

media. Chalabi was the source of discredited news stories about Iraq, penned by New York Times reporter Judith Miller. In 2001, Miller wrote a front-page story about claims that Saddam had 20 secret WMD sites hidden in Iraq. It is amazing, the exclusive story came “just three days after the source had shown deception in a polygraph test administered by the CIA at the request of the Defense Intelligence Agency.”

So when they confronted Ahmad Chalabi and asked, how could you mislead the United States with all of this bad information, leading to our invasion of Iraq, 160,000 American soldiers risking their lives, over 2,000 killed, he said “we are heroes in error.” He boasted to the international media that even if he had misled the United States, he had achieved his goal. He got the United States to invade Iraq and depose Saddam Hussein.

And then what happened? The tables turned on Mr. Ahmad Chalabi last year. In May of last year, the Iraqi officials, with the cooperation of the United States, raided Ahmad Chalabi's offices in Iraq. Why? I will tell you. In June 2004 Chalabi came under investigation for allegations that he passed secret intelligence data to Iran. Remember Iran, one of the axes of evil? Chalabi is accused of telling the Iranian Government that the United States had broken the code it used for secret communications. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice promised Congress a full investigation into these allegations.

The Wall Street Journal reports:

There is little sign of progress in a Federal investigation of allegations that Chalabi once leaked United States intelligence secrets to Iran.

If he did this, it is clear he endangered the lives of our troops, he endangered America's national security.

Just this week, the Wall Street Journal came out with a story about Ahmad Chalabi. They went to the FBI and said some 18 months later, what is the status of Ahmad Chalabi? Let me quote FBI spokesman John Miller, who strongly denied that the Chalabi investigation is languished. He said:

This is currently an open investigation and an active investigation.

He added:

Numerous current and former government employees have been interviewed.

Here we have a man who misled the leaders of our Government. Here we have a man who conceded and boasted that although he misled them, he achieved his purpose of getting the United States to invade Iraq. Here we have a man accused of selling secrets to the enemy, to Iran, and endangering American troops. And where do we find Ahmad Chalabi today? He is being hosted and feted by this administration. This man is in Washington with his motorcade moving around town, having appointments with Treasury Secretary Snow and the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. Today, he is

going to share his wise view of the world with the conservative think tank, the American Enterprise Institute.

This is a hard story to explain. Hard to explain to the American people; harder still to explain to American troops. How can a man who has been accused and is under investigation for passing secrets from the United States to the Iranians and endangering the lives of our troops and national security now be the toast of the town in Washington, DC? How can a man under active investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a man who has not been called for any statement or any testimony, be this guest at the highest levels of our Government?

Congressman GEORGE MILLER has been involved in this inquiry, as I have. He has made it clear, and I agree with him, when it comes to Ahmad Chalabi we shouldn't be serving him lunch, we ought to be serving him with a subpoena. We shouldn't treat him like a hero, we should treat him like a suspect in a case that may have endangered the lives of our troops.

I don't understand it. We need to call on the Intelligence Committee as well as the Department of Justice to use the tools they have to subpoena Ahmad Chalabi to make certain he answers the hard questions about how he misled our Government into invading Iraq and what he did to endanger the lives of our troops and our national security. Nothing less should be allowed when it comes to protecting our troops.

How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). There is 2 minutes 10 seconds.

OIL PROFITS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I close by saying we also have coming to Capitol Hill today a group of oil company executives. They couldn't have come at a better time.

Someone said this is simply theater. I hope it isn't. It is time to ask hard questions of these oil companies which have over the past 6 months dramatically increased the price of energy for people across America. People living in Illinois and across our Nation—families, small businesses, farmers—have been dealing with this oppressive increase in prices.

A lot of blame was pointed, when it came to OPEC, that it is the Saudis; they are running up the price of oil. Well, they did, but that was not the reason the price at the gasoline pump went to \$3. It went to \$3 because of this: Oil companies are making record profits, record profits over the increased prices they are charging to consumers across America. This chart is an indication of the billions of dollars they are making.

ExxonMobil reported record quarterly profits of \$9.9 billion, up 75 percent from last year. Put the nozzle in the tank and watch the numbers spin on the gas pump; the money from your credit card is going directly to the

boardrooms of these oil company executives.

Senator MARIA CANTWELL of Washington has the right idea: We need to put the oil company executives under oath today, ask them the hard questions as to whether they have been profiteering at the expense of the most vulnerable people in America, people who get up and go to work every day and cannot afford to fill their gas tanks; businesses that are languishing, that cannot hire the people they need, cannot reach profitability, because of the profiteering of oil companies. And farmers, already hard pressed in many parts of our country by bad weather and bad prices, find their input costs going through the roof because of the high cost of energy.

