

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the NBC Nightly News broadcast a segment in which the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah was quoted as telling Saudi television that "Zionists" were behind May 1 attack on contractors at the Saudi oil facility in Yanbu. That attack killed five westerners, including two Americans.

The Crown Prince's remarks were echoed by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef, who said that, "al Qaeda is backed by Israel and Zionism." Prince Abdullah's comments were scurrilous and inflammatory; unfortunately, they are part of a persistent pattern by the Saudi government of saying one thing to the United States and the west and another thing altogether to its own citizens, 15 of whom participated in the September 11 attacks against our Nation.

Indeed, the fact that three-quarters of the 9-11 terrorists were Saudis and that their leader, Osama bin Laden, was a member of a family that long enjoyed close ties to the Saudi royal family, should have spurred the Saudi government to immediate action. Instead, Saudi officials engaged in a protracted effort to deny that any of their citizens had been involved in the 9-11 attacks and instead blamed Israel for terrorism.

Saudi double-talk has had the effect of undermining the efforts that Kingdom has belatedly made in combating terrorism. In the wake of the May 2003 bombing of the housing compounds in Riyadh, the Saudi government began to take steps to cut off sources of terrorism funding, but much more needs to be done. A new report from the Council on Foreign Relations notes that while Riyadh has enacted new laws, regulations, and institutions dealing with money laundering, charitable donations, and financial operations, those new measures have not been fully implemented and there have been no arrests of prominent Saudis who have supported al Qaeda financially.

While we must work with the Saudis to ensure they are continuing to move forward in their efforts in counterterrorism, the war against Islamic terrorism requires the United States to engage Saudi Arabia on a broad range of issues. As the Council on Foreign Relations noted, our relationship with Saudi Arabia over the past 7 decades was built on a bargain in which the Kingdom would ensure stability in the world's oil markets and would play a constructive role in regional security. In exchange, the United States would guarantee Saudi security and would not interfere or raise questions about Saudi domestic issues.

The events of September 11 compel us to challenge the Saudis to change the conditions in the Kingdom that have made it a breeding ground for extremism. We must do this for our own security, but also to help ensure the stability of Saudi Arabia and of the entire

Arab world. A stable, moderate and reforming Saudi government is in America's national interest, and we must push for reform in Saudi Arabia without destabilizing the country further and throwing it into chaos.

Saudi Arabia's problems did not arise overnight. They are the product of decades of tension between the Saudi royal family and the Wahhabi clerics, whose ultra-conservative brand of Islam predominates in the Kingdom. When the House of Saud came to power, it sought to bring electricity, modern communications, and infrastructure to a traditional nomadic desert society.

In November 1979, these contradictions exploded when a group of Islamic militants invaded Mecca's Grand Mosque and took hundreds of pilgrims hostage. Government forces retook the Mosque and executed dozens of Islamic extremists. Instead of working to root out extremism throughout the country, the government sought accommodation with the extremists and handed over control of many aspects of Saudi life, including education, the Judiciary, and cultural affairs to the clerics. As a Saudi businessman tellingly told *Newsweek's* Fareed Zakaria recently, "Having killed the extremists, the regime implemented their entire agenda."

Thus, at the height of the Saudi oil boom of the 1970s and 1980s, Saudi Arabia took a sharp conservative turn. Even as thousands of young Saudis were being educated in the west, the majority of their countrymen were being fed a diet of religious and cultural bigotry. The rights of women, already almost nonexistent, were even more circumscribed.

By September 2001, the Saudi economy had faltered, its cities were filled with large numbers of undereducated, underemployed, and unmotivated young people who had both tasted modernity and were steeped in an ideology that preached hatred toward the west.

While the Saudis have begun to address the terrorist financing issue, Riyadh has yet to begin the more difficult task of recapturing the country from the extremists. This battle will be long, it will be difficult, and it will be bloody, but we must keep the pressure on the government of Saudi Arabia to do this. Our security and their future depends upon it.

