

is that it contains a positive plan for real national security. He remains a strong critic of the Bush Administration. In fact, in *The Battle for Peace*, General Zinni offers a vision of national security policy and national purpose that is the complete opposite of those stated by President Bush. In doing so, General Zinni offers the harshest and truest criticism of President Bush's most recent rationale for his misbegotten Iraq war. There is no talk in Zinni's book of bringing "freedom to the people of the world because all men and women deserve to be free." There is no talk of making democracies so they will become our allies." Instead Gen. Zinni gives pragmatic and realistic ideas and plans for stabilizing any nation-state or country that is about to destabilize.

In his book Zinni writes: "The real threats do not come from military forces or violent attacks; they do not come from a nation-state or hostile non-state entity. They do not derive from an ideology (not even from a radical, West-hating, violent brand of Islam). The real new threats come from Instability. Instability and the chaos it generates can spark large and dangerous changes anywhere in the land."

General Zinni believes that the most urgent problem facing the country is the problem posed by dysfunctional countries or those in danger of becoming dysfunctional. These countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, are the breeding grounds for the radicals and terrorists who hate the United States and want to attack us.

But, General Zinni believes we cannot rely only on the military to solve the problems we face from these countries. He believes we use the military in ways that alienate other countries. Most importantly, General Zinni, a military veteran and retired General believes we should better organize U.S. agencies to respond to droughts, famines and civil wars and other sources of instability before they metastasize into situations that require military force. He advocates for an interdepartmental team drawn from relevant agencies to watch for tensions and other signs of instability and a deployable force of civilians to handle recovery and reconstruction in war zones.

I view General Zinni's statement of what he believes should be this nation's purpose and plan for national security to be a direct refutation of President Bush's often stated depiction of our "enemy" the one driven by an evil ideology who "lurks" everywhere and must be fought "over there," as well as General Zinni's strong statement that it is the business of the U.S. to bring stability where there is chaos is a reality based statement of what our national purpose should be.

General Zinni was one of the generals who endorsed President Bush in 2000. It is clear now that he would take the country in an entirely different direction on national security than the path the President is on. That is in sync with the American people who also believe the President is taking the country in the wrong direction.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 10, 2006]

A GENERAL WITH AN ALTERNATIVE VISION

(By Michael Abramowitz)

Well into his new book, Gen. Tony Zinni lists what he thinks ought to be the nation's strategic goals. They include, among other things, keeping regions and countries stable; making unstable countries stable; and working with regional partners to address unsta-

ble conditions. For Zinni, stability is the lodestar of modern national security policy. Wrestling order out of a chaotic world is the mission he sees as job number one for the U.S. government.

"The real threats do not come from military forces or violent attacks; they do not come from a nation-state or hostile non-state entity. They do not derive from an ideology (not even from a radical, West-hating, violent brand of Islam)," Zinni writes. "The real new threats come from Instability. Instability and the chaos it generates can spark large and dangerous changes anywhere in the land."

Notably absent from Zinni's list is any mention of spreading democracy and freedom, among the goals articulated recently by the White House in its National Security Strategy, often with soaring, idealistic rhetoric. The document states: "The United States possesses unprecedented—and unequaled—strength and influence in the world. Sustained by faith in the principles of liberty, and the value of a free society, this position comes with unparalleled responsibilities, obligations, and opportunity. The great strength of this nation must be used to promote a balance of power that favors freedom."

Zinni's contrast in tone and emphasis seems purposeful. With "The Battle for Peace," the retired Marine general has set out to present an alternative vision of the national interest to the one espoused by President Bush. It is a less ambitious, more incrementalist vision. If adopted by the Democrats, his dry, bureaucratic approach may lack for popular appeal. Yet might it bring about a more rational alignment of our national purpose with our fiscal and military resources? That is the implicit question raised in this slender volume by one of the nation's most prominent military voices.

Zinni is a combat veteran whose experience in Vietnam brought him three rounds from an AK-47 and a near-death experience. Before retiring, Zinni served as chief of the military's Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East and South Asia, a post that brought him into direct contact with many of the region's leading political and military figures and a firsthand experience in the most challenging foreign policy questions facing the United States. He was one of a raft of former generals who endorsed Bush for president in 2000, but he has since broken with the administration over what he sees as its ill-thought-out adventurism in Iraq. Zinni was against the war before it was popular to be so.

Those hoping for an intemperate screed against Bush's policies, however, will be disappointed. Zinni writes soberly and, largely, without invective. Although he disapproves of what he considers Bush's excessive faith in military power and the imprudence of the Iraq invasion, he does not frontally attack the administration. But by the end of this book, it is clear Zinni would have us move into a radically different direction on national security matters.

Zinni believes far too little thought and attention are being paid to the management of what, as he describes it, is the most urgent issue facing the country—how to manage the problems posed by dysfunctional countries or those that are in danger of becoming dysfunctional. Those countries, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, are the breeding grounds for the radicals and terrorists who hate the United States and want to attack us.

