

to the officials who set these policies in motion, have been held accountable. Sadly, we cannot give the world this assurance. The administration continues to stonewall on the prisoner abuse scandal and Congress continues to abdicate its oversight responsibility on this issue.

Those of us in the Congress who strongly believe that oversight and accountability are paramount to restoring America's reputation as a human rights leader remain stymied in our efforts to learn the truth about how this administration's policies trickled down from offices in Washington to cellblocks in Abu Ghraib. This Senate refuses to consider an independent commission, relying instead on the piecemeal investigations conducted by the military, none of which address the significant role of the Central Intelligence Agency in interrogations. With the completion of each of the Pentagon investigations, the need for a comprehensive, independent investigation becomes all the more evident.

I am particularly disturbed by recent press reports about the Army Inspector General's investigation into the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal. Although the report has not yet been publicly released, the press accounts state that Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez has been cleared by the Army of all allegations of wrongdoing and likely will not face punishment.

In order to understand why the reported findings of the Army Inspector General are troubling, and why an independent investigation is necessary, we need only consult the reports of prior investigations. The Jones investigation, referring to the Combined Joint Task Force led by Lt. Gen. Sanchez, stated, "Inaction at the CJTF-7 staff level may . . . have contributed to the failure to discover and prevent abuses before January 2004." The Jones report concluded that Lt. Gen. Sanchez "failed to ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interrogation operations."

The Schlesinger investigation is even more critical of Lt. Gen. Sanchez's role in the detainee abuse scandal. The Schlesinger panel described how Lt. Gen. Sanchez relied upon the interrogation policy from Guantanamo Bay to develop interrogation procedures for Iraq. The result of this, as the Schlesinger panel correctly states, was that "policies approved for use on al Qaeda and Taliban detainees who were not afforded the protection of [Enemy Prisoner of War] status under the Geneva Conventions now applied to detainees who did fall under the Geneva Convention protections." The Schlesinger report continued, "Despite lacking specific authorization to operate beyond the confines of the Geneva Conventions, [Lt. Gen. Sanchez] nonetheless determined it was within [his] command discretion to classify, as unlawful combatants, individuals captured during [Operation Iraqi Freedom]." The panel also found that Lt. Gen. Sanchez "was responsible for establishing the confused command relationship at

the Abu Ghraib prison" and "the unclear chain of command established by CJTF-7, combined with the poor leadership and lack of supervision, contributed to the atmosphere at Abu Ghraib that allowed the abuses to take place."

The findings of the Jones and the Schlesinger investigations regarding the decisions of Lt. Gen. Sanchez are troubling on their own. Equally troubling is the indication that Lt. Gen. Sanchez gave inaccurate testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. In an Armed Services Committee hearing on May 19, 2004, Senator JACK REED asked Lt. Gen. Sanchez if he had approved sleep deprivation, intimidation by guard dogs, excessive noise, and inducing fear as interrogation methods for use in Abu Ghraib prison. Lt. Gen. Sanchez replied that, "I never approved any of those measures to be used within CJTF-7 at any time in the last year." His statement is seemingly contradicted by a document recently released by the Pentagon in response to litigation under the Freedom of Information Act. A September 14, 2003, memo from Lt. Gen. Sanchez authorized specific interrogation methods for use in Iraq, including the use of military working dogs to exploit Arab fear of dogs, the use of sleep management and stress positions, and inducing fear through "yelling, loud music, and light control."

There has been some speculation in the media about whether Gen. Sanchez's actions in Iraq will stand in the way of his promotion and fourth star. But involvement in the prisoner abuse scandal is hardly a career-ending event in this administration. Alberto Gonzales, the central figure in formulating the administration's interrogation and detention policies, was promoted to Attorney General. Former Assistant Attorney General Jay Bybee, author of the deeply flawed and now-repudiated "torture memo," received a lifetime appointment to the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Defense Department General Counsel William J. Haynes insisted that the Pentagon Working Group use the Bybee torture memo, rather than the Geneva Conventions, as the legal foundation for interrogation techniques; he has been nominated to the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Former CIA Director George Tenet authorized the "extraordinary rendition" of detainees to countries where they were reported to have been tortured; he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Secretary Rumsfeld personally approved objectionable interrogation techniques and admitted to hiding detainees from the International Committee of the Red Cross; he is one of the few cabinet members asked to remain in the second Bush term.

