

HONORING THE LIFE OF IDALIA
LUNA SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Idalia Luna Smith. Idalia was a caseworker in my district office. She was also a dear and loving friend to hundreds in our region of California. She was a community activist, and she was a loving wife and mother of three children.

Idalia passed away on Saturday, February 18, 2006, ending a long and difficult battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, John, and her two sons and daughter: Jack, Patrick, and Veronica.

Idalia was born and raised in East Los Angeles. Her interest in politics and social justice developed early in life. At the age of 14, she was influenced by her father's involvement in the famous 1970 Chicano Moratorium, an event which raised political consciousness for thousands in the Mexican America community of greater Los Angeles. As a teenager and college student, Idalia became politically active in her community, fighting for the equal treatment of Latinos and other underrepresented people.

Idalia graduated from Sacred Heart of Mary High School, then studied pre-medicine at Immaculate Heart College and Chicano studies, journalism and theatre at East Los Angeles Community College. She then earned her bachelor of science degree in biology at the University of La Verne.

Upon graduation, Idalia went to work for the Southern California Edison Company. In her 20 years there, she worked in many departments, including power production, informational technology, health care, and occupational health and safety. As a testament to Idalia's good will and generosity, she organized several blood donation drives and health fairs at Southern California Edison.

In 2001, seeking to combine her love of science, children and education, Idalia went back to school to earn a teaching credential at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. From 2001 to 2003, she taught science to young children at Beatitudes of our Lord School at La Mirada, California. However, her time at Beatitudes was unfortunately cut short by breast cancer. For the next 3 years, Idalia underwent the difficult rigors of chemotherapy and other treatments. Through her strength and courage, she was determined to return to help her community.

In 2003, Idalia did just that as she joined her husband, John, in founding the Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club in La Mirada. In this way, Idalia continued the legacy of fighting for social justice that she began in East Los Angeles 30 years earlier.

In just one year, Idalia and John Smith increased the RFK Club's mem-

bership from 20 to 112 people. In acknowledgment of her work, Idalia was named the 2005 Democrat of the Year for the 60th Assembly District of California by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, and that same year she was honored by her local peers with the 2005 Community Service Award from the Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club.

Over the past year, I had the pleasure of getting to know Idalia well as she worked in my district office as an office manager first and then a caseworker. Idalia's humor, optimism, and general goodwill always brightened our office and the lives of the constituents that she served. Not a day went by that she did not make us smile and laugh.

As a caseworker, she tirelessly worked to help others with their problems, all while she struggled with cancer. Despite her own health concerns, Idalia always lent an empathetic ear and dedicated herself to the individuals she helped. She was incredibly modest, humble, and charming. My staff and I will miss her greatly.

Through it all, Idalia believed in being proactive. She was committed to learning about her disease and did what she could to help others facing the same pain. I urge everyone to follow Idalia's example and make a personal commitment to ease the suffering of others as well and to help eradicate the horrible disease of cancer.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Idalia Luna Smith. May God bless her and ease her family's pain as they mourn for their loss.

U.S.-INDIA AGREEMENT MAKES
WORLD A MORE DANGEROUS
PLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as if we haven't done enough damage to the cause of global peace and security in Iraq, today the President has continued to make the world a more dangerous place with his misguided agreement on nuclear energy with India. If this deal is ratified by the Congress, and, believe me, I will do everything in my power to see that it is not, we will be sharing sensitive nuclear technology with a nation that was testing nuclear weapons as recently as 1998. We will be rewarding India for its refusal to sign on to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, a treaty which has helped keep the world safe in this nuclear age for nearly four decades.

What message does the India pact send to Iran and North Korea? What leverage do we now have with these countries to give up their nuclear ambitions? Especially when, even though they are dangerous regimes, they have done nothing to violate the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

While Great Britain, France and Germany are going back to the negotiating table to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear program, the United States is giving away nuclear technology to a nation that has rejected the NPT. How can we call ourselves a responsible global superpower when we thumb our noses at established international law? Is it any wonder that America is losing credibility and respect around the globe?

How will we now deal with India's neighbor and rival, Pakistan, which will likely demand the same nuclear concessions from the United States, and which has a dishonorable history of sharing nuclear technologies with other rogue states? The India-Pakistan border, which has been called the world's most dangerous nuclear flash point, will now be more dangerous, thanks to this agreement.

The President claims that this deal is about easing the pressure on the global energy supply given India's enormous population and soaring energy demands. First of all, where does the confidence come from that there can be an airtight firewall between India's civilian and military nuclear programs? Technology used for one can inevitably benefit the other.

Furthermore, it is laughable to hear concern about fossil fuel consumption from a President who never saw an ocean floor or wildlife refuge he didn't want to drill holes in. But I don't support nuclear power plants, because I believe it is not the answer to global energy and our energy challenge.

So if the President is serious about this issue, he will aggressively promote conservation and renewable energy right here in our very own United States of America, the world's hungriest energy consumer; and he will do it with real programs and investments, not a few lines of rhetoric in the State of the Union. But I am not holding my breath.

