

would use as a home base and a launching pad for terror. For this reason, we're fighting beside our Afghan partners against remnants of the Taliban and their al Qaeda allies. For this reason, we're working with President Musharraf to oppose and isolate the militants in Pakistan. And for this reason, we're fighting the regime remnants and terrorists in Iraq. The terrorist goal is to overthrow a rising democracy, claim a strategic country as a haven for terror, destabilize the Middle East, and strike America and other free nations with ever-increasing violence. Our goal is to defeat the terrorists and their allies at the heart of their power—and so we will defeat the enemy in Iraq.

Our coalition, along with our Iraqi allies, is moving forward with a comprehensive, specific military plan. Area by area, city by city, we're conducting offensive operations to clear out enemy forces, and leaving behind Iraqi units to prevent the enemy from returning. Within these areas, we're working for tangible improvements in the lives of Iraqi citizens. And we're aiding the rise of an elected government that unites the Iraqi people against extremism and violence. This work involves great risk for Iraqis, and for Americans and coalition forces. Wars are not won without sacrifice—and this war will require more sacrifice, more time, and more resolve.

The terrorists are as brutal an enemy as we've ever faced. They're unconstrained by any notion of our common humanity, or by the rules of warfare. No one should underestimate the difficulties ahead, nor should they overlook the advantages we bring to this fight.

Some observers look at the job ahead and adopt a self-defeating pessimism. It is not justified. With every random bombing and with every funeral of a child, it becomes more clear that the extremists are not patriots, or resistance fighters—they are murderers at war with the Iraqi people, themselves.

In contrast, the elected leaders of Iraq are proving to be strong and steadfast. By any standard or precedent of history, Iraq has made incredible political progress—from tyranny, to liberation, to national elections, to the writing of a constitution, in the space of two-and-a-half years. With our help, the Iraqi military is gaining new capabilities and new confidence with every passing month. At the time of our Fallujah operations 11 months ago, there were only a few Iraqi army battalions in combat. Today there are more than 80 Iraqi army battalions fighting the insurgency alongside our forces. Progress isn't easy, but it is steady. And no fair-minded person should ignore, deny, or dismiss the achievements of the Iraqi people.

Some observers question the durability of democracy in Iraq. They underestimate the power and appeal of freedom. We've heard it suggested that Iraq's democracy must be on shaky ground because Iraqis are arguing with each other. But that's the essence of democracy: making your case, debating with those who you disagree—who disagree, building consensus by persuasion, and answering to the will of the people. We've heard it said that the Shia, Sunnis and Kurds of Iraq are too divided to form a lasting democracy. In fact, democratic federalism is the best hope for unifying a diverse population, because a federal constitutional system respects the rights and religious traditions of all citizens, while giving all minorities, including the Sunnis, a stake and a voice in the future of their country. It is true that the seeds of freedom have only recently been planted in Iraq—but democracy, when it grows, is not a fragile flower; it is a healthy, sturdy tree.

As Americans, we believe that people everywhere—everywhere—prefer freedom to

slavery, and that liberty, once chosen, improves the lives of all. And so we're confident, as our coalition and the Iraqi people each do their part, Iraqi democracy will succeed.

Some observers also claim that America would be better off by cutting our losses and leaving Iraq now. This is a dangerous illusion, refuted with a simple question: Would the United States and other free nations be more safe, or less safe, with Zarqawi and bin Laden in control of Iraq, its people, and its resources? Having removed a dictator who hated free peoples, we will not stand by as a new set of killers, dedicated to the destruction of our own country, seizes control of Iraq by violence.

There's always a temptation, in the middle of a long struggle, to seek the quiet life, to escape the duties and problems of the world, and to hope the enemy grows weary of fanaticism and tired of murder. This would be a pleasant world, but it's not the world we live in. The enemy is never tired, never sated, never content with yesterday's brutality. This enemy considers every retreat of the civilized world as an invitation to greater violence. In Iraq, there is no peace without victory. We will keep our nerve and we will win that victory.

The fifth element of our strategy in the war on terror is to deny the militants future recruits by replacing hatred and resentment with democracy and hope across the broader Middle East. This is a difficult and long-term project, yet there's no alternative to it. Our future and the future of that region are linked. If the broader Middle East is left to grow in bitterness, if countries remain in misery, while radicals stir the resentments of millions, then that part of the world will be a source of endless conflict and mounting danger, and for our generation and the next. If the peoples of that region are permitted to choose their own destiny, and advance by their own energy and by their participation as free men and women, then the extremists will be marginalized, and the flow of violent radicalism to the rest of the world will slow, and eventually end. By standing for the hope and freedom of others, we make our own freedom more secure.

