

national and international drug problem. State resources are being stretched thin to combat meth trafficking from Mexico and to work drug conspiracies that have their roots in Mexico and beyond. I continue to support increased funding for Byrne grants. State and local agencies take the brunt of meth investigations without Federal assistance. More than 90% of drug arrests nationwide are made by State and local law enforcement. Tom Constantine, former head of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) testified that the majority of DEA cases begin as referrals from local and multi-jurisdictional drug investigations. He was unaware of any major DEA case during his tenure that did not originate from information gathered at the State and local level.

Byrne-JAG is an effective Federal partnership with State and local law enforcement. The key is local control and information sharing across local, State and Federal jurisdictions. Last year, Byrne task forces seized 5,600 meth labs, 55,000 weapons, and massive quantities of narcotics, including 2.7 million grams of meth. These results demonstrate the power of using Federal dollars to leverage State and local partnerships.

The National Drug Threat Assessment 2006, authored by the Department of Justice, found that Mexican criminal groups control most wholesale distribution of powder and ice methamphetamine. According to DEA and HIDTA reporting, Mexican criminal groups are the predominant wholesale methamphetamine traffickers in the country—even in the Northeast and Florida/Caribbean Regions—supplying various midlevel drug dealers.

Mexican control over wholesale and mid-level methamphetamine distribution is likely to increase as a greater proportion of wholesale methamphetamine production occurs in Mexico-based laboratories. Unfortunately, declines in domestic methamphetamine production, particularly by independent producers, will strengthen the position of Mexican criminal groups as midlevel and retail distributors.

Iowa has made great strides. Iowa is a model for how to address domestic sources of meth lab production with its tough precursor laws. Unfortunately, to meet the demand, more meth is coming in from Mexico. A coordinated multi-jurisdictional response involving local, State and Federal agencies is crucial. Local law enforcement needs to have the funds in this amendment to fight drug crimes.

ON THE ETHICS OF WAR: NON-COMBATANT INVOLVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article by Alex Vernon, a professor of American Studies in Hendrix College and a former member of the U.S. Armed Forces. The article titled *The Road From My Lai*, published in the op-ed section of the June 23, 2006 edition of the *New York Times*, drew parallels between the massacre at My Lai during Vietnam and the alleged atrocities at Haditha and Hamdania.

A veteran of the first Gulf War, Mr. Vernon has firsthand experience of the atrocities the soldiers can be driven to commit in times of

war. He is not making excuses for our forces in Iraq and neither do I. My Lai was a terrible tragedy and the Army's attempt of cover-up, abetted by the Nixon administration, was foiled by the efforts of Ronald Ridenhour, Congressman Morris Udall and journalist Seymour Hersh. We do not want to see a repeat of the My Lai cover-up again.

Sitting here on the Capitol, while we are deciding to continue the occupation in Iraq, our National Guard and Reserve troops are being forced to serve their third or even fourth tour of duty. The heightened tension of war and frustration at the efforts of certain groups of Iraqis to resist American occupation may have driven our troops to commit atrocities that they would never have otherwise committed. As Mr. Vernon stated in the article, the dull and boring hour-long instructions on ethics does nothing to change the situation. "Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?"

Unfortunately regardless of the results of official enquiries and court-martial into the incidents of Haditha and Hamdania, the damage has been done. The verdict is already in; and it is not in the U.S.'s favor. While General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assures us that 99.9 percent of our servicemen and women are behaving humanely, the majority of the Iraqis confess no surprise at learning about the war crimes of the U.S. soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, our armed forces should remember novelist William Eastlake's remarks on My Lai. You cannot transfer the blame on your superior officer; use your own judgment.

And we, the legislators of the nation should keep in mind that in prolonging this needless war, we are amplifying the physical and psychological strains on our soldiers, thereby making room for more Hadithas and Hamdanias.

THE ROAD FROM MY LAI

(By Alex Vernon)

When I went to war as a junior officer in Iraq 15 years ago, we faced a far different enemy for far less time than today's troops are dealing with—four days back then, into our fourth year now. Yet in those first weeks in the desert before Desert Storm, back when we fully expected Iraq's several armored divisions to drive into Saudi Arabia and crush the two divisions we had on the ground, two soldiers under my command digging a fighting position lost their heads. One pulled a knife on the other. Fortunately, other soldiers pulled them apart.

It's impossible to imagine the frustration and stress on American soldiers in Iraq today—impossible, or maybe it's simply not something we willingly work to imagine. Then the news breaks. My first thought on hearing about the alleged atrocities at Haditha—and of the announcement this week that murder charges are being brought against eight American servicemen for killing an Iraqi civilian at Hamdania in April—was "Duh." If we didn't know this day was coming, we were fools.