TRIBUTE TO LAGRANGE GRANGERS, GEORGIA'S 2004 AAA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the LaGrange High School Grangers, Georgia's 2004 AAA high school baseball champions.

To win the State championship, LaGrange had to beat one of Georgia's greatest baseball powerhouses, the

Cartersville Purple Hurricanes, a program that captured State titles for the past 3 years in a row. I am proud to say that the runner up and defending champion, Cartersville High School, is also in Georgia's 11th congressional district.

The Grangers' crown did not come easily. They split a double-header to force a decisive game three. In that final game, LaGrange jumped out to a big lead, going ahead 9 to 2. But the Purple Hurricanes were not done yet. They crawled back, and then notched three runs in the sixth inning to tie the game at 10 to 10. That is when the Grangers proved they had the heart of champions.

In the bottom of the sixth, LaGrange knocked in three runs, and senior Josh Edmonson took the mound in the seventh inning to snuff out any more comeback hopes for the Purple Hurricanes.

□ 1545

After winning game three of the series, the Grangers finished the year 31-6. I am proud for the team and I am proud for the coaches, Donnie Branch and Jon Powell, who have been together with the team since 1989. Their teams had advanced far in the tournament in previous years, but the ultimate crown had remained elusive until now.

As Coach Powell explained his excitement to the LaGrange Daily News, "You can't put it into words. You dream about it and you work and you work and you work."

Coach Branch, congratulations on a dream come true and a job well done.

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

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

EVENTS IN SUDAN AND IN MEMORY OF MATTIE STEPANEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to join in with a number of my colleagues and as well the Congressional Black Caucus on this question of the people in Sudan. I add my appreciation to the leadership of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and Senator BROWNBACK on recognizing the enormity of the genocide that is occurring in Sudan. I know that if the nation of Sudan wants to do better, it can do better.

Right now we have 400,000 Sudanese being displaced and thousands being killed every day. As some of us said

this week, we cannot return to the Rwanda where we lost millions of lives in the conflict and bloodshed of a few years ago. This is genocide, Arab against Black Muslim, and it must stop. I would encourage Secretary Kofi Annan, who will be heading to Sudan, to give a very strong and very noncompromising statement and demand.

I would likewise encourage and suggest that Secretary Powell must be noncompromising and demanding, the immediate cease-fire and disarming of the Janjaweed and as well the immediate response, humanitarian efforts to be able to go into that area. My understanding is that bloodshed continues and whatever the representations have been of the government, the bloodshed has not stopped.

Might I say that those of us who care about people care about all of the people in Sudan, but not the violent murderers that have been intimidating and frightening and killing innocent people. As I said, the Government of Sudan can in fact make changes. The question is to them, Do they want to make these changes? The Ambassador has said so, and I would like to hear from the government to know that they are stopping the bloodshed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to transition, because my comments are about peace and tranquility and the need for such. I would like to transcend just for a moment to honor a young man that I did not know, but as Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus I am obligated to acknowledge young Mattie Stepanek, a young, 13-year-old poet who suffered with muscular dystrophy, a child poet who continued to inspire us, whose inspirational verse made him a best-selling writer and a prominent voice for muscular dystrophy sufferers. He died Tuesday of a rare form of the disease. Interestingly enough, not only did he lose his life, but his mother lost children before with the same disease. Can you imagine?

Mattie died at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, the hospital said. He had been hospitalized since early March from complications related to the disease that impaired most of his body. But, Mr. Speaker, it did not impair his mind and his spirit. His poetry sold millions of copies. And when I saw his last repeated interview with Larry King, I saw him say that he wanted to be a peacemaker, he wanted his life to exude what we could do as a human family. He wanted this Earth to be full of peace. His mother, Jeni, 44, has the adult onset form of the disease and his three oldest siblings had died of the same disease in early childhood.

