

South Dakota and then as my party's nominee for President, my four daughters ganged up on my one night. "Dad, why don't you give up this battle? You've been speaking out against this crazy war since we were little kids. When you won the Democratic presidential nomination, you got snowed under by President Nixon." In reply I said, "Just remember that sometimes in history even a tragic mistake produces something good. The good about Vietnam is that it is such a terrible blunder, we'll never go down that road again." Mr. President, we're going down that road again. So, what do I tell my daughters? And what do you tell your daughters?

Mr. President, I do not speak either as a pacifist or a draft dodger. I speak as one who after the attack on Pearl Harbor, volunteered at the age of nineteen for the Army Air Corps and flew 35 missions as a B-24 bomber. I believed in that war then and I still do 65 years later. And so did the rest of America. Mr. President, are you missing the intellectual and moral capacity to know the difference between a justified war and a war of folly in Vietnam or Iraq?

Public opinion polls indicate that two-thirds of the American people think that the war in Iraq has been a mistake on your part. It is widely believed that this war was the central reason Democrats captured control of both houses of Congress. Polls among the people of Iraq indicate that nearly all Iraqis want our military presence in their country for the last four years to end now. Why do you persist in defying public opinion in both the United States and Iraq and throughout the other countries around the globe? Do you see yourself as omniscient? What is your view of the doctrine of self-determination, which we Americans hold dear?

And wonder of wonders, Mr. President, after such needless death and destruction, first in the Vietnamese jungle and now in the Arabian desert, how can you order 21,500 more American troops to Iraq? Are you aware that as the war in Vietnam went from bad to worse, our leaders sent in more troops and wasted more billions of dollars until we had 550,000 U.S. troops in that little country? It makes me shudder as an aging bomber pilot to remember that we dropped more bombs on the Vietnamese and their country than the total of all the bombs dropped by all the air forces around the world in World War II. Do you, Mr. President, honestly believe that we need tens of thousands of additional troops plus a supplemental military appropriation of 200 billion dollars before we can bring our troops home from this nightmare in ancient Baghdad?

In your initial campaign for the Presidency, Mr. Bush, you described yourself as a "compassionate conservative." What is compassionate about consigning America's youth to a needless and seemingly endless war that has now lasted longer than World War II? And what is conservative about reducing the taxes needed to finance this war and instead running our national debt to nine trillion dollars with money borrowed from China, Japan, Germany and Britain? Is this wild deficit financing your idea of conservatism? Mr. President, how can a true conservative be indifferent to the steadily rising cost of a war that claims over seven billion dollars a month, 237 million dollars every day? Are you troubled to know as a conservative that just the interest on our skyrocketing national debt is \$760,000 every day? Mr. President, our Nobel Prize winning economist, Joseph Stiglitz, estimates that if the war were to continue until 2010 as you have indicated it might, the cost would be over a trillion dollars.

Perhaps, Mr. President, you should ponder the words of a genuine conservative—England's 19th Century member of Parliament,

Edmund Burke: "A conscientious man would be cautious how he dealt in blood."

And, Mr. President at a time when your most respected generals have concluded that the chaos and conflict in Iraq cannot be resolved by more American dollars and more American young bodies, do you ever consider the needs here at home of our own anxious and troubled society? What about the words of another true conservative, General and President Dwight Eisenhower who said that, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed."

And, Mr. President, would not you and all the rest of us do well to ponder the farewell words of President Eisenhower: "In the councils of government; we must guard against the acquisition of the unwarranted influence of the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

Finally, Mr. President, I ask have you kept your oath of office to uphold the Constitution when you use what you call the war on terrorism to undermine the Bill of Rights? On what constitutional theory do you seize and imprison suspects without charge, sometimes torturing them in foreign jails? On what constitutional or legal basis have you tapped the phones of Americans without approval of the courts as required by law? Are you above the Constitution, above the law, and above the Geneva accords? If we are fighting for freedom in Iraq as you say, why are you so indifferent to protecting liberty here in America?

Many Americans are now saying in effect, "The American war in Iraq has created a horrible mess but how can we now walk away from it?" William Polk, a former Harvard and University of Chicago professor of Middle East Studies and a former State Department expert on the Middle East, has teamed up with me on a recent book requested by Simon and Schuster. It is entitled, "Out of Iraq: A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now." I feel awkward praising it, so I give you the respected journalist of the New York Times, and now of Newsweek, Anna Quindlen who told Charlie Rose on his excellent TV program: "There is a wonderful book I am recommending to everyone. It's a very small, readable book by George McGovern and William Polk called "Out of Iraq". And it just very quickly runs you through the history of the country, the makeup of the country, how we got in, the arguments for getting in—many of which don't withstand scrutiny—and how we can get out. It's like a little primer. I think the entire nation should read it and then we will be united."

If you need a second for the judgment of Anna Quindlen, I give you the esteemed Library Journal: "In this crisp and cogently argued book, former Senator McGovern and scholar Polk offer a trenchant and straightforward critique of the war in Iraq. What makes their highly readable book unique is that it not only argues why the United States needs to disengage militarily from Iraq now . . . but also clearly delineates practical steps for troop withdrawal . . . Essential reading for anybody who wants to cut through the maze of confusion that surrounds current U.S. policy in Iraq, this book is highly recommended for public and academic libraries."

Professor Polk is a descendant of President Polk and the brother of the noted George Polk, is here today from his home in southern France and he will join me at the podium as I conclude this impartial interrogation of President Bush. And now, members of the National Press Club and your guests, it's your turn to cross-examine Bill Polk and me in, of course, an equally impartial manner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, February 8, 2007, I was attending the funeral of the father of a member of my staff and missed rollcall votes No. 81–92. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes No. 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90 and "aye" on final passage of H.R. 547, the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act (rollcall vote No. 92). I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes No. 84 and 91.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote No. 85, on agreeing to the Rogers amendment to H.R. 547, at 4:01 p.m. on February 8, 2007.