Yet as Zinni tells it, we have expertise in only one tool—military force—for dealing with these countries, and we too often use our power in ways that alienate other societies. He offers a variety of proposals to bet-

ter organize U.S. agencies to respond to droughts, famines, civil wars and other sources of instability before they metastasize into situations that require military force. He wants an interdepartmental team drawn from relevant agencies to watch for tensions and other signs of instability and a deployable force of civilians to handle recovery and reconstruction in war zones.

This is not an easy book to read. Even with the help of a professional writer, there is a fair amount of jargon in here, and the structure of the book is a bit mysterious. Zinni veers between interesting accounts of his involvement in various crises—such as the effort to aid the Iraqi Kurds after the Persian Gulf War—and his analysis of the shortcomings in U.S. grand strategy and how we are organized to deal with the threats of the 21st century. It is hard to judge whether his proposals would amount to more than a reshuffling of the bureaucratic deck.

Still, Zinni is an interesting man, and he has a lot of interesting things to say about the dangers of pursuing our current course in foreign policy. He is a distinctly non-ideological man in an era when ideology is running rampant both home and abroad. He seems to be saying that the world is full of problems that can be better managed if only we had more competent U.S. leadership, different bureaucracies and less idealism from our leaders. The premise is debatable, but the next president may decide to give it a go.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEAH
BRYANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Leah Bryant as she retires from the Southwest Homebuilding Industry after 28 years in the business.

Leah Bryant began her tenure in the homebuilding industry in 1978 as a loan expeditor for Lewis Homes in Las Vegas. Since then Leah has distinguished herself as a prominent and respected leader in her trade during her 28 years with KB and Lewis Homes. Leah was known for her contributions in the areas of quality assurance and customer service.

Leah was the regional general manager for KB Home's Southwest region, which includes Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson. In 2004, her region delivered nearly 7,000 homes. Leah was the driving force behind the company-wide satisfaction initiatives of 2003 and 2004, and launched and directed the company's Customer Satisfaction Task Force which has helped the company achieve the No. 3 ranking in 2004 by the J.D. Power and Associates customer satisfaction survey of home builders.

Leah has served as President of the Las Vegas division of KB Home, which is the largest homebuilder in Southern Nevada and was an active member of the board of directors of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association. Her leadership earned her a spot on Nevada Business Magazine's Women to Watch list. In her retirement, she plans to continue living in Las Vegas, and devoting herself to family and personal activities.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Leah Bryant on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to the homebuilding industry and thank her for her service to southern Nevada.

REMEMBERING KENT SILLS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, all of Mississippi recently lost a musical legacy who impacted thousands of high school and college students over a 40-year career in education. Dr. Kent Sills—"Doc"—passed away on May 3 in Starkville, Mississippi. His obituary in the Starkville Daily News recounts his achievements:

Dr. Sills began his teaching career as band director at Lumberton High School in 1956 before accepting a similar position at Clarksdale High School in 1961. He joined the faculty at Mississippi State University in 1967 as assistant director of bands and in 1983 was appointed as only the sixth director in the band's 100-year storied history. He served as director of bands and professor of music education at Mississippi State until his retirement in 1999.

While at Mississippi State, he founded the MSU Stage Band (1967), established the MSU Jazz Band Festival, the MSU Junior High Band Festival, and directed the "Famous Maroon Band" at MSU football and basketball games.

Dr. Sills also served as the manager and director of the Mississippi Lions All-State High School Band from 1983 until 1997. Under his leadership the Lions Band won seven international championships and never finished lower than second place in any competition, performing in Asia, Australia and across North America.

A graduate of Kosciusko High School, Dr. Sills held a bachelor of music education degree (1956) and master of education degree (1959) from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also held a master of music degree (1967) and doctor of arts degree (1977) from the University of Mississippi.

In 1996, he was awarded as "Outstanding Contributor to Bands to the State of Mississippi" by Phi Beta Mu, and in 2000 was selected for the Mississippi Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

From 1954 through 1960, Dr. Sills traveled throughout the country performing with his popular swing band "Kent Sills and His Southernaires." He also was a veteran of the U.S. Army and performed with the U.S. Army Reserve Band. Throughout his career, he served as an adjudicator and conductor at numerous band festivals and clinics.

The Daily News' editor Brian Hawkins shared some of his personal experiences with Doc.

If you ask any band alumnus to share memories of Doc, the floodgates open. There are just THAT many stories to share, and so many of them leave us in stitches every time.

In fact, one year in the early 1990s, a T-shirt with a top 10 list of "Doc-isms" was developed by some individual members and was sold to many in the band. Here are just a few:

"It's not ya-ya time"—This meant that we needed to quit messing around and get down to business in rehearsal.

"You know, somebody somewhere loves that child"—This was heard frequently when Doc had to correct someone individually in rehearsal. It often broke any tension that may have arisen from the mistake.

"Don't be dumb, cause when you're dumb, you're showing me, the band and the whole world that you just don't care"—In other words, get your head in the game and pay attention to what you're doing.