Mattie began writing poetry at age 3 to cope with the death of a brother. In 2001, a small publisher issued a slim volume of his poems called "Heartsongs." Within weeks, the book reached the top of the Times best-seller list. He wrote four other books: "Journey Through Heartsongs," "Hope Through Heartsongs," "Celebrate Through Heartsongs" and "Loving

Through Heartsongs." He said that if he could be the one to change people's minds about war and peace, he wanted it to be him. And so as he sat in his wheelchair with a breathing tube, no one could stop having their heart go out to him and be moved by a child guiding us, adults who are based in conflict and who cause wars.

Here was a child encouraging us to educate the public and plead with us whether we would stand for peace over war and life over death. This young man who suffered his entire life, you would never know that Mattie suffered, for he spoke with eloquence and compassion and spirit, and he just drew you to him. Mattie was 13 years old, but he could say to those far beyond his years in wisdom and in age, he could tell them that they were loved and that there was another place and that he believed in peace.

One of his songs says, "Have you witnessed the early morning, right before the sun rises and the sky glows purple lava lamp? The clouds are the dark, floating lumps, and the still, gentle Earth is to look upon." He called it "Rapture." He then had one called "Hope": "Gentle and peaceful. We are the children of one God yet so many faiths. True, we are different. Unique mosaics of life. Still, we are the same. United we are the festive fabric of life. Divided we fall."

Mr. Speaker, I would say to you that if we listen for just a moment to that fleeting voice of this young man who now I know lives above us in heaven, we would understand the sweetness of a tranquil peace and to recognize that as conflicts abound in Afghanistan and Iraq and as this world looks to America and its future, maybe, Mr. Speaker, we will be allowed to take a brief message from Mattie and regain our moral high ground, the Nation who defends and not offends, the Nation who stands for the morality of peace.

I salute Mattie Stepanek and to his loving mother who has lost four of her children, I pray for them, I pray for his soul. God bless him. God bless America.

Mattie Stepanek, the 13-year-old child poet, whose inspirational verse made him a best-selling writer and a prominent voice for muscular dystrophy sufferers, died Tuesday of a rare form of the disease.

Mattie died at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, the hospital said. He had been hospitalized since early March for complications related to the disease that impaired most of his body's functions.

In his short life, the tireless Mattie Stepanek wrote five volumes of poetry that sold millions of copies. Three of the volumes reached the New York Times' best-seller list.

Mattie had dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, a genetic disease that impaired his heart rate, breathing, blood pressure and digestion, and caused muscle weakness. His mother, Jeni, 44, has the adult-onset form of the disease, and his three older siblings died of it in early childhood.

Mattie began writing poetry at age 3 to cope with the death of a brother. In 2001, a small publisher issued a slim volume of his poems,

called "Heartsongs." Within weeks, the book reached the top of the Times' best-seller list.

He wrote four other books: "Journey Through Heartsongs," "Hope Through Heartsongs," "Celebrate Through Heartsongs," and "Loving Through Heartsongs."

His poems brought him admirers including Oprah Winfrey and former President Carter and made him one of the best-selling poets in recent years.

Mattie was hospitalized many times over the years. He rolled around his home in a wheelchair he nicknamed "Slick," and relied on a feeding tube, a ventilator and frequent blood transfusions to stay alive.

Despite his condition, Mattie was upbeat, saying he didn't fear death. His work was full of life, a quest for peace, hope and the inner voice he called a "heartsong."

"It's our inner beauty, our message, the songs in our hearts," he said in an interview with The Associated Press in November 2001. "My life mission is to spread peace to the world."

I also want to use this time to speak about the Ad Council's new public opinion survey, entitled, "Turning Point: Engaging the Public on Behalf of Children." This report concludes what many of us in the Congressional Children's Caucus have known for some time: we need to effectively communicate to the public about helping kids. "Turning Point" indicates that the public is willing to listen and the children need our help more than ever.

I have spoken with the Ad Council, and their panel of experts which included Warren Kornblum, Chief Marketing Officer, Toys 'R' Us, Gary Knell, President and CEO, Sesame Workshop, and Paul Kurnit, Founder & President, KidShop. Based on their research and interviews, the report concludes that the public has a more positive view of children and the majority of Americans believe that parents are responsible for raising children with the support of their community. Instead of focusing on blame, we are going to focus on a solution.