I would like to ask those troops accused of war crimes in Iraq what they know about My Lai 4, the site of the most famous American atrocity in Vietnam. In the late 1990's, I did a brief stint in the Army Reserve commanding a company whose job was supporting active-duty basic training units. I recall no mention of My Lai in our classroom instruction.

These days, when I teach a college course on American war literature, My Lai inevitably comes up. Inevitably, a fair number of

students raise their hands to be reminded, possibly even introduced, to that dark day in 1968. These young men and women attend a prestigious liberal arts college and probably won't find themselves in places like Haditha or Hamdania. But they should be reasonably expected to know more about American history than their peers whom we do send with guns to Haditha and Hamdania.

I am slightly encouraged by our military's new commitment, announced in the wake of the Haditha reports, to ensure that coalition forces in Iraq receive training in ethics and values. But the cynic in me groans. Not another dull, forgettable one-hour block of instruction on ethics like I endured in my years of officer training. Who needs to be told not to run a bayonet through a baby?

According to Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, such training "should provide comfort to those looking to see if we are a nation that stands on the values we hold dear." With all due respect to the general, does he really think that such training will appease those who believe the Americans at Haditha and Hamdania, and our soldiers and agents elsewhere, are guilty of atrocities? Regardless of the results of official inquiries and courts-martial, the damage has been done. In the Muslim (and much of the non-Muslim) court of opinion, the verdict is already in.

Of course, learning about My Lai is hardly assurance against similarly criminal behavior; no more than graphic images of car accidents prevents reckless driving. And focusing on it today can create other problems. One is that we allow it to become representative, and to prejudice our perceptions of all American soldiers' behavior in Vietnam. The other is that we treat it as singular—an aberration for that war or for any American wars.

We already feel similar tensions regarding the reports out of Iraq. While General Pace assures us that "99.9 percent of the servicemen and servicewomen" are behaving properly and humanely, too many Iraqis report registering no surprise in learning about the alleged atrocities.

So are we saviors or monsters? The truth, as it always does, lives somewhere between. Our military is as thoroughly professional as scrappy guerrilla forces usually are not. But to pretend our soldiers never mistreat others would be a gross lie. After an article in *The New York Times Magazine* last year about American soldiers accused of drowning an innocent Iraqi and their battalion commander's cover-up, I got an e-mail message from one veteran of the current war that the treatment of that Iraqi differed from the treatment of others only in degree and result, not in kind.

Apologists for My Lai—and presumably future apologists for Iraq atrocities—are quick to lecture: That's war, buddy. You should see what the other guy does. I object to this argument because it smells like rationalization. It permits us to accept the unacceptable. It resists aspiring to a better way. The very idea of "wartime atrocity" is a 20th-century development, the most progressive and hopeful legacy of the world's bloodiest century.

There is hope. I can't imagine a Haditha or Hamdania version of "The Battle Hymn of Lieutenant Calley," a tribute to the officer responsible at My Lai that cracked the *Billboard* Top 40 in 1971. Its lyrics ran: "Sir, I followed all my orders and I did the best I could. / It's hard to judge the enemy and hard to tell the good. / Yet there's not a man among us who would not have understood."

Despite the calls to prosecute up the chain of command (indeed, up to President Bush himself) for the alleged crimes in Iraq, I sense more collective sympathy with the

novelist William Eastlake's remarks to West Point cadets about My Lai, as quoted in the Encyclopedia of American War Literature: "You cannot say after wiping out a village, 'My superior told me to do it.' You're big boys now. Behave yourselves. Don't blame all your sins on General Westmoreland."

Last fall, around the time the Haditha events occurred, another veteran of the current war, a National Guard second lieutenant, confessed to me his war crime. His platoon was searching a home where an Iraqi man was sobbing uncontrollably for the loss of his brother. "Would somebody shut him up?" the lieutenant shouted, throwing in an expletive for good measure.

THE PATRIOT CORPORATIONS OF AMERICA ACT: INVESTING IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 4th of July and the 230th birthday of our great Nation, I am today introducing the Patriot Corporations of America Act which encourages corporations to invest in the American people and the American economy. It is time to rekindle the spirit of patriotism and create a new patriotic corporate ethic in America—one that unites workers and their employers in the mutual goal of building a stronger, more prosperous, more democratic business sector that can vigorously and proudly compete in the twenty-first-century global economy.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we have benefited from the great work and contributions of countless American patriots and Congress has always undertaken efforts to honor those men and women. The Patriot Corporations of America Act continues that tradition by rewarding companies that commit to America and American workers.