Allowing senior officials and military officers to avoid accountability sets a dangerous precedent. It is time for Congress, even this Republican-led Congress, to recognize its constitutional obligation to conduct vigorous oversight. We must send a message that no one in the chain of command—

from an enlisted private stationed in Iraq to the Commander-in-Chief—is above the laws of our Nation. Many Republicans argue that another investigation will hurt the morale of our troops serving overseas. On the contrary, I believe that morale is hurt when the only individuals who have been punished for detainee abuse are low-ranking soldiers, while those at the highest levels of power continue to set policy and act with impunity.

Chairman WARNER recently announced that he will hold an Armed Services Committee hearing to examine the adequacy of the various Pentagon and military investigations. I commend the chairman for announcing this hearing, and hope that the supporters of an independent investigation are given the opportunity to testify before the committee. In a letter last September, eight retired generals and admirals asked President Bush to appoint a prisoner abuse commission modeled on the 9/11 Commission. In that letter, the officers stated, "internal investigations by their nature . . . suffer from a critical lack of independence. Americans have never thought it wise or fair for one branch of government to police itself." I hope that members of the Armed Services Committee will consider these words when they evaluate the Pentagon's investigations.

April 28, 2004, will remain a dark day in American history, but the administration's handling of this scandal only adds to our disgrace. There will always be scandals and tragedies in a nation's history. What makes America special is that we do not hide from these issues; we investigate them, learn from our mistakes, and make sure they do not happen again. Unfortunately, one year after the disclosure of the Abu Ghraib photos, we still have much to learn.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BENEWAH MEDICAL AND WELLNESS CENTER AWARD

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on May 3, 2005, the Benewah Medical and Wellness Center operated by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho will be presented with the 2005 Johnson & Johnson Community Health Care Leadership Award. This award is presented to one facility nationwide that has set itself apart from others in quality and innovation in community health care. The center has distinguished itself over the years in superior service to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the community of Plummer, ID, and the medically underserved and indigent in the region. Theirs is a story of successful partnership and innovation over the course of many years. Fifteen years ago, the center collaborated with the city of Plummer and greatly expanded the scope

and reach of its service. In addition to acute and preventive health care found at other medical centers, the many programs offered by the center make it a truly comprehensive care institution. These programs include diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention and education and afterschool and mentoring programs for youth. Furthermore, the center has responded to the cultural sensitivities of the community by employing Native and non-Native staff members. Staff diversity increases the effectiveness of any healthcare institution, a fact which the center has recognized and incorporated into their operating procedures. In January 2004, I had the opportunity to visit the center and was impressed at the level of technology this collaborative effort had been able to bring to this rural community.

I commend the Benawah Medical and Wellness Center on its tremendous achievement in the overall community healthcare and wellness. I look forward to hearing of future successes.●

HONORING CENTURY COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL PROM AND GRADUATION SAFETY MONTH INITIATIVE

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Alcohol Awareness Month to recognize The Century Council for its efforts to prevent underage drinking. The Century Council is a national, not for profit organization funded by America's leading distillers to develop and implement programs designed to combat drunk driving and underage drinking. These programs, such as Ready or Not: Talking with Kids About Alcohol, Brandon's Story, and Alcohol 101 Plus, are making great strides in reducing the amount of underage drinking and irresponsible consumption of alcohol.

Right now, The Council is kicking off its sixth annual National Prom and Graduation Safety Months Initiative. Between April and June, The Council has planned a series of events across the country to educate students, parents and the general public about making responsible decisions with regard to beverage alcohol. Over the past two decades, progress has been made in the effort to stop underage drinking through the implementation of effective programs and increased public awareness regarding the negative consequences of underage drinking. According to the most recent figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 749 people under the age of 21 were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes during April, May and June in 2003 as well as countless non-fatal injuries. In Louisiana, alcohol is a factor in 20 percent of all traffic fatalities involving minors, and it is a factor in 15 percent of all traffic accidents involving minors.

It was once said that "holding young people solely responsible for underage drinking is like holding fish responsible for dying in a polluted stream."

