

CONGRATULATING PASQUALE "PAT" BANGOR UPON BEING NAMED "PERSON OF THE YEAR" BY THE LUZERNE COUNTY ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Pasquale "Pat" Bangor, of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who was named "Person of the Year" by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County.

Mr. Bangor is a son of the late Neil and Phyllis Cerullo Bangor. He has two sisters, Camella O'Donnell and the late Rose Realo and one brother, John.

He was married to Dorothy Gutosky Bangor for 30 years until her death in 1983. He has been married to Vanda Molinaro Bangor for the past 21 years.

Mr. Bangor has three daughters: Patricia Conahan, Carol Ann Brown and the late Jacqueline Cardillo. He also has three step-daughters: Rose Esposito, Wanda Rosenbaum and Lydia Hunsinger. He is also blessed with grandchildren, step-grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A graduate of Hazleton High School in 1946; he served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Following his military service, he was a self employed printer in the Hazleton area for more than 40 years.

In retirement, Mr. Bangor has remained active by driving a school bus for special needs children in the Hazleton Area School District and working part-time at a local carpet store.

He has been an active member of Our Lady of Grace Church in Hazleton all his life and has served on the church's financial council.

Mr. Bangor was a member of the Hazleton Elks Club for several years and has been an active and dedicated member of the Italian American Association of Luzerne County where he served many years on its board of directors.

Mr. and Mrs. Bangor spend much of their time with their children and grandchildren. They also enjoy dancing and world travel.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pat Bangor on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Bangor is a shining example of a family and community minded citizen whose contributions of time and energy has improved the quality of life for all whose lives he has touched.

CONGRATULATING THE STAFF OF THE JOINT SERVICE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations to the staff of the Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD, Program, which today marks the delivery of the 1000th EOD Man Transportable Robot

System, MTRS, to our military. This significant milestone is a testament to the highly skilled, top notch workforce marking this accomplishment today at the Naval EOD Technology Division.

The MTRS is a two-man portable robotic system used in both peacetime and wartime operations by EOD technicians to perform remote reconnaissance of unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive device, IED, incident sites. These EOD Robots are keeping EOD technicians alive and are mitigating the effects of emplaced IEDs and unexploded ordnance encountered in a wide variety of operational environments around the world. By using replaceable robots, EOD operators can effectively conduct and complete highly hazardous missions while remaining in a protected position, minimizing human exposure and time-on-target.

While no machine can replace a trained EOD technician, EOD personnel have embraced the ability of these robots to assist them in carrying out their important mission. Indeed, because of these robots, many of our EOD technicians have significantly reduced or avoided serious risk to themselves and their colleagues in military service.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the brave men and women willing to risk their own lives for this Nation by serving in our active military forces. While we can never fully repay that debt, we can demonstrate our gratitude by providing our military forces with advanced technology to ensure their safe return to their loved ones. Those responsible for delivering MTRS have been working to do just this.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members join me in congratulating this outstanding Navy team as they celebrate the successful delivery of the 1000th Man Transportable Robot System to our deployed military forces.

THE MERCENARY TRAINING CONTROL ACT (SEPTEMBER 19, 2007)

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation (H.R. 3649) that would require mercenary training be conducted only on property owned by the Federal Government.

As you may know, Blackwater USA, a private military security contractor, already operates two private military-style training facilities: one in Moyock, North Carolina and the other in Mount Carroll, Illinois. Blackwater USA is also seeking to open a third facility in Potrero, California.

It is outrageous to allow private individuals or corporations to establish private military bases anywhere in the United States! The military-style training conducted at these facilities has no place in our backyards.

The Federal Government and U.S. military have also become too reliant on these private security contractors, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must stop this trend!

However, in the meantime, my bill will take the modest step of requiring government contractors, like Blackwater USA, to train only on property owned by the Federal Government, such as our military bases.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution. On National Hunting and Fishing Day, we celebrate the remarkable progress we have made in conserving our environment and recognize those who have worked to conserve our natural resources.

Dating back to President Theodore Roosevelt, early conservationists called for the first laws restricting the commercial slaughter of wildlife. They urged sustainable use of fish and game, created hunting and fishing licenses, and lobbied for taxes on sporting equipment to provide funds for State conservation agencies. These actions were the foundation of the North American wildlife conservation model, a science-based, user-pay system that would foster the most dramatic conservation successes of all time.

America's hunters and anglers represent the great spirit of our country and are among our Nation's foremost conservationists. These citizens have worked to protect habitat and restore fish and wildlife populations. They volunteer their time, talents, and energy to countless conservation projects, because they recognize the importance of maintaining the natural abundance of our country for future generations.

