

matter what. Those people must be eliminated, pure, and simple. But it can thwart their plans, by denying them new recruits, undermining their appeal and their message, and unifying, rather than dividing, Americans and the rest of the international community. Rather than bolstering this asset, which has helped to make us the most powerful country on earth, we have squandered it.

In March, the Pew Research Center found that one year after the start of the war in Iraq, "discontent with America and its policies has intensified rather than diminished" across the world. Majorities in Pakistan, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey believe that the U.S. is exaggerating the terrorist threat, doubt the sincerity of the U.S. war on terrorism and say that it is an effort to control Mideast oil and dominate the world. The Center found that:

At least half the people in countries other than the U.S. say as a result of the war in Iraq they have less confidence that the United States is trustworthy. Similarly, majorities in all of these countries say they have less confidence that the U.S. wants to promote democracy globally.

Our motives are questioned, our public justifications and explanations viewed with skepticism, and our post-9/11 public diplomacy efforts have missed the mark, substituting pop music broadcasts, brochures and videos for the kind of respectful dialogue and engagement that could convince generations of angry young people that their humiliation is not our goal.

We have had over 3 years since September 11, 2001, to think strategically about how to win the fight against terrorism. But we have little to show for this time.

We have relied upon a doctrine that fails to recognize that our enemies do not rely on explicit state sponsorship of terrorism. By focusing almost entirely on possible state sponsors of terror, the administration failed to realize that our terrorist enemies operate effectively in weak and failing states and without the backing of national governments. This is a new enemy waging a new war against us, but the administration appears still to be stuck in an old cold war mindset.

We have muddled our language and our focus by conflating other priorities with the fight against terrorism, costing us credibility around the world and shattering the unified and resolved global coalition that emerged to support us in the aftermath of 9/11. By choosing to fight the war in Iraq in such a divisive and astronomically expensive fashion, we have diverted resources away from the fight against the terrorist networks that seek to destroy us and undermined our ability to win the hearts and minds of many whose support we will need to succeed in the long run.

We have recognized the dangers of nuclear proliferation in an age of terrorism, but have then pursued policies that may well create incentives for

states to develop nuclear weapons as quickly as possible.

We have developed essentially no measures of success or failure when it comes to one of our most urgent priorities, as the 9/11 Commission underscored—preventing the continued growth of Islamist terrorism. In fact, we do not even know where we stand today in this vital struggle.

We have not given any serious thought to how to avoid the mistakes of the cold war, when we gave a free pass to forces of repression and brutality, as long as they did not come with a Communist bent. Those mistakes, as we all know, helped to make Afghanistan the brutally repressive terrorist haven that it was on 9/11.

We have not made an adequate investment in bolstering our diplomatic resources and engagement around the world. From Northern Nigeria to Eastern Kenya, we have virtually no presence. In Somalia, despite knowing that al-Qaida-linked terrorists have operated in the country, we simply failed to develop any policy at all.

While the administration's policy was failing on all of these fronts, the President's team was devoting its time and attention to selling the world and the American people a war in Iraq with fundamentally flawed intelligence, manipulative and misleading characterizations, and rosy predictions that provided horribly, dangerously off-the-mark. The administration's Iraq policies in the first term painted a picture of an American government that isn't so sure it rejects torture; that isn't competent and careful enough to properly vet intelligence presented in major speeches and briefings; that willfully rejects the lessons of history and advice of its own experts; that is surprised when disorder results in massive looting; that misleads taxpayers regarding the costs and commitments entailed in its policies; that spends billions upon billions without any effort to budget for these predictable costs; and that is willing to politicize issues fundamental to our national security in the ugliest possible way.

We deserve better. Certainly the brave men and women of the U.S. military who are fighting every day to make this effort in Iraq work deserve better. We do not honor them by accepting lousy, irresponsible policy in the halls and hearing rooms of the Capitol and then leaving them holding the bag on the ground, when policy collides with the hard truth.

The administration's record of the past 4 years suggests a foreign policy careening out of control, driven by ideologies who want to test their theories in the laboratory of the Middle East one minute, by domestic political considerations the next, and by spiteful attempts to punish those who disagree with their methods the next. Where is this going? Who is in charge? No one ever seems to be held accountable for the blunders, the failures, the wildly inaccurate presentations and projec-

tions or the painfully ineffective initiatives.

Congress cannot simply accept more of the same, keep our heads down and hope that somehow we will muddle through. The stakes are far too high. Our national security, the stability of the world that our children will inherit, our troops—even our country's honor—are on the line. Congress has an obligation, not to oppose every administration effort, but to reassert our role in steering the ship of state wisely rather than recklessly. I look at our foreign policy over the past 4 years, and I know that America is so much better than this.

I look forward to the opportunity to raise these concerns with Dr. Rice when she testifies before the Foreign Relations Committee, and to receiving some assurance that she will work with Congress to put our country's foreign policy on a better, more effective footing.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN MEMORY OF KOMNINOS "GUS" KARELLAS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart, to mourn the loss of Komninos "Gus" Karellas, who was known and loved by so many in the community of Mexico, MO. Though cut tragically short, his was a life surrounded by a strong family and a strong community, and he was a great example of an immigrant who came to America and took advantage of every opportunity this country gave him.

Gus was a native of Greece, and he ran away from home as a teenager with only a few cents to his name. He emigrated to American in 1965 via Oakland, CA, and even though he did not speak English very well then, he managed to succeed against all odds. He ended up in Iowa working at a pizza restaurant, where he met Jimmy and Angelo Aslanidis, who became his good friends. They ended up moving together to Columbia, MO, where Gus worked at the University of Missouri for a short time before the three of them helped start the G&D Steakhouse.