There are a myriad of challenges facing our children, and we must work to make children a top legislative priority or it will be a constant struggle to address them. In my State of Texas, 120,370 children were reported as abused or neglected and referred for investigation in the year 2001. This is a rate of 20 per every 1000 Texan children. Even more troubling, 206 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Texas in 2001.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am always appreciative of ways to put the needs of children at the forefront of our legislative agenda. The Ad Council has provided us communication and message tools. We in Congress can use these to convey that children are indeed a high priority.

Educating the public about children is not something we can leave alone, in hopes of it occurring by itself. I hope that many of you here can take these communication tools back to your offices, your districts and your own homes.

MATTIE STEPANEK'S POEMS (AS READ ON
LARRY KING LIVE)
HEARTSONG

And a heartsong is your inner message, it's
your inner beauty, like what you are
meant to do in life. My heartsong is to
help others hear theirs again.

And all heartsongs are different and unique
and beautiful. And even though similarities
are good, it's the differences

that make them special. And we should never try to force our heartsongs on others or have all the same heartsongs.

And it's sad that people are fighting over whose heartsong is better nowadays, because they're all different and beautiful.

RAPTURE

Have you witnessed the early morning, right before the sun rises and the sky glows purple lava lamp? The clouds are the dark, floating lumps, and the still, gentle earth is to look upon.

HOPE HAIKU

Gentle and peaceful. We are the children of one God yet so many faiths. True, we are different. Unique mosaics of life. Still, we are the same. United we are the festive fabric of life. Divided we fall.

RESOLUTION INVOCATION

Let this truly be the celebration of a new year. Let us remember the past, yet not dwell in it. Let us fully use the present, yet not waste it. Let us live for the future, yet not count on it. Let this truly be the celebration of a new year, as we remember and appreciate and live, rejoicing with each other.

ABOUT HEAVEN

Now I will tell you about heaven. Where is heaven? It is way over there. And it is way over there. And it is way over there, too. It is everywhere. What does it look like? It looks like a school. And it looks like a farm. And it looks like a home. It looks like everything. What does it sound like? Well, I really don't know, because I'm just a little big boy with a brother and another brother and sister and a friend who live in the everywhere and everything of heaven. But perhaps heaven sounds like forever.

I AM

I am black. I am white. I am all skins in between. I am young. I am old. I am each age that has been. I am scrawny. I am well fed. I am starving for attention. I am famous. I am cryptic. I am hardly worth the mention. I am short. I am height. I am any frame or stature. I am smart. I am challenged. I am striving for a future. I am able. I am weak. I am some strength. I am none. I am being. I am thoughts. I am all things, said and done. I am born. I am dying. I am dust of humble roots. I am grace. I am pain. I am labor of willed fruits. I am a slave. I am free. I am bonded to my life. I am rich. I am poor. I am wealth amid strife. I am shadow. I am glory. I am hiding from my shame. I am hero. I am loser. I am yearning for a name. I am empty. I am proud. I am seeking my tomorrow. I am growing. I am fading. I am hope amid the sorrow. I am certain. I am doubtful. I am desperate for solutions. I am leader. I am student. I am fate and evolutions. I am spirit. I am voice. I am memory not recalled. I am chance. I am cause. I am effort, blocks and walls. I am him. I am her. I am reasons without rhymes. I am past. I am nearing. I am present in all times. I am many. I am no one. I am seasoned by each being. I am me. I am you. I am all souls now decreeing: I am.

MATTIE STEPANEK BACKGROUND

Mattie Stepanek, the child poet whose inspirational verse made him a best-selling writer and a prominent voice for muscular dystrophy sufferers, died Tuesday of a rare form of the disease. He was 13.

Mattie died at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, the hospital said. He had been hospitalized since early March for complications related to the disease that impaired most of his body's functions.

In his short life, the tireless Stepanek wrote five volumes of poetry that sold millions of copies. Three of the volumes reached the New York Times' best-seller list.