America is making this stand in practical ways. We're encouraging our friends in the Middle East, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to take the path of reform, to strengthen their own societies in the fight against terror by respecting the rights and choices of their own people. We're standing with dissidents and exiles against oppressive regimes, because we know that the dissidents of today will be the democratic leaders of tomorrow. We're making our case through public diplomacy, stating clearly and confidently our belief in self-determination, and the rule of law, and religious freedom, and equal rights for women, beliefs that are right and true in every land, and in every culture.

As we do our part to confront radicalism, we know that the most vital work will be done within the Islamic world, itself. And this work has begun. Many Muslim scholars have already publicly condemned terrorism, often citing Chapter 5, Verse 32 of the Koran, which states that killing an innocent human being is like killing all humanity, and saving the life of one person is like saving all of humanity. After the attacks in London on July the 7th, an imam in the United Arab Emirates declared, "Whoever does such a thing is not a Muslim, nor a religious person." The time has come for all responsible Islamic leaders to join in denouncing an ideology that exploits Islam for political ends, and defiles a noble faith.

Many people of the Muslim faith are proving their commitment at great personal risk. Everywhere we have engaged the fight

against extremism, Muslim allies have stood up and joined the fight, becoming partners in a vital cause. Afghan troops are in combat against Taliban remnants. Iraqi soldiers are sacrificing to defeat al Qaeda in their own country. These brave citizens know the stakes—the survival of their own liberty, the future of their own region, the justice and humanity of their own tradition—and that the United States of America is proud to stand beside them.

With the rise of a deadly enemy and the unfolding of a global ideological struggle, our time in history will be remembered for new challenges and unprecedented dangers. And yet the fight we have joined is also the current expression of an ancient struggle between those who put their faith in dictators and those who put their faith in the people. Throughout history, tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that murder is justified to serve their grand vision—and they end up alienating decent people across the globe. Tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that regimented societies are strong and pure—until those societies collapse in corruption and decay. Tyrants and would-be tyrants have always claimed that free men and women are weak and decadent—until the day that free men and women defeat them.

We don't know the course of our own struggle—the course our own struggle will take—or the sacrifices that might lie ahead. We do know, however, that the defense of freedom is worth our sacrifice. We do know the love of freedom is the mightiest force of history. And we do know the cause of freedom will once again prevail.

May God bless you.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM M.
RICKMAN

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to remember and honor the life of William M. Rickman. The embodiment of the American Dream, Bill's life was a rags-to-riches story straight out of the pages of a Horatio Alger novel. He was an avid horseman who loved thoroughbred racing and worked to keep the sport alive in my home state of Delaware.

Bill Rickman was born July 9, 1921 in St. Charles, Virginia. During World War II, he served in the U.S Army and was stationed in Italy. In August of 1983, Bill partnered with William G. Christmas to purchase Delaware Park racetrack, which had been closed at the time due to growing competition from other racetracks in the area. The following spring saw the reopening of Delaware Park, which has been an integral part of the Delaware economy ever since.

In addition to being remembered as a savvy businessman, Bill will always be known as someone who loved horses, racing, and all of the people who worked at his track. He took great pride in both owning and breeding his horses. He owned over 100 horses, as well as two horse-training facilities in Maryland.

Bill considered the people who worked at Delaware Park as his family, and will be remembered for his kindness and generosity. He had a wonderful sense of humor, joking around with his entire staff. His good-natured manner will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, our thoughts and prayers are with Bill's friends and family as they remember the loss of such a great man. His contributions to Delaware will live on, as will his memory.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which commemorates the numerous contributions that Latinos make to our country.

I am proud, honored and privileged to represent California's 53rd District in Congress. The district's rich diversity embodies the vibrant cultural fabric of our country.

During this month of celebration, I would like to recognize the efforts of some ordinary individuals who are doing extraordinary things in San Diego.

GUS CHAVEZ

For thirty years, Gus Chavez helped make the dream of a college degree possible for countless students. Chavez is widely recognized as the heart and soul of the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) at San Diego State University. He transformed a pilot program to attract low-income students into one of the most successful programs in the state's history.

Chavez turned the department into a comprehensive admissions outreach and retention program. He expanded services to include pre-collegiate recruiting and pre-admission advising, academic orientation, tutoring, skills development and test preparation, summer bridge programs for freshmen and transfer students, career counseling and grants.

At his retirement words like "activist" "leader" "mentor" and "advocate", easily rolled off tongues. Indeed, many alumni cite Chavez as the person who had the most impact on their educations.

ALBERTO R. CORTÉS

For nearly 18 years, Alberto Cortés has been dedicated to educating people of color about HIV and AIDS. He has worked as a bilingual information specialist and health educator for the San Diego AIDS Project and volunteered for the San Diego AIDS Information Line. Cortés has also been active with the Council of Community Clinics where he helped build HIV awareness and counseled individuals.

Presently, Cortés serves as executive director of Mama's Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that prepares and delivers food to people affected by AIDS. Last year, Mama's Kitchen provided more than 316,000 meals to community members in need.

