Qaeda claims responsibility for attacks in Iraq; As multifront uprising continues, U.S. loses control of Najaf, Kufa to Shiite Militia; Marines were Ambushed in Ramadi; Three more Marines killed in Iraq; Two U.S. troops killed; Sanchez declares current troop strength adequate as casualties mount; Fate of American hostage in Iraq still unknown; Apache helicopter reported