"You play when we all play"—This was meant to discourage any showboating or individual playing when the full band or a designated section was not playing.

There are countless "Doc-isms," some a bit more colorful than others.

One thing was certain, though, Doc had a wicked sense of humor. Not a rehearsal went by where the entire band didn't have at least one good laugh.

But that was Doc. He loved life, he loved music and he loved his students.

Hawkins continued:

I know without a doubt that God has a special place for him in heaven and that he's already there as I write this.

Even now, I can imagine the majestic music of the hosts on high filling the expanse anew under the baton of heaven's newest bandleader. And what glorious music it is.

Mr. Speaker, so many prayers are with Kent's family: his wife, Nora; his son Allen; and his grandchildren Hannah and Tyler. Their family is a pillar of the Starkville community where Nora is the organist at their church. Dr. Kent Sills is a music icon in Mississippi, at Mississippi State University, and in Starkville. I hope Congress joins me today in saluting and remembering this amazing and talented life and person.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF ANA PEIERA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life and work of Ana Peiera. Ana Peiera championed the cause of the poor and disadvantaged of New York City. She courageously led the cause of housing for the neediest and most vulnerable and dedicated her life to virtues that are admirable and noble. She certainly exemplified Jesus' admonition stated in Matthew 25:40 to devote one's life to serve "the least of these." She indeed has left an indelible print on the landscape of New York City.

Her advocacy work led her to found the Heritage Health & Housing and Community Services organization which serviced many of New York City's poor. She was loved in a variety of circles, especially within social action and social service professional networks. Jorge Abreu, the acting executive director of the Heritage Health & Housing, stated "She was a multifaceted social worker, who greatly influenced the construction of a safety net to care for this City's neediest—especially in the Harlem, Washington Heights and South Bronx districts of New York."

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for all of the hard work Ana engaged in during her life in my Congressional district. However, her legacy stretches beyond borders to the hearts of those persons who need homes and who are challenged by the likes of poverty, mental illness, Aids and drug addiction. Ana became a voice for the voiceless in New York City; those who live at the margins of society had a platform through Ana to voice their needs.

She implemented and fought for comprehensive programs to adequately address the needs of the underserved. She was never known to dodge even the most difficult cases

and prided in the opportunity to conquer the giants of poverty and homelessness. She believed that her life could reach even the most destitute who found themselves in the grips of calamity and deprivation. Through 24-hour/7 days a week comprehensive programs she managed to wrestle those individuals away from the strong grips of poverty and lack.

Before starting Heritage Housing she worked in New York City Housing authority. From 1972 to 1978 she was the District Supervisor for Community Services. From 1969 to 1972, she was Director of the Senior Advocacy Services in the Bronx. She provided leadership in a host of other capacities that all centered on addressing the needs of the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article titled, "Memorial Tribute to Ana Peiera" featured in CARIBNEWS on May 2, 2006, highlighting the achievements of Ana Peiera.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ANA PEREIRA

TIRELESS FOUNDER DEDICATED LIFE WORK TO
NEW YORK CITY'S NEEDIEST

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, elected officials; health, housing and social service professionals; family and friends will join Heritage Health and Housing to celebrate the life of one of its founders, Ana Pereira. The former Executive Director, who championed housing for New York City's neediest, will be memorialized at a special ceremony at Aaron Davis Hall from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. The ceremony, hosted by WHCR-FM radio personality, Jeanne Parnell Habersham, will conclude with a special reception.

"Ana Pereira was a beloved figure in New York City's social action circles", stated Jorge Abreu, Heritage Health & Housing acting Executive Director. "She was a multifaceted social worker, who greatly influenced the construction of a safety net to care for this City's neediest—especially in the Harlem, Washington Heights and South Bronx districts of New York. Her legacy lies in the care of persons who needed homes, and suffered from mental illness, addiction, AIDS, poverty, and the accompanying deprivation typically evident in the lives of many of her consumers of service. I knew her for 21 years, and worked with her for 18 of those years, crafting programs, fighting for, and winning services for the underserved."

Under Ms. Pereira's supervision, Heritage Housing and Community Services developed a reputation as an agency willing to take on the most difficult cases and help individuals transform their lives through programs providing a full continuum of care, from 24-hour/7-days-a-week supervision to semi-independent living. Working with the mentally ill, substance abusers, individuals with HIV/AIDS, the homeless and ex-offenders, the Agency, through Ms. Pereira's strong, personal leadership, helped its clients achieve independence and become contributing members of their communities.

Prior to starting Heritage Housing and Community Services, Ms. Pereira worked in various capacities for the New York City Housing Authority.

From 1972 to 1978, she was a District Supervisor for Community Services and managed a District office responsible for community services in 35 different housing developments. At the time, she was responsible for agency budgets totaling \$25 million. From 1969 to 1972, she was Director of the Senior Advocacy Services in the Bronx, responsible for training and supervising case workers who provided services for homebound elderly.

In effort to keep her legacy alive, the Board of Directors and staff of Heritage