This year, Cortés was one of five San Diegans honored as a local hero as part of the Union Bank of California and KPBS Hispanic Heritage Month Local Heroes Awards. Award-ees are chosen for demonstrating a high level of commitment and community participation.

JOSE MONDRAGON

While some high school students view summer vacation as a time to relax, this 17-year-old used it to coordinate a community meeting with city council members.

Working with Barrios Unidos Hoy Organizados (BUHO), Mondragon was a key organizer for a public meeting that brought together 300 community residents to address issues of concern such as affordable housing and adequate street lighting. Those who worked with him on the community meeting describe Mondragon as "a true role model."

Mondragon is currently Commissioner of Community Service for the Associated Student Body at San Diego High School. Despite all of his extracurricular activities, Jose has maintained a 3.81 GPA and hopes to attend Stanford University after high school.

I hope you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues will join me in honoring these extraordinary individuals and their accomplishments for the Latino community.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KKLA-FM

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 99.5 KKLA-FM, Los Angeles, California's leading Christian-teaching radio station, as it celebrates 20 years of community-oriented broadcasting.

And what an amazing twenty years it has been. From its humble beginnings in a small studio in Hollywood to the multimedia powerhouse it is today, KKLA-FM has always striven to engage Southern California listeners with thought-provoking discussions and family friendly programming. In an age when our media increasingly focuses on violent and offensive material, KKLA-FM has consistently remained committed to providing quality material for listeners of all ages.

Since October 15, 1985, KKLA-FM's first day on the air, the station has been dedicated to its mission of beaming the Lord's word and teachings to Southern California. But it wasn't until 1986, with the debut of "Live from LA," that the station moved to the national forefront as the voice of Southern California's Christian community. Today, KKLA-FM is unquestionably the leader of Christian-themed radio in Southern California.

KKLA-FM's success was twenty years in the making. It was the first Los Angeles radio station and second in the nation to stream their programming on the Internet. And the station was quick to develop other radio outlets, including News/Talk 870 KRLA-AM, 95.9 KFSH-FM (The Fish), News/Talk 590 KTIE-AM and 1190 KXMX-AM. The development of these technologies has helped to grow KKLA-FM's listener base and spread its message of peace, tolerance, and love to listeners around the world.

Much of KKLA-FM's accomplishments can be attributed to the dedication and passion of its owner, Salem Communications Corporation, the leading U.S. radio broadcaster focused on Christian and family themes programming. The company will soon own 106 radio stations, including 67 stations in 24 of the top 25 markets. In addition to its radio properties, Salem owns Salem Radio Network, which syndicates talk, news and music pro-

gramming to over 1,900 affiliated radio stations; Salem Web Network, the leading Internet provider of Christian content and online streaming; and Salem Publishing, a leading publisher of Christian themed magazines.

I congratulate all the listeners and employees of KKLA-FM, who should be extremely proud of the station they have helped to build. I ask this Congress to join me in wishing the KKLA-FM family a happy 20th anniversary.

AZERBAIJAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan is an important strategic ally for the United States. The Country is located in a region that can produce and transport energy products to the West. As well as provide military and intelligence capabilities to the United States.

Azerbaijan is an emerging major non-OPEC oil producer and transit country (i.e. Baku-Ceyhan pipeline), which will supply 1.6 million barrels a day after being operational December 2005. This will stabilize the other energy producing countries (oil and gas) in the region and their ability to get their product to the marketplace without the dependency of Russia or Iran.

Azerbaijan is a front line positioned state for military and intelligence access to Iran. This will act as a stabilizing effect for the region and fight off the aggressive position of Iran. It will also work against terrorist activities spread by fundamental terrorist who have the support of Iran.

Azerbaijan is the first Muslim state to provide troops to the U.S. backed coalitions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo. To date, they are the only Shiite Muslim state to provide troops.

Azerbaijan is in the vanguard of the emerging democracies from the former Soviet Union. Azerbaijan has parliamentary elections scheduled November 6, 2005, and is moving forward with international support to assure free and fair elections. Azerbaijan has allowed opposition parties the right to organize, protest, and access public television.

Azerbaijan maintains excellent relations with the State of Israel, both, diplomatically and economically including providing crude oil.

Azerbaijan is a strong strategic partner with the United States and is cooperating in United States activities regarding Caspian regional security overseeing Iran (e.g., Caspian Guards program, radar system, fly-over rights and refueling capacity).

Azerbaijan is a strategic asset given its presence as a strong United States-Israel ally next to Iran. Azerbaijan welcomes trade with Israel and stronger ties between the two countries.

Iran has threatened Azerbaijan due to cooperation with Israel and the United States Iran continues to inform Azerbaijan that their strong relations with the United States and Israel will not be beneficial, as Iran is their neighbor.

The Iran military enters Azerbaijan airspace weekly and Iran has made claims on Azerbaijan's offshore oil and gas exploration.

Iran has attempted to spread Madrassas schools in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan has resisted.