

contribution to the community has been his dedication to Easter Seals New Hampshire.

Ben's efforts have made Manchester a better business and residential community. I am honored to represent concerned and conscientious citizens like Ben Gamache in the United States House of Representatives.

HOMELAND SECURITY SHOULD BRING UNITY IN HOUSE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as an ethical cloud hovers over the House of Representatives, as the fog of misrepresentation on the war in Iraq is slowly lifting, homeland security should be one thing that unites this country. But sadly, the greatest failure of the Republican leadership is the inability to bring us together around this issue.

The squabbling on a flawed bill later this morning is just one more example. It is not just its bad provisions; it ducks entirely the issue of unifying our fractured intelligence service. The 9/11 Commission under Governor Kean and Lee Hamilton did their job in a bipartisan manner. The Senate, working together with every, every Republican supporting it, did theirs. The tragedy for the House and the American people is that the House Republican leadership is unable to do their job with this critical task. The good news is the Senate and the 9/11 Commission did their job.

Mr. Speaker, it is more important than ever that the American people do their job on Election Day.

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AMERICANS MISLED

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Duelfer report submitted by the chief U.S. weapons inspector to Congress yesterday confirms what we already knew: Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction, no nuclear weapons, no weapons programs. There is no evidence that Saddam Hussein had a plan to recruit or the capabilities to rebuild his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

Yet, George Bush, DICK CHENEY continue to mislead the American people by ignoring the facts and trying to justify the invasion of a nation that we now know posed no imminent threat to the United States. It is bad enough that we went to war based on the worst intelligence in this Nation's history. What is shameful and unforgivable is that the President who led us into this unnecessary war refuses to acknowledge our profound mistake and take responsibility for it.

The smirk, the swagger, the unbending stubbornness of this President has worn thin in the face of the reality of what is going on on the ground in Iraq. It is time that we elect a President with true leadership characteristics who will not lie to the American people and who can restore the respect and honor we once enjoyed in the world community.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN RICK BENNETT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Fire Captain Rick Bennett, a man whose selfless service keeps the citizens of Georgia's 11th district safe each and every day.

This past Monday morning, I had the privilege of attending a Public Safety Appreciation Breakfast to honor Captain Bennett of the Cobb County Fire and Emergency Service. The award, Public Safety Employee of the Year, is given annually to an individual who has performed with exceptional skill, expertise, and innovation.

Captain Bennett has worked for Cobb County for 13 years and is assigned to one of the busiest stations in the county, Fire Station No. 8 in Kennesaw, Georgia, where he is responsible for eight fire and hazmat personnel. Captain Bennett is considered an expert in the field of hazardous material response and training and recently was invited to instruct at the State Fire Academy.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's first responders are the brave souls risking their lives to prevent catastrophe, and Captain Bennett exemplifies the type of quality public safety employee that Georgia's 11th Congressional District has to offer, and he deserves our heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join in congratulating Captain Bennett for his fine work.

CHANGE IS NEEDED

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we as Americans have been victims of lies, deceptions, and distractions. Today's LA Times reported that Saddam Hussein did not produce or possess any weapons of mass destruction for more than a decade before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Last year it was said, and it has been said repeatedly, that there were weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqi regime had no formal written strategy to revise the banned programs after sanctions and no staff or infrastructure in place to do so.

Mr. Speaker, more than a thousand U.S. troops have been killed and thou-

sands more have been wounded for a bogus reason. We have broken a country, and we need billions of dollars to rebuild while we are neglecting our own needs here at home. The House leadership has been rebuked and the administration has led us in the wrong direction. A change is definitely needed.

CBS' MEDIA BIAS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" broadcast a story about alleged Bush administration efforts to revive the draft. This story was based on a phony anonymous e-mail that claimed a new draft was imminent, and it featured a mother who said she was fearful her children would be drafted, but CBS did not reveal she is a leader in a group that opposes the draft.

Two days ago the House rejected legislation that would have revived the draft by a vote of 402 to 2. CBS apparently is not aware of the House vote because last night's broadcast made no mention of it.

Mr. Speaker, so after airing a major story about the possibility of a draft, CBS failed to report an overwhelming vote of the Congress not to resume the draft and, unfortunately, made no efforts to provide the American people with the facts.

Mr. Speaker, this week's media bias award again goes to the "CBS Evening News."

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, each and every day more and more information comes to light, and every single day we see more and more proof that there was no justification for this war in Iraq, no justification.

Did this administration and this President mislead, deceive, lie; or did they just fail to tell the truth? There was never ever any growing threat or any growing danger to our Nation. This President and his administration owe the community of nations, members of Congress, the American people, and the families of those who lost their lives in Iraq an apology.

This administration should come clean and tell the truth, nothing but the truth, the whole truth.

Now we learn that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were destroyed after the first Gulf War. At the time we invaded Iraq, Iraq not only lacked any weapons of mass destruction; it lacked the capability to build them, and this administration knew it. They knew it. It is time to tell the truth and nothing

but the whole truth. The truth will set you free.