As a mother of two young children, I know that I will soon have to speak to my own kids about alcohol use. As all of the other parents in this Chamber and across the country can say, the conversation between a parent and a child about alcohol use is not always an easy conversation. However, improved communication between parents and children is essential to preventing underage drinking. According to a recent survey by TRU Omnibuzz in 2003, 65 percent of adolescents identify parents as the leading influence in their decision to drink or not to drink. Unfortunately, 36 percent of adolescents say they had not spoken to either parent about alcohol. This communication gap can be minimized by through programs that increase awareness, educate parents and kids and help facilitate conversations between parents and kids about the dangers of underage drinking.

The role of parents in the efforts to reduce underage drinking is critical. I commend The Century Council for giving parents and children across the Nation the valuable tools to initiate those important discussions regarding alcohol.●

CONGRATULATING JERRY VEREEN AND RIVERSIDE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I congratulate Riverside Manufacturing Company on Riverside being named "Manufacturer of the Year" for the State of Georgia. Riverside is located in my hometown of Moultrie, GA. Riverside was founded in 1911 by William J. Vereen, in Colquitt County, and has maintained its headquarters there to this day. Riverside is known worldwide both for producing business uniforms of superior garment quality and for the dedication of its employees.

Riverside sells uniforms in all 50 States, as well as in over 200 foreign countries. Riverside warehouses products in Atlanta, GA; Dundalk, Ireland; Moultrie, GA; Prichard, WV; and Reno, NV. Riverside won this year's distinction of Georgia's Manufacturer of the Year in the large company category; that is, those with more than 750 employees. Riverside was nominated for the award by Moultrie Technical College.

Governor Sonny Perdue presented this coveted award to my good friend Jerry Vereen, who is president and chief executive officer of Riverside, last Thursday in Atlanta at an annual awards ceremony as part of Georgia Manufacturing Appreciation Week.

Jerry was quoted as saying:

We were very pleased that the award recognized all the dedication and hard work that Riverside's associates have put forth to look after all our great customers. The only sustainable competitive advantage any company can have is based strictly on its people. You can buy technology, equipment and buildings but it takes the dedication of a lot of people to give Riverside the competitive edge with our customers, especially when all

of our competitors have taken their manufacturing offshore. This award recognizes our associates' dedication to exceeding our customers' expectations. It also acknowledges their efforts to contribute significantly to the communities where we are located. We feel that Colquitt County and Georgia are great areas to build a company. We are very appreciative to Jackie Rohosky and her Quick Start team, Tina Anderson and her Moultrie Technical College team, Darrell Moore, Jimmy Jeter and the members of the Moultrie Colquitt County Industrial Development Authority, as well as the Colquitt County Commissioners, Moultrie City Council and the Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce for all the assistance they have given Riverside and our associates over the years.

I am so proud of Jerry, of Riverside, and of all of Riverside's many employees, 600 of which call Georgia home. I extend my deepest and most sincere congratulations on their receipt of this prestigious award in recognition of a job well done.●

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, more than 1200 students from across the Nation will be competing in the finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program here in Washington, DC, from April 30-May 2, 2005. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed specifically to educate our young people about the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the importance of civic participation to our political process. Schools are provided with textbooks that offer both historical information and critical-thinking activities, and students compete in the format of a congressional hearing to show their knowledge of our democracy.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, will be returning this year to defend their national title earned in May 2004. East Brunswick High School won my home State's competition again this year and will represent New Jersey in our Nation's Capital this weekend. I wish the following students, and their teacher Alan Brodman, the best of luck in the future and congratulate them on their hard work and inspiring civic advocacy: Rajiv Agarwal, Elliot Chiu, Theresa Cui, Yan Cui, Aditi Eleswarapu, Michael Genson, Stephanie Horwitz, Frances Huang, Manisha Johary, Michael Kofsky, Kevin Kuo, Sam Lau, Alexandra Palmer, Resham Patel, Mark Pruce, Panwan Punjabi, Caroline Rana, Natalie Rana, Sana Sheikh, Allison Sorkin, Ilana Stern, Eric Struening, and Lauren Volosin.●

CONGRATULATING FRANK DURKAN

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am delighted today to extend congratulations to Mr. Frank Durkan on the 50th anniversary of his admittance to the New York State bar. Born in County