

adequately express. I can only hope that during this difficult time these families and the communities that embrace them will find strength and joy in fond memories of Lilibeth and Harrison.

In newspapers and on television we have been witness to the images of scared parents, forlorn classmates, and the devastation a single accident can cause. These scenes are heartbreaking for everyone. What hasn't been widely exposed, but serves as an equally powerful statement, is the effort of the community to support the Gomez and Orosco families in their time of need. Parents, teachers, students, local officials and other residents in Arlington County and Northern Virginia have demonstrated their love and goodwill by offering sympathy letters and cards, a needed friend for survivors, and thoughtful financial support. The collective strength and love of this community, many of whom didn't know any of the families affected but still wanted to help, serves as a beacon for those struggling with the loss. I have never been more proud to represent this wonderfully caring and diverse community.

Throughout this tragedy, the Parents and Teachers Association of Boston-Hoffman Elementary School has been centrally involved. Providing an outlet for the community to share in their collective grief and express their support, Boston-Hoffman PTA has established a donation fund, extra counseling for students, and a place to send flowers, cards and letters that respects these families' wishes to grieve privately. I greatly admire their noble actions and commend the Boston-Hoffman PTA for filling a needed void during such challenging circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in expressing this body's condolences to these families who may never fully recuperate following the losses of Lilibeth and Harrison. In the midst of this tragedy though, we have experienced the Arlington community at its most caring best. This effort, along with the shared memories of these two children, will never be forgotten.

RESPONSIBILITY EVADED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is deeply discouraging that no high-ranking military or civilian defense officials are being held accountable for the terrible abuses of basic human rights that occurred at the prison in Abu Ghraib. The editorial from the Washington Post, which I hereby insert into the RECORD, makes the point very well. The failure of the Bush Administration to hold any high-ranking official in any way accountable for this grave lapse is in itself a deeply regrettable example of dereliction of duty.

[From the washingtonpost.com, Apr. 23, 2005]

TOP OFFICERS IN ABU GHRAIB CASE CLEARED

(By Robert Burns)

WASHINGTON.—Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, faulted by some for leadership failures in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, has been cleared by the Army of all allegations of wrongdoing and will not be punished, officials said.

Three officers who were among Sanchez's top deputies during the period of the prisoner abuse in the fall of 2003 also have been cleared. An Army Reserve one-star general has been reprimanded, and the outcome of seven other senior Army officer cases could not be learned Friday.

Sanchez, who became the senior U.S. commander in Iraq in June 2003, two months after the fall of Baghdad, has not been accused of criminal violations. It is unclear, however, whether the controversy surrounding his role in Iraq will stand in the way of his earning a fourth star. He is nearing the end of his tenure as commander of the Army's 5th Corps, based in Germany.

After assessing the allegations against Sanchez and taking sworn statements from 37 people, the Army's inspector general, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Green, concluded that the allegations were unsubstantiated, according to officials familiar with the details of Green's probe.

Green reached the same conclusion in the cases of two generals and a colonel who worked on Sanchez's staff.

The officials who disclosed the findings spoke only on condition of anonymity because the results on Sanchez and 11 other officers who were the subject of Green's scrutiny have not yet been publicly released and Congress has not been fully briefed.

The question of accountability among senior Army and Defense Department officials who were in positions of responsibility on Iraq detention and interrogation policy has been hotly debated in Congress. Some Democrats accuse the Pentagon of foisting all the blame onto low-ranking soldiers.

In a statement issued Friday that did not mention Sanchez or other specific cases, Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that as soon as all Pentagon assessments of accountability are complete he will hold a committee hearing "to examine the adequacy of those reviews" and to hear senior civilian and military officials address the issue.

Warner, R-Va., said he strongly agrees with one investigation report that concluded last year that commanders should be held accountable for their action or inaction and that military as well as civilian leaders in the Pentagon "share this burden of responsibility."

The office of Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, declined to comment on the matter.

Asked about public expectations of punishment for senior officers associated with Abu Ghraib, the Army's chief public affairs officer, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, said the Army went to great lengths to make its investigations thorough and fair.