HONORING FIRST LADY HOVAH HALL UNDERWOOD

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing and honor the life of and contributions of a former first lady of the State of West Virginia, Hovah Hall Underwood. Hovah was a young wife and mother when she and her husband, Cecil, moved into the Governor's mansion in 1956. Cecelia was a toddler, and Craig and Sharon were both born while the family lived in the mansion. She served as a gracious first lady, all the while focusing her energies on the task of raising three very young children.

In 1996 the citizens of West Virginia once again elected Cecil Underwood as Governor, and Hova was once again our First Lady. Building upon a lifelong dedication to the work of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, she always liked to say that this term she focused her energies on all the children of West Virginia. She was the driving force behind new programs to strengthen early learning and volunteerism in our State.

She took seriously the charge to serve others each day of our lives, and her legacy is the many thousands of lives that she touched. Our thoughts today are with Governor Underwood, their children, Cecelia Baker, Craig Underwood and Sharon Underwood, grandchildren Christopher and Coleman Richardson, Mary and Quinton Baker, and Jordan and Myles Underwood.

All West Virginians have indeed lost a very special friend.

HONORING OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT AND NAS WHIDBEY

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the outstanding work for the Oak Harbor School District and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, both of which are in my district.

Currently, NAS Whidbey has five squadrons and one logistical unit deployed, roughly 1,000 servicewomen and men, many who have children in the Oak Harbor School District.

This week representatives from the Oak Harbor School District visited my office to discuss how deployment impacts schools and students. Last year almost 60 percent of their students were children of active Navy personnel, 70 percent of which had at least one parent deployed overseas.

Teachers, counselors, and staff have taken on the additional task of helping those dealing with the incredible stress of having a loved one deployed.

NAS Whidbey has partnered with the Oak Harbor School District in this endeavor. Through ongoing communication, training for school staff and tutoring, they have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to work with the Oak Harbor School District to ease the burden placed on these families.

Military families are making honorable sacrifices for our Nation and deserve our heartfelt thanks and support. We must also thank the individuals like those at the Oak Harbor School District at NAS Whidbey who are doing their part to help families through this challenging time.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF NORMAN LEWIS, SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today we are talking about homeland security; and it is an honor for me to stand here and honor one of those unsung heroes, our law enforcement officers. This is a gentleman who is a hero in our community, in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. He has been named Tennessee's Sheriff of the Year. And it is our Montgomery County Sheriff, Sheriff Norman Lewis.

Sheriff Lewis is a 48-year veteran of law enforcement. He began his career as sheriff after retiring from the Tennessee Highway Patrol. He has dedicated 4 decades of his life to keeping us safe, and we really cannot thank him enough. Not only has the sheriff set an example for his colleagues in the field, Sheriff Lewis has also worked to ensure that our State's laws are sufficient to protect our citizens and our law enforcement officials.

He has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty for his community. And today I join many who are congratulating him and extending thanks to Sheriff Lewis, our Tennessee Sheriff of the Year.

DAY OF RECKONING

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, by now everyone has heard the latest revelations that Saddam destroyed his stockpile of chemical and biological munitions in 1991, 13 years before the President needlessly took us into war. Saddam disarmed himself in 1991 because the economic sanctions were working. The evidence was there but the die had been cast.

The President was going to war. The details were merely inconvenient. The American people have had new evidence proving once again that there was no justification for taking the U.S. to war against Iraq. Americans will believe it. The administration will deny

it as usual. Every time he does, the President faces a fundamental issue in this campaign: it is the credibility of the Commander in Chief. The President can deny that he blundered into war. He cannot deny that more Americans know it.

The day of reckoning is coming. In 26 days this President will not be able to deny that he was just voted out of office.

SUGAR REFORM CAUCUS

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today a bipartisan group of Democrats and Republicans is forming the Congressional Sugar Reform Caucus. Our caucus will form a bipartisan effort to reform the sugar program through legislation, when appropriate, but also working with the President, manufacturing employers, and union leaders.

The sugar program currently forces Americans to pay sugar prices at twice the world level. It kills manufacturing and union jobs. The sugar program cost over \$400 million alone in fiscal year 2000 and this cost to the taxpayer is in addition to the lost jobs and higher grocery prices. By forcing sugar prices at two or three times the market price, our law not only inflates consumer costs, it creates an incentive to move manufacturing jobs offshore. No one knows this better than Chicago where thousands of people in manufacturing jobs were thrown out of work because of the sugar program.

Mr. Speaker, our sugar policy is a mess, and we need to defend manufacturing jobs by reforming this program.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION REPORT

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, listen to these words: "There can be no doubt that Saddam Hussein has biological and chemical weapons." Secretary of State Colin Powell. "Iraq could have nuclear weapons in less than one year." President Bush. "Iraq is rebuilding chemical and biological weapons facilities. We believe, in fact, he has reconstituted nuclear weapons." Vice President CHENEY.

These are the words used by the Bush administration to convince the world that Saddam Hussein was an imminent threat to the American people; but as confirmed by the President's own weapons inspector, the administration was "almost all wrong in every aspect of its case for war." There was no "grave and gathering threat." And the only smoking gun found is evidence that this administration knew this intelligence was shaky, and at worst, wrong.