Americans are blessed to live amid many wonders of nature, and we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the land. I commend all who advance conservation and help our citizens enjoy the benefits of our environment. These efforts ensure that our national heritage remains a source of pride for our citizens, our communities, and our Nation.

As an avid hunter and member of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus, I appreciate the efforts hunters, conservationists, scientists, and others have taken to manage wildlife and conservation of our natural environment. I commend these efforts and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 634.

SAUDI LAWSUIT AGAINST THE PUBLISHERS OF THE BOOK ALMS FOR JIHAD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the book Alms for Jihad, co-authored by J. Millard Burr and Robert O. Collins. This seminal work details the use of Islamic charities to fund terrorist activity around the world.

The book's publisher, Cambridge University Press, agreed to pulp all unsold copies of "Alms for Jihad" in the face of a defamation lawsuit by Saudi billionaire Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz. The publisher also sent letters to 280 libraries around the world, asking them to insert an erratum slip or withdraw the book from their shelves. Since March 2002, bin

Mahfouz has sued or threatened to sue at least 36 times against individuals in England who have linked bin Mahfouz to terrorist financing and activities.

“Alms for Jihad” reaches back into history, particularly into Sudan where much of the activities of fundamentalist Islamist groups found their origins, and traces them to the modern-day struggle against extremist forces around the world. We cannot understand the current war on terror, which extends far beyond the terrible events of September 11, without examining the chronology and details of this issue.

I have enclosed the author’s response to the lawsuit, and encourage our colleagues to obtain and read this important book.

SAUDI BILLIONAIRE VS. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS: NO CONTEST

On 3 April 2007 Kevin Taylor, Intellectual Property Manager for the Cambridge University Press (CUP), contacted Millard Burr and myself that the solicitors for Shaykh Khalid bin Mahfouz, Kendall Freeman, had informed CUP of eleven “allegations of defamation” in our book *Alms for Jihad: Charities and Terrorism in the Islamic World* and requested a response. On 20 April CUP received our seventeen page “robust defence”, but it soon became apparent that CUP had decided not to defend *Alms for Jihad* given “knowledge of claims from previous litigation” and that “the top-line allegations of defamation made against us by bin Mahfouz are sustainable and cannot be successfully defended . . . certainly not in the English courts, which is where the current action arises.” Of the eleven points of alleged defamation “we [CUP] could defend ourselves against some of his individual allegations . . . which, as you say could hardly be deemed defamatory on its own,” but on pp. 51–52 where you use the phrase “‘The twenty supporters of Al Qaeda’ followed by the Golden Chain references . . . is defamatory of him under English law.” The Golden Chain was a list of twenty wealthy Saudi donors to al-Qa’ida which included the name “Mahfouz” on a computer disk seized during a raid by the Bosnian police and U.S. security agents of the Sarajevo office of the Saudi charity, the Benevolent International Foundation (Bosanska Idealna Futura, BIF).

On 9 May 2007 CUP agreed to virtually all of the Shaykh’s demands to stop sale of the book, destroy all “existing copies,” prepare a letter of apology, and make a “payment to charity” for damages and contribute to legal costs. After further negotiations the press also agreed, on 20 June 2007, to request 280 libraries around the world to withdraw the book or insert an erratum slip. During these three months of negotiations Millard and I had naively assumed that, as authors, we were automatically a party to any settlement but were now informed we “are out of jurisdiction” so that CUP had to ask “whether or not they [the authors] wish to join in any settlement with your client [Mahfouz].” On 30 July 2007 Mr. Justice Eady in the London High Court accepted the abject surrender of CUP which promptly pulped 2,340 existing copies of *Alms for Jihad*, sent letters to the relevant libraries to do the same or insert an errata sheet, issued a public apology, and paid costs and damages.

The crux of this sordid and sorry saga lies firmly in the existing English libel law which is very narrow and restrictive compared to its counterpart in the United States with a long history and precedent of “good faith” protected by the First Amendment, absent in English jurisprudence. In effect, CUP was not prepared to embark on a long and very expensive litigation it could not

possibly win under English libel law in the English High Court, known to journalists the “Club Med for Libel Tourists.” Laurence Harris of Kendall Freeman was quite candid. “Our client [Shaykh] Mahfouz chose to complain to Cambridge University Press about the book because the book was published in this jurisdiction by them” where he had previously threatened to “sue some 36 U.S. and U.K. publishers and authors” and in which Shaykh Mahfouz had previously won three suits for the same charges of his alleged financing of terrorism. Even Justice Eady’s pious pronouncements about “the importance of freedom of speech” were of little relevance before the weight, or lack thereof, in English libel law he rigorously enforced.