If you want to make Americans of all stripes mad, tell them about the billions of dollars in subsidies and tax breaks our government gives to companies that outsource jobs and relocate to avoid giving back to the our great country. A recent poll in Foreign Affairs magazine reported that nearly 90 percent of Americans worry about losing their jobs to corporate outsourcing. And, it is estimated that between \$30 and \$70 billion is hidden away in tax havens like Bermuda by corporate ex-patriots.

To end this race to the bottom, to end the offshoring of jobs and research, Bill Edley, a former State Representative in Illinois, and political scientist Robin Johnson of Monmouth College, introduced a new idea of turning the tables around with the Patriot Corporations of America Act. It would reward companies, like New Maryland Clothing and Tama Manufacturing, that care about our Nation, our communities, and American workers. I am honored to be introducing this commonsense concept in the form of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In exchange for preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5 percent tax rate reduction, Patriot Corporations would be asked to pledge their allegiance to our country by producing at least 90 percent of their goods and doing at least 50 percent of their research

and development in the United States. They would limit top managements' compensation to no greater than 100 times that of their lowest-compensated full-time workers. They would show their commitment to their workers by contributing at least 5 percent of payroll to portable pension funds and by paying for at least 70 percent of the cost of health insurance plans. Finally, Patriot Corporations would simply be required to comply with existing federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

Mr. Speaker, the Patriot Corporations for America Act would be revenue neutral. It would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes that that have been exploited and, if necessary, reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

Patriot Corporations would create a new class of companies committed to uphold the dignity and prosperity of American workers as well as to selling their goods on the American market and around the world.

Patriot Corporations are an expression of the American spirit of our fore fathers and mothers when they took that brave step of declaring our independence and creating the United States of America.

I am honored to be introducing this bill today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting American businesses and workers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT FINANCIAL READINGS ACT OF 2006

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a very important piece of legislation that will provide additional relief for families as they plan for the financial cost of their children's education.

Over the past ten years, tuition at public and private four-year institutions of higher learning has increased by 38 percent. Furthermore, over the past twenty-two years the cost of a four-year degree at a public college has increased by more than 202 percent. The expense is staggering, but the financial burden of college should not prevent individuals from seeking and receiving an advanced education.

That is why I am introducing the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006, which will increase the amount of the annual tax-free contribution a family or individual may contribute to a student's elementary, secondary, or college expenses.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts allow families to make a yearly tax-free contribution of \$2,000 per child to assist with educational costs. The money can be spent on both K-12 education, and college. By allowing families to make tax-free contributions to education savings accounts, we promote ownership of education and help ease the financial burden of education expenses.

However, the current \$2,000 annual limit currently in place on Coverdell accounts needs to be adjusted to keep pace with increasing tuition rates. My bill, the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006, would permit

a contribution level of \$5,000 annually and index the contribution amount by the cost-of-living adjustment.

We must give families the option of providing the very best education possible for their children. Our nation's future depends on the next generation. They must be given every opportunity to receive the highest education and the ability to be competitive in our changing job market.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to speak on behalf of my bill, the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2006. I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation to help ensure the future success of our nation's children and the financial stability of American families.

THE IMMIGRANT STORY OF AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my fellow colleagues about the contributions of immigrants to America. In an article in the New York Daily News, published June 16, 2006, Mr. Errol Louis told us about the opportunities that America has given immigrants to leap from "humble, grinding work to middle-class prosperity."

Idrisul Alam, whose father has been a cook at the Waldorf-Astoria for the past 9 years, is one of the many who was given the chance to make something of herself. She graduated first in her class at the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology in Brooklyn, speaks four languages, was an editor of her school newspaper, was a student government officer, and raised money for earthquake victims in Pakistan. She is planning on studying engineering at Columbia University this coming fall.

Idrisul is only one of the 35 high school seniors whose achievements were celebrated in a ceremony at the Sheraton New York last week. Michelle Quach who is heading to University of Pennsylvania, Reuben Rafaelov who is going to St. John's University, Jessica Acosta who is starting classes at Harvard are all shining examples of the triumph of the immigrant experience.

Coming from parents who have had no choice but to perform low rung jobs like bellhops, busboys and housekeepers, because of their lack of language skills, these children symbolize the success of the dreams and wishes of their parents. In light of the controversial national debate on immigration and all the immigrant bashing, we need to remind ourselves what immigrants bring to our society. I congratulate the New York Daily News and Mr. Louis for bringing attention to these heartwarming stories about the immigrant experience and reminding us about the positive aspects of immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the article titled From humble roots, they blossom by Mr. Errol Louis into the RECORD.

FROM HUMBLE ROOTS, THEY BLOSSOM

(By Errol Louis)

Far away from the speeches and slogans of the national debate over immigration, a simple, inspiring ceremony at the Sheraton New