The oil company and lobbyists are all over Capitol Hill. They are swarming because several Senators, including some Republicans, have called for a windfall profits tax. I support that. Take the money back from these oil companies, give it to consumers across America, fully fund LIHEAP, our program to provide heating sources for the poor in America. Make certain we tell these oil companies no, and stand up for the consumers who paid these outrageous prices.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The balance of morning business is controlled by the majority.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kentucky.

RATIFICATION OF IRAQ CONSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, normally I don't get an opportunity to hear my good friend from Illinois, but I am glad I was here as he gave one of his appraisals of the situation in Iraq. As Paul Harvey often says, I would like to provide the rest of the story; arguably, a more balanced view of what is going on in that very important country.

In fact, freedom has taken another giant step forward in Iraq. On October 15 the Iraqi people voted overwhelmingly to ratify their Constitution. Iraqis turned out in stunning numbers to embrace democracy, tolerance, and a just rule under law. In fact, they turned out in greater numbers than we turned out here last November, which was a very high turnout by U.S. standards—and, of course, most Americans were not afraid they would get shot when they went to the polls.

Iraqis created a constitutional republic in the heart of the Middle East. This is an unequivocal victory in the war on terror. It is the only way we can assess it. With their votes, millions of brave Iraqis rejected dictatorship and created a republic. They rejected rule by fear and terror and embraced rule by the consent of the governed. They stood together as a country under one motto: “we the people.”

Nearly 10 million Iraqis turned out to vote, a turnout rate of 63 percent. That

was up from 60 percent last January when they elected their interim government. That was 3 percent higher than our own turnout here last November, 60 percent, which was 10 percent higher than our turnout here in 2000, which was 50 percent. Again, I say, those Iraqis, many of them, might have been concerned about their safety when they went to vote. That was the first free election in Iraq in over 50 years last January.

Furthermore, and very significantly, turnout among Sunni Arabs increased dramatically. This is a testament that the policy of continued political outreach to influential Sunni leaders during the constitutional drafting process was a success.

For instance, in the heavily Sunni province of Salahaddeen in the city of Ishaqi, only 300 people voted last January in the interim election vote. This time around, on the Constitution, on October 15, 10,000 Iraqis voted. Three hundred in January, 10,000 in October, largely Sunnis. This is only one city, but the turnout was up dramatically. Many in the Sunni population obviously decided their interests are best served not by fighting an armed insurgency but by joining the political process.

Not only did Iraqis turn out in record numbers, they also voted to ratify their new organizing document in overwhelming numbers. The final results show over 78 percent of Iraqi voters said yes to the Constitution. Of Iraq's 18 provinces, 12 voted yes with majorities exceeding 94 percent. Three more provinces voted yes with solid majorities, including the province of Baghdad. In the Baghdad province, 77 percent ratified the Constitution.

The Iraqi Government decided that for the Constitution to fail, at least three provinces had to vote "no" with at least two-thirds of the vote. Only two provinces did that, the Anbar province and the province I mentioned earlier, Salahaddeen.

The democratic process in Iraq will continue to move forward. Iraqis are now preparing for another nationwide election pursuant to the Constitution they ratified. That election on December 15 will be for the first permanent democratic government in Iraq's history. They will choose 275 members of a council of representatives to serve all the people of Iraq.

It is odd to me that at such a moment of triumph in that country, there are still those who call for America to get out while we can in the midst of this triumph that is occurring there. They believe our troop withdrawal should be arbitrarily based on the calendar rather than on achieving results. In short, they want to cut and run. And until we do, they will endlessly criticize our troops' efforts but offer no alternatives of their own.

It is important to remember to withdraw prematurely from Iraq, as the cut-and-run crowd suggests, would play right into the hands of the terrorists.

The terrorists themselves have already told us that. They have told us what they have in mind. In a letter our intelligence forces intercepted, written by Ayman al-Zawahiri, the No. 2 terrorist in the al-Qaida hierarchy, and sent to lead Iraqi terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, we learn that the terrorists' foremost goal is to drive America out of Iraq. No great surprise.

Here is how al-Zawahiri instructs his partner in villainy:

[T]he Jihad in Iraq requires several incremental goals.

The first stage: Expel the Americans from Iraq.

No surprise.

The second stage: Establish an Islamic authority . . . in order to fill the void stemming from the departure of the Americans, immediately upon their exit and before un-Islamic forces attempt to fill this void.

The third stage: Extend the Jihad wave to the secular countries neighboring Iraq.

So they clearly not only want Iraq, they want to spread this plague into the countries surrounding Iraq.