"Mattie was something special, something very special," entertainer Jerry Lewis, who chairs the Muscular Dystrophy Association, said in a statement.

"His example made people want to reach for the best within themselves."

Mattie had dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, a genetic disease that impaired his heart rate, breathing, blood pressure and digestion, and caused muscle weakness.

His mother, Jeni, 44, has the adult-onset form of the disease, and his three older siblings died of it in early childhood.

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His poems brought him admirers including Oprah Winfrey and former President Carter and made him one of the best-selling poets in recent years.

Mattie was hospitalized many times over the years. He rolled around his home in a wheelchair he nicknamed "Slick," and relied on a feeding tube, a ventilator and frequent blood transfusions to stay alive.

In the summer of 2001, Mattie nearly died from uncontrollable bleeding in his throat and spent five months at Children's National. When it seemed he would not survive, the hospital got in touch with a Virginia publisher on his behalf.

Mattie and his mother had sent the book to dozens of New York publishers, all of whom rejected it, according to Peter Barnes of VSP Publishers. Barnes said he was caught off guard when he read the work.

VSP Books printed 200 copies of "Heartsongs" to be handed out to friends. But after a news conference publicizing the book, interest exploded. "Heartsongs" went on to sell more than 500,000 copies.

Despite his condition, Mattie was upbeat, saying he didn't fear death. His work was full of life, a quest for peace, hope and the inner voice he called a "heartsong."

"It's our inner beauty, our message, the songs in our hearts," he said in an interview with The Associated Press in November 2001. "My life mission is to spread peace to the world."

JUSTICES RAISE DOUBTS ON SENTENCING RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor because of two court decisions that will have, I think, very important effects on the criminal justice system, on justice in our country, and on the lives of many Americans who have indeed not had the benefits of equal justice in our country. One comes from the Massachusetts Supreme Court

where a district judge has thrown out the Federal sentencing guidelines as unconstitutional. This is an interesting case because the guidelines were upheld in 1989 by the Supreme Court, so it will be important to look closely at this case because the judge clearly feels that there are now grounds to throw the sentencing guidelines out notwithstanding the Supreme Court decision and probably because the Supreme Court decision does not take into effect all that the Massachusetts district judge has found.

This has to go, of course, to the First Circuit Court of Appeals. It is very significant. What makes it more significant is that the Supreme Court itself has now just thrown out Washington State guidelines of a kind that are very similar to the Federal guidelines, at least in many respects, in an opinion written by Justice Scalia.

Essentially what the court found in the 5-4 decision is that the Washington State guidelines violate the sixth amendment right to a jury trial because the sentence is beyond the ordinary range for the crime and this increase in punishments was decided by a judge and not by a jury. Therefore it was in violation, according to the Supreme Court, of the sixth amendment right to a jury trial.

Essentially what the court seemed to be saying was that the Washington State sentencing guidelines allow a judge to enhance sentences beyond what has been placed before a jury and beyond what the crime usually carries. That is exactly what the Federal guidelines do and that is why everyone is scrambling to see whether or not we have something very significant and how to take charge of it.

Its significance, of course, cannot be doubted. For myself, my chief interest is not only as a constitutional lawyer but my interest as well is on the effect of the Federal sentencing guidelines on an entire generation of young black men. Only crack cocaine drug offenses have enhanced sentences. That is to say, if you have cocaine, there is no enhanced sentence. But if you have crack cocaine, there is an enhanced sentence. As you might imagine, crack cocaine, because it is cheap, is found in lower-income communities. The effect has been quite outrageous. Essentially if you look at our country today, black men are 5 percent of the population. They are almost 50 percent of those in jail. Have they been in jail for being drug kingpins? Not at all. These are mostly drug users. Any selling they have done has been to support their habit for the most part. And the Federal sentencing guidelines have so outraged the Federal judiciary that the Judicial Conference has in fact for years now been for the repeal of the guidelines. No less than two conservative justices, Justice Rehnquist and Justice Kennedy, have come forward in speeches against the Federal judicial guidelines.

These cases merit real attention. The harm that has been done has been done