In 1971, Gus Karellas and his wife Mary moved away to help manage a new G&D Steakhouse in Mexico, MO. Gus bought the restaurant one year later and spent nearly every single day there, becoming a familiar fixture to the residents of Mexico for the next three decades. His popularity with people led some of his family to give him the affectionate nickname of "Governor Gus."

Guy instilled his strong work ethic in his family, and friends say nothing made him prouder than his children Michael, Nick, Joanna, and Andy, who is an aide in my office. I have come to know Andy very well in the two years he has worked for me, and he is an accomplished young man with an immense sense of pride and gratitude for his family.

Gus was robbed and murdered as he was leaving his restaurant several days ago. Since then, hundreds of people—friends and family, regulars of the restaurant, or even those who just casually knew Gus Karellas—have visited the restaurant, creating a makeshift memorial of flowers, candles, and cards to the man they came to know and love.

Gus Karellas was a loving husband and dedicated father, a good neighbor and good friend to many. He will be missed by all who loved him. May he rest in peace and may God comfort his family and friends in their grief at his loss.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

DON NICKLES

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise tonight to make a quick comment about a dear friend. The greatest thing about serving in the House of Representatives and the Senate is meeting the colleagues we have the opportunity to serve with on both sides of the aisle. As a Member of the House of Representatives, I had the opportunity to get to know a number of the Members of the Senate, one of whom is retiring at the end of this session.

DON NICKLES was elected to the Senate when he was too young to serve in the Senate. He actually had a few months after his election before he was old enough, but he was old enough before he was sworn in. That was back in 1980. He has now served with great distinction in this body for 24 years. He leaves with a record that not many Senators are able to claim after serving in this Senate for whatever period of time they may be here.

DON NICKLES has been a leader in the Republican Party, but most significantly he has been a leader in the Senate. He is a man who has provided strong leadership on any number of issues, whether they are fiscal issues as chairman of the Budget Committee and a longtime member of the Budget Committee, which is where I first got to know him in our conferences between the House and the Senate, or whether

it is on energy or social issues, DON NICKLES possesses all the assets that America holds dear.

He is a strong family man. He is a hard-working individual. He is a man of faith. He is a man who when he looks you in the eye and tells you something, you can go to the bank with it.

I am going to miss DON NICKLES. I will miss his quick wit. I am going to miss his being able to stand up in the Senate and quickly take on anybody on either side of the aisle with respect to whatever the issue may be or whatever the rule may be that applies to the issue that comes up.

I marveled at his ability to, off the top of his head, take on folks on the other side of the aisle relative to a particular issue and to point out issue by issue and point by point what must be done. That is a unique capability and something that must be studied and learned.

My predecessor, one of the folks who held my seat many years before I got here, was the master of that. That is Richard Russell. DON NICKLES knows the rules just as well as Richard Russell did.

I will miss DON in a number of respects off of this Senate floor. He is a close personal friend. He and his wife Linda are dear friends of Julianne and me. I will have to find somebody else to get money off of on the golf course because I have known DON so long now that I have come to spend the money before I play golf.

He is a terrific guy both in the Senate as well as outside the Senate. He is a man of great integrity. He is the kind of Senator who every citizen of Oklahoma should and has been proud of for his 24 years of service to the Senate.

I went back to his hometown a couple of months ago, his hometown of Ponca City, OK, a very small town in America. DON was a football hero. As in my home State of Georgia and my hometown, football is huge in Ponca City. They still remember DON as a high school fullback and linebacker.

His old coach was there that night to talk about DON and some of the things he did during his high school career. It is those foundations that people all across America build upon to come to the Senate.

The things that were said about DON back then could still be said about him today; that is, what a dedicated person he was, what a hard-working person he was, and what a student of the game he was, just like he has been a student of the Senate.

No one there was surprised at what a great job DON had done as a Member of the Senate and what a success he was, what a success he will be once he leaves. DON had the right kind of foundation and the right kind of instincts and the right kind of family stability, support, and love to make sure he did the right kind of job in the Senate, and he will continue to be successful when he leaves here.

To DON and to Linda, we say thanks for the service to our country. My children and my grandchildren are going to benefit from the service of the Senate of DON NICKLES. That is something for which I will forever be grateful.

Just as importantly, I have been a better Senator than I would have been otherwise because of DON NICKLES. In future years, because of what I have learned from DON NICKLES, I will be a much better Senator.

DON, we appreciate your service to our country. Thank you. God bless you and Linda.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

VICKI COX

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I want to mention a staffer of mine. She is not a Senator but she is very important in my office, Vicki Lee Cox; Vicki Lee, as she was when she came to work with me in 1978 when I was elected to the House of Representatives. Her father was a naval officer in the Naval Academy. She lived around the world. She was born in Pensacola, FL, grew up part of her life in the San Diego area, the San Francisco area, and in Newport, RI. I have worked with her for 26 years, day in and day out. I tried to get her not to retire because these are very important employees. They make your office go. They make us look better than we should, day to day. They make things work in the office.

Vicki, we will miss you in the office. We hope you will not be far off because we might need to bring you back to help us out from time to time as we get in a bind.

We wish you and your husband Dale the very best, but we have a job opening for you if you want to change your mind. God bless you, and we enjoyed the 26 years.

PROTOCOL AMENDING THE EXISTING TAX CONVENTION WITH THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I thank my Senate colleagues for passing the resolution providing advice and consent to the Protocol amending the existing U.S. Tax Treaty with the Netherlands through the unanimous consent procedure.

In spite of legislative hurdles that arose during the process, this Protocol will be enacted, and will bolster the economic relationship between the United States and a country that is already both a good friend and a critical