Al-Zawahiri goes on to say:

The mujahedeen must not have their mission end with the expulsion of the Americans from Iraq . . . their ongoing mission is to establish an Islamic state, and defend it, and for every generation to hand over the banner to the one after it until the Hour of Resurrection . . . Americans will exit soon, God willing.

Those are chilling words from our enemies.

Their plans are laid bare for all of us to see. They want us to cut and run. Worse still, they expect it. And then they will turn Iraq into a terrorist haven.

Al-Zawahiri realizes that the terrorists can never hope to defeat America on the battlefield. The only way they can defeat us is by undermining our resolve with continued suicide bombings, gruesome beheadings performed for the camera, and guerilla sneak attacks, all brought to American living rooms through the media.

The terrorists believe they can shape American policy—policy determined, in part, by this chamber—by killing Americans, because they have successfully done so before. In 1983, terrorists killed 241 Americans in Beirut, and American forces were withdrawn from Beirut as a result.

And America did not take the threat of terrorism seriously after the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, nor did we take it seriously after the destruction of our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998, nor did we take it seriously after the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000.

The terrorists believe that our determination to fight them now, after 9/11, is the exception rather than the rule. They believe that eventually we will tire, falter, and fail in this fight.

We must make plain for them—in a language they can understand—that they are gravely mistaken.

America is not going to cut and run before the job is done. For our own security, for the security of the Iraqi

people, and for the security of the world, we must defeat the terrorists and leave behind a strong, stable, and secure democratic Iraq.

The terrorists are rightfully scared because America is fighting and winning the war on terror. We have made incredible progress in Iraq in 2½ short years.

I think we ought to take a look at the progress that has been made.

Taking note of this chart, Saddam Hussein came to power in 1979 and was in power from 1979 to 2003. What were the hallmarks of those 24 years for the people of Iraq? Over 4,000 political prisoners were summarily executed—one of his great accomplishments; 50,000 Kurds killed, many of them with chemical weapons; 395,000 people were forced to leave Iraq during that 24-year period.

They had to get out or be killed.

Iraq had no free elections and no free newspapers, and Saddam Hussein stood above the law.

What has happened in the 2½ years since Saddam Hussein's fall from power? Iraqis are now innocent until proven guilty. They have a legal system. Seventy-five Kurds have been elected to the legislature, as compared to 50,000 Kurds getting killed during Saddam's regime. Over 270,000 of those Iraqis who had to leave the country—of the 395,000 who were forced to flee Iraq—have come back home to build a new free Iraq, and 9.8 million people voted on the constitution on October 15. They weren't any free elections for 24 years under Saddam. They have over 100 free newspapers—100 free newspapers in Iraq now. They have more competition probably than we do, with freedom of speech breaking out all over Iraq.

Hussein, who stood above the law, now is on trial, subject to the law in Iraq.

That sums up the progress that has been made. The 24-year period of terror is over and a new democratic, free Iraq is emerging.

Before I leave the floor, I want to offer my colleagues some words of bravery from ordinary Iraqis, as an antidote to the al-Zawahiri letter I read earlier. These are the people who defied al-Zawahiri and al-Zarqawi to vote for the free future of their country. What these courageous people have to say should convince anybody that the Iraqis understand and are willing to pay the price of freedom.

Here is what one fellow had to say:

'I have not forgotten the mass graves and the torture and the killings,' said Abdul Hussein Ahmed of Najaf. 'Five members of my family were killed by Saddam and his people. But now, with this constitution, everyone is equal under the law.'

Munthir Abbas Elaiwi of Baghdad agrees.

'[The constitution] will bring all that is good for the people, such as stability, democracy and peace. With such a charter, we will show the world that we are a civilized nation, not a bunch of ignorant and bloodthirsty extremists.'

That is from one of the Iraqis participating in the progress. And if any terrorists think the people of Iraq do not hold their new republic dear, let them heed the words of Munthir's older brother, Naseer Abbas, also of Baghdad. He states quite simply: "We are ready to defend this constitution with our blood."

Iraqis are our partners in the war on terror, and they understand the magnitude of our shared cause. They realize the power a thriving democracy in the heart of the Middle East can have as a counter-example to tyrannical regimes like Iran, whose President recently called for Israel to be "wiped off the face of the Earth." The Iraqis have embraced liberty, and rejected the homicidal urgings of terrorists. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting them and their commitment to freedom.

Tyrannical leaders who repress their people much as Saddam Hussein once did the Iraqis should make no mistake: The people in your country are looking at Iraq and wondering, "Why not here? Why not now?"

The terrorists do not have the right answers to those questions. Americans, and Iraqis, do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, before I talk about the situation in Iraq, I want to mention something that has gone on in my City of Philadelphia which I think deserves recognition during Veterans Day; that is, a situation with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Revolutionary War. That is a memorial which was erected in Philadelphia in 1954. There was an eternal flame added to that memorial back in 1976 during our bicentennial year. About 10 years ago that flame went out, and for 10 years the City of Philadelphia and the government of the City of Philadelphia refused to relight it—to fix the flame.