In addition to clearing Sanchez, the Army inspector general has determined that there should be no punishment given to Sanchez's former top deputy, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski; to Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who was Sanchez's intelligence chief in Baghdad; or to Col. Mark Warren, Sanchez's top legal adviser at the time.

In an interview Friday, three senior defense officials associated with the Green investigations cited mitigating circumstances in the Sanchez case, including the fact that his organization in Iraq, known as Combined Joint Task Force 7, initially was short of the senior officers it required. They also cited the upsurge in insurgent violence shortly after Sanchez took command and the intense pressure the military faced in hunting down Saddam Hussein.

The three officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

A separate investigation by a panel headed for former Defense Secretary James Schles-

inger concluded that Sanchez should have taken stronger action in November 2003 when he realized the extent of problems among the military intelligence and military police units running Abu Ghraib.

A subsequent Army investigation, made public last summer in what was called the Kern-Fay-Jones report, concluded that although Sanchez and his most senior deputies were not directly involved in the bases at Abu Ghraib, their "action and inaction did indirectly contribute" to some abuses.

Sanchez and Wojdakowski were cited in the Kern-Fay-Jones report for failure to "ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interrogation operations" in Iraq, specifically at the Abu Ghraib prison where Iraqi detainees were physically abused and sexually humiliated by military police and intelligence soldiers in fall 2003.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF OTTILIE MARKHOLT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ottilie Markholt, loving mother, grandmother, author, dedicated union advocate, community activist, and dear friend to many. Her passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for every member of our American workforce. It was Ms. Markholt's focus, drive and vision, directed at improving and securing worker's rights that brought the plight of the American worker and the labor movement into the light of day.

Ms. Markholt was born and raised in the great northwest, an only child of modest beginnings. As a young child, her family moved from the wild frontier of Alaska to Seattle, Washington. Ms. Markholt, exceptionally intelligent and well-read, rejected the socially conservative ideology present in higher education at the time, opting to quit college and focus on changing the world for the better—especially for the working class. Armed with a passion for social justice, an agile mind, a gift for writing and an unwavering commitment to the cause, Ms. Markholt set off on a lifetime journey of advocating for the struggling working class of America.

Ms. Markholt was no stranger to struggle herself. As a single mother of two young boys, Ms. Markholt survived on meager office wages by becoming an expert gardener and seamstress. She kept her boys well-fed and well-clothed by baking homemade bread, canning fruits and vegetables, making her own butter and cottage cheese, and making their own clothes. Despite adversity, she remained emotionally and physically strong, and her energy and focus served to propel the labor movement forward. From writing critically acclaimed books and articles, to knocking on doors and soliciting membership, to organizing strikes, Ms. Markholt's energy and commitment helped set the labor movement ablaze in the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the remarkable and exceptional life of Ottilie Markholt. The infinite measure of her heart, combined with her courage, vision and integrity, defined her life and served to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our community,

especially those who serve as the foundation of our nation—the American laborer. Her kindness, energy, compassion and unwavering focus on making our world a better place—one union member at a time, will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to her friends and family members, and especially to her sons, Bob and Lee; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild.

Ottile Markholt lived her life with joy, energy and in complete harmony with her principals and values. Her eternal faith in humanity and in the notion that together, we can make a positive difference, will continue to serve as an unending force of hope and possibility for every member of America's labor force, and her memory and legacy will forever live on within the hearts of all who knew and loved her well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably delayed and missed rollcall vote No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to honor all those who own and work for small businesses as part of National Small Business Week. These men and women should be recognized for their spirit of entrepreneurship, determination, persistence, and contribution to our economic prosperity.

Small businesses represent 95 percent of all employers, create half of our economic growth, and create three out of four new jobs throughout the nation. As leaders in innovation and new technology, they produce up to fourteen more patents per employee than large corporations. Nearly half of these small businesses are owned by women entrepreneurs.

Owners of small businesses are risk takers who aren't afraid to take an idea they have and make it a reality. Because of their positive impact on our country, we should not make the risks they take any more difficult. The Bush Administration and Congress should cultivate small businesses by advancing policies that enable small businesses to start and flourish, not placing impediments that stunt their growth.