This was the first time that Shaykh Mahfouz had brought suit only against the publisher that did not include the authors, for “our client [Shaykh Mahfouz] took the view that they [CUP] were likely to deal with his complaint sensibly and quickly, which they did,” rather than include the authors who would not. As American authors residing in the U.S., we were “out of jurisdiction” and under the protection of the U.S. Courts, specifically the unanimous ruling by the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in June 2007 that Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld could challenge in a U.S. Court the suit previously won against her by Shaykh Mahfouz in Justice Eady’s High Court in London thereby establishing a defining precedent in U.S. jurisprudence. Dr. Ehrenfeld is the director of the American Center for Democracy in New York whose book, “Funding Evil: how terrorism is financed—and how to stop it,” published by Bonus Books of Chicago in 2003, describes how Shaykh Mahfouz helped finance al-Qa’ida, Hamas, and other terrorist organizations in greater detail than “Alms for Jihad.” Although her book was not sold in Britain, Shaykh Mahfouz secured British jurisdiction by demonstrating that “Funding Evil” could be purchased or read on the internet by British citizens. When she refused to defend the case in the London High Court, Justice Eady declared for the plaintiff and ordered Dr. Ehrenfeld to pay \$225,000 damages. She then chose to confront the Shaykh and seek redress in the U.S. Court system.

Millard Burr and I had adamantly refused to be a party to the humiliating capitulation by CUP and were not about to renounce what we had written. “Alms for Jihad” had been meticulously researched, our interpretations judicious, our conclusions made in good faith on the available evidence. It is a very detailed analysis of the global reach of Islamic, mostly Saudi, charities to support the spread of fundamental Islam and the Islamist state by any means necessary. When writing “Alms for Jihad” we identified specific persons, methods, money, how it was laundered, and for what purpose substantiated by over 1,000 references. I had previously warned the editor at CUP, Marigold Acland, that some of this material could prove contentious, and in March 2005 legal advisers for CUP spent a month vetting the book before going into production and finally its publication in March 2006. We were careful when writing “Alms for Jihad” not to state explicitly that Shaykh Mahfouz was funding terrorism but the overwhelming real and circumstantial evidence presented implicitly could lead the reader to no other conclusion. Court records in the case of U.S. vs. Enaam Arnaout, Director of the Benevolent International Foundation and close associate of Osama bin Laden, accepted as evidence the “Golden Chain” which the British High Court later refused as evidentiary. The Mawafaq (Blessed Relief) Foundation of Shaykh Mahfouz and its principal donor was declared by the U.S. Treasury “an al-Qa’ida front that

receives funding from wealthy Saudi businessmen” one of whom was the designated terrorist, Yassin al-Qadi who “transferred millions of dollars to Osama bin Laden through charities and trusts like the Muwafaq Foundation.” It appears very strange that the founder of his personal charity and its major donor had no idea where or whom or for what purpose his generosity was being used.

Although the reaction to the settlement by CUP has been regarded by some, like Professor Deborah Lipstadt at Emory University, as a “frightening development” whereby the Saudis “systematically, case by case, book by book” are shutting down public discourse on terrorism and intimidating publishers from accepting manuscripts critical of the Saudis, there still remains the free exchange of ideas, opinions, and written text in the world of the internet protected by the First Amendment. Ironically, the eleven points of the Mahfouz suit against CUP amount to little more than a large footnote, a trivial fraction of the wealth of information in “Alms for Jihad” that cannot be found elsewhere. The Shaykh can burn the books in Britain, but he cannot prevent the recovery of the copyright by the authors nor their search for a U.S. publisher to reprint a new edition of “Alms for Jihad” for those who have been seeking a copy in the global market place.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on four bills brought up under Suspension of the Rules on Monday, September 24, 2007 because of an illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H. Con. Res. 193, a resolution recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety; “yea” on H. Res. 668, a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine; “yea” on H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007; and “yea” on H. Res. 340, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

CONGRATULATING FRENCH LICK, INDIANA ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, 2007 marks the 150th anniversary of the town of French Lick, Indiana. Many of my colleagues in Congress may recognize the town’s name as the birthplace of one of basketball’s finest, Larry Bird. But, those of us who have had the pleasure of spending time in French Lick know it for much more. I am looking forward to celebrating French Lick’s Sesquicentennial with its residents this coming weekend when the festivities commence on Friday, September 28,