It wasn't until the efforts of Larry Mendte, a journalist for the CBS station WKYW television in Philadelphia, and the work he did in bringing this issue to light—other journalists have brought this to light in the past—but to Larry's credit, he did not give up. And they continued to run story after story and hound the city of Philadelphia to try to finally fix this monument and fix this eternal flame.

I wish to give thanks to the veterans community in Philadelphia, to WKYW, to Larry, and ultimately I have to congratulate Mayor Street. After an enormous amount of pressure put on his administration, Mayor Street finally decided to fix the flame.

Once the flame was fixed, the National Park Service took that flame over and will make sure that the flame

at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Revolutionary War, where so many died in the city of Philadelphia, will burn as an eternal flame.

As we all know, this Friday is Veterans Day, a day when Americans pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. There is no group of Americans to which we owe more than those who have fought to protect the freedoms that are the very heart of our Nation.

The truth is that our veterans, both past and present, should be honored every day of the year. We would not be here today, enjoying all the blessings we have if it were not for the sacrifices of those who took up arms to defend America. And so, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the residents of my home state who have fought to ensure that those who passed away in service to our country are remembered, day in and day out, with the reverence they deserve.

The city of Philadelphia, so central to the American Revolution, became the final resting place for thousands of Revolutionary soldiers. Many of these brave men, America's first patriots, were laid to rest in mass, unmarked graves throughout the Philadelphia region. To honor these soldiers, and the millions more who have fought for our Nation since its inception, a war memorial was erected in Philadelphia in 1954. Ever since, this monument, known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, has stood as a tribute to those who first made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of America.

During the bicentennial celebration in 1976, an eternal flame was added to the monument. This flame, a symbol of the enduring spirit of the soldiers that passed, was to burn continuously in their honor. Yet over time, the flame was neglected and allowed to die out. For the last few years, this monument has stood incomplete, and as a tribute to our soldiers, insufficient.

Thankfully, Philadelphia is a city filled with conscientious, concerned citizens. On June 6 of this year, Mr. Larry Mendte, a journalist for the CBS station WKYW, reported that the flame had gone out. The response from viewers was immediate. The next night, a veteran of the gulf war traveled to the monument and lit her own flame, a flame that would certainly not wane due to neglect, thus beginning a candlelight vigil that would be joined by many others.

Mr. Mendte, along with his colleagues at CBS, would not let this story disappear. He tracked down city officials, demanded an explanation, and refused to accept their attempts to brush him off. On June 13, merely seven days after the initial story was broadcast, the city began the repair process. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Mendte, WKYW, and the many concerned Philadelphia residents who responded to this story, over 100 individuals were able to witness the reigniting of the eternal flame on June 29.

An inscription on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier reads, "Freedom is a light for which many men have died in darkness." Freedom is a light, a light that still shines bright throughout the world thanks to the effort and sacrifice of American soldiers. Today in Philadelphia, a different light is shining, once again, in recognition of these soldiers and what they have given for us.

I commend Mr. Mendte and his colleagues at WKYW for bringing attention to this issue and pushing for its resolution, as well as the residents of Philadelphia who responded, in force, with their support. Most of all, I thank America's veterans, who have given more than we can ever repay, and deserve to be honored and recognized at every opportunity. The eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a fitting tribute, and I am proud to represent such dedicated, patriotic citizens who worked so hard for its restoration.

Congratulations to all involved in the city of Philadelphia.

U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS' SUCCESS IN IRAQ

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senator from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, for her tremendous effort in organizing Members to come to the floor to tell the other side of story in Iraq.

It started with a series of e-mails that I received from different people, from constituents to folks who weren't constituents, who complained to me—these are soldiers in-country—that they were becoming frustrated because every day they would be out there on the frontlines in-country, serving, sacrificing for our country and accomplishing great deeds and then would have to turn on CNN and other news shows and read the clips from the American newspapers and see a war being described which they were not seeing. They were not seeing the war as being an IED every day but seeing, every day, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis working with our American military forces to make Iraq a more stable and safe place.

I, along with Senator HUTCHISON and my colleagues, have decided it is time to start going around the mainstream media and telling the other side of the story.

I came from a press conference downstairs where I had four civilian independent military bloggers. These are people who have been in-country—one is going to be in-country in the next couple of weeks, one who is the wife of someone who is heading to Iraq—talking about the military blog, talking about all of the information that is now populating the Internet, of people who are actually there in-country, telling their stories, people who are making a difference every single day in the lives of Iraqis.