Under President Bush's budget, small business assistance programs are some of the hardest hit with cuts. Reductions to these assistance programs are much greater than the program cuts elsewhere in the budget he submitted to Congress. Half of all government small business assistance programs are for elimination or for severe cuts, with the average cut at nearly 80 percent. Among the pro-

grams cut or eliminated are the Community Development Financial Institutions which helps small businesses in underprivileged communities receive capital, the Microloan program which provides loans to people who would not normally be eligible to receive one; the Minority Business Development Agency which focuses only on the establishment and growth of minority owned businesses; and the Women's Business Centers which help aspiring female entrepreneurs.

These cuts are unacceptable, and I am hopeful that through the appropriations process we can restore the funding to these programs. The government should not be in the business of making it more difficult to receive start-up capital. We should also be encouraging minorities and women to begin businesses, especially in communities in need of thriving companies, not cutting the programs that make it easier to succeed.

Small business owners are the backbone of our economy. They deserve the respect and assistance of the federal government. Instead, they have seen the government cut the programs that help them become successes. I am looking forward to the day when the government is there to help every person who has ever dreamt of owning their own business and seeing those stores, restaurants and companies thrive.

CITIZENS FOR CITIZENS HEAD START PROGRAM WINS AWARD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, nothing that we do is more important than trying to provide a fair start in life for young people born into difficult economic circumstances. The Head Start and Early Head Start programs are therefore among the most valued that we have. I was pleased but not surprised to be informed that the version of these programs run by the Fall River Community Action Group, Citizens For Citizens, received the Excellence Award from the Department of Health and Human Services. Citizens For Citizens is an extraordinarily creative organization, run by dedicated people with a deep commitment to helping others. This recognition of the Head Start program is just an example of the generally excellent work that Citizens For Citizens does, and on the occasion of this, I want to congratulate Director Neil Lynch and all of those who work with him in this important endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, the Fall River Herald News last month ran an article about this program and the good work that it does. It is important for people to see examples of successful federal programs, and I therefore ask that this article from the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

[From the Herald News, Mar. 24, 2005]

CFC HEAD START PROGRAM RECEIVES PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

FALL RIVER.—Citizens for Citizens' Head Start and Early Head Start program has once again received the U.S. Department of Health's Program of Excellence Award following an extensive study of all aspects of the operation by a team of 12 federal reviewers.

Neil Lynch, CFC Head Start director, said that only two other programs in Massachusetts received the Program of Excellence Award. The award was presented at a regional conference in Nashua, N.H.

The reviews are conducted every three years and the highest rating is a repeat of the study results in 2001. The federal reviewers determined that CFC Head Start meets and surpasses every federal performance standard.

"The team from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services closely scrutinized us in how effectively we were performing in the areas of education, quality health and nutrition, disabilities, social services, transportation and parent involvement," said Lynch.

He noted that the federal reviewers also met with community partners, including the public schools, social service agencies, parents, policy council members and the CFC board.

"I am very proud of our staff for receiving the Program of Excellence Award for the second consecutive time," said Lynch.

"The staff and the parents of Head Start children devote a great deal of effort into the programs we provide in order to ensure the highest quality of early childhood education possible," he added.

CFC operates 21 Head Start classes in Greater Fall River and an Early Head Start and home-based program on Second Street.

The federal reviewers determined CFC Head Start and Early Head Start accomplished the following:

- All curricula in place are based upon sound child development principles and presented in creative learning methods.

- Parents are actively involved in curriculum planning through a policy council, which is informed of current decisions affecting service delivery, program policies and procedures.

- Successful family partnership built.

- Rapport between staff and parents created trust and helped identify individual needs.

- Collaboration is excellent between area health and dental providers, schools, colleges and pediatric specialists.

- General layout of classrooms are safe, comfortable and fully accessible.

Mark A. Sullivan Jr., executive director of CFC, said Head Start is a valuable learning resource for children and that since its inception it has successfully prepared millions of children to enter school on a level playing field.

"I am very proud of the administrators of CFC's Head Start, the staff and especially the parents who are closely involved with the program to ensure their children get a quality learning experience," said Sullivan.

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY OF CLEVELAND AND THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese people, as they began their hopeful journey to America.