This acquiescence to India underscores more than ever that we need a new approach to our national security. To that end, I have offered a new strategy called SMART Security, SMART standing for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. I have been working on this idea with groups like Physicians For Social Responsibility, the Friends Committee For National Legislation, and Women's Action For New Directions.

SMART has five major components: first, prevent future acts of terrorism, not with military force, but better intelligence and multilateral cooperation; second, stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction with aggressive diplomacy, vigorous inspection and a commitment to nonproliferation; third, address terrorism's root causes with a humanitarian effort to invest in poor nations and conquer the depravation and despair that fosters terrorism in the very first place; fourth, rethink our budget priorities, in other words, less spending on Cold War weapons systems and more spending on efforts like

energy independence that are relevant to the security threats we face today; and, fifth, pursue alternatives to war, exhausting every conceivable diplomatic channel before resorting to armed conflict.

Finally, let me note the ironies of the President's deal with India. On the one hand, here we are feeding the nuclear appetite of a nation that has failed to show the responsibility expected of a nuclear state. On the other hand, we have sacrifice 2,300 Americans and \$250 billion on a war that was launched because of nuclear weapons that never existed.

□ 1415

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, March 18 will mark the 3-year anniversary of America's involvement in Iraq. Two thousand two hundred ninety-six American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in Iraq. Two hundred seventy-seven Americans have also fallen in the line of duty in Afghanistan.

We owe these great men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Last year I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We made a commitment to continue to read the names of our fellow citizens as long as the fighting continues.

In the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, each of those heroes stands on the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase in its blessings.

God bless and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we honor today:

1st Lieutenant Robert C. Oneto-Sikorski

Private 1st Class David J. Martin
Sergeant 1st Class Jonathan Tessar
Petty Officer 2nd Class Allan M. Espiritu

Sergeant Daniel A. Tsue
Private 1st Class Tyler R. MacKenzie
Specialist Benjamin A. Smith
Specialist Joshua J. Munger
2nd Lieutenant Mark J. Procopio
Specialist Dennis J. Ferdner Jr.
Captain Michael D. Martino
Major Gerald M. Bloomfield II
Major Jeffrey P. Toczykowski
Specialist Darren D. Howe
Sergeant 1st Class Daniel J. Pratt
Staff Sergeant Kyle B. Wehrly
Gunnery Sergeant Darrell W. Boatman

Private 1st Class Dustin A. Yancey
Captain James M. Gurbisz
Specialist Timothy D. Brown
Staff Sergeant Jason A. Fegler
Lieutenant Colonel Thomas A. Wren
Sergeant 1st Class James F. Hayes
Captain Joel E. Cahill
Lance Corporal Ryan J. Sorensen
Private 1st Class Mario A. Reyes
Specialist Robert C. Pope II
Staff Sergeant Brian L. Freeman
1st Lieutenant Justin S. Smith
Sergeant 1st Class Alwyn C. "Al" Cashe

Lance Corporal Jeremy P. Tamburello

Lance Corporal Daniel Freeman Swaim

Sergeant Joshua A. Terando
Staff Sergeant Michael C. Parrott
Sergeant Tyrone L. Chisholm
Private 1st Class Antonio Mendez Sanchez

Corporal Donald E. Fisher II
Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Sutherland
Lance Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz
Lance Corporal Scott A. Zubowski
Corporal John M. Longoria
Lance Corporal Christopher M. McCrackin

Major Ramon J. Mendoza Jr.
Lance Corporal Nickolas David Schiavoni

Private 1st Class Travis J. Grigg
Specialist Matthew J. Holley
Staff Sergeant James E. Estep
Private Dylan R. Paytas
Sergeant Jeremy E. Murray
Specialist Alexis Roman-Cruz
Corporal Joshua J. Ware
Corporal Jeffrey A. Rogers
Lance Corporal Roger W. Deeds
Lance Corporal John A. "JT" Lucente

2nd Lieutenant Donald R. McGlothlin
Specialist Vernon R. Widner
Staff Sergeant Ivan Vargas Alarcon
Sergeant Luis R. Reyes
Private 1st Class Anthony Gaunky
Private Christopher M. Alcozer
Lance Corporal Tyler J. Troyer
Lance Corporal Miguel Terrazas
Specialist Michael J. Idanan
Specialist Dominic Joseph Hinton
Corporal Jonathan F. Blair
Staff Sergeant Edward Karolasz
1st Lieutenant Dennis W. Zilinski
Master Sergeant Anthony R. C. Yost

Sergeant Dominic J. Sacco
Private 1st Class John Wilson Dearing
Sergeant Denis J. Gallardo
Specialist Allen J. Knop
Sergeant William B. Meeuwesen
Staff Sergeant Aram J. Bass
Private 1st Class Ryan D. Christensen.

Mr. Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln once wrote to the mother of five fallen soldiers, "I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

I would also like to thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world and serve with distinction.

Our thoughts, prayers and gratitude are with you and your families at this time until they return home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DINGELL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)