If present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING DR. STEVEN SCOTT FOR HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Steven G. Scott, a nominee for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year Award, issued annually by the Disabled American Veterans. As someone who had dedicated their professional career to meeting the healthcare needs of his patients, Dr. Scott deserves recognition for his work on behalf of our nation's veterans.

While stationed at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, Florida for the past sixteen years, Dr. Scott has been instrumental in bringing specialized healthcare to soldiers with traumatic injuries. His work has focused on providing care for those individuals wounded through explosions, as well as those afflicted with spinal cord injuries.

Without Dr. Scott's tireless efforts, these soldiers would not have access to the high quality care they receive today. I have toured the facilities at Haley in person, and can attest to the outstanding facilities, excellent staff, and professional atmosphere. Dr. Scott deserves a great deal of the credit for the quality care provided to the severely wounded at Haley. Families around the country request the Haley Center because of the superior healthcare services Dr. Scott has brought to the Polytrauma Center.

Dr. Scott has also been recognized for his outstanding work serving veterans injured in combat. The 2006 recipient of the Tampa Bay Business Journal's Health Care Heroes Award

for Health Care Innovation and Research, Dr. Scott was also awarded the 2004 Olin E. Teague Award, the highest award for treating war-related injuries in the VA.

Madam Speaker, dedicated public servants like Dr. Steven G. Scott should be recognized for their years of service to America's veterans. I know that he will continue to help the patients at James Haley VA Medical Center recover from their injuries and improve their medical care. Congress should recognize the men and women like Dr. Scott who work day in and day out on behalf of our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNA KURYLO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Joanna Kurylo of Queens, NY. I wish to recognize Ms. Kurylo for being awarded the 2007 New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Youth Award. Joanna is a student at Christ the King Regional High School where she has achieved a high level of excellence and has already established herself as a community leader. While participating in a number of extra-curricular school activities, Joanna was honored for her notable fundraising efforts which brought aid to the Darfur region and helped advance the battle against leprosy. This award is granted to five students throughout New York State each year.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurylo best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

HONORING DR. EMIL FREI III

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Emil Frei III, a pioneer in cancer treatment, one of the world's foremost oncologists, and a leader in medical education.

In addition to his many different leadership roles, throughout his career Dr. Frei has made notable advances in cancer treatment. His clinical research has made major contributions to the successful application of chemotherapy, a treatment method that has cured tens of thousands of patients. Dr. Frei served as Chief of Medicine at the National Cancer Institute, Associate Scientific Director Head at M.D. Anderson, Director and Physician-in-Chief at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and is now the Physician-in-Chief, Emeritus, at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He has also served on the advisory or director boards of numerous companies and non-profit organizations, including: Adherex Technologies, Angstrom, CaP Cure, Celator Pharmaceuticals, DIAD Research, Immunogen, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Vion Pharmaceuticals, Aid for Cancer Research, the Cancer Research Institute, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Frei's contributions have been recognized by numerous

awards including the Lasker Award, the Kettering Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, and most recently the Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Cancer Research.

Not only a medical practitioner but a distinguished educator, Dr. Frei served as Professor of Medicine at The University of Texas for seven years, and at Harvard Medical School for 24 years. The textbook he co-authored, *Cancer Medicine*, was the first published about oncology, and remains a seminal text in this field of medicine.

Dr. Frei is now retired in southern Nevada, but continues to lecture, write, and offer advice about the field in which he worked for more than 50 years. He now serves on the chapter board of the Southern Nevada Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which will be hosting the inaugural Dr. Emil Frei III Symposium in March 2007.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Dr. Frei for his committed service to medical oncology, service that has helped thousands of cancer patients under his care and innumerable patients in the future through his leadership and instruction. His exceptional career deserves the highest commendation and praise.

TRIBUTE TO OUR TROOPS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit to the RECORD an article by the writer, actor, economist and lawyer, Ben Stein. This article, titled "Greetings from Rancho Mirage", expresses support and encouragement to our many hardworking and dedicated troops abroad:

GREETINGS FROM RANCHO MIRAGE—BY BEN STEIN

Dear Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, National Guard, Reservists, in Iraq, in the Middle East theater, in Afghanistan, in the area near Afghanistan, in any base anywhere in the world, and your families:

Let me tell you about why you guys own about 90 percent of the backbone in the whole world right now and should be happy with yourselves and proud of whom you are.

It was a dazzlingly hot day here in Rancho Mirage today. I did small errands like going to the bank to pay my mortgage, finding a new bed at a price I can afford, practicing driving with my new 5 wood, paying bills for about two hours. I spoke for a long time to a woman who is going through a nasty child custody fight. I got e-mails from a woman who was fired today from her job for not paying attention. I read about multi-billion-dollar mergers in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. I noticed how overweight I am, for the millionth time. In other words, I did a lot of nothing.

Like every other American who is not in the armed forces family, I basically just rearranged the deck chairs on the Titanic in my trivial, self-important, meaningless way.

Above all, I talked to a friend of more than forty-three years who told me he thought his life had no meaning because all he did was count his money. And, friends in the armed forces, this is the story of all of America today. We are doing nothing but treading

water while you guys carry on the life or death struggle against worldwide militant Islamic terrorism. Our lives are about nothing: paying bills, going to humdrum jobs, waiting until we can go to sleep and then do it all again. Our most vivid issues are trivia compared with what you do every day, every minute, every second.

Oprah Winfrey talks a lot about "meaning" in life. For her, "meaning" is dieting and then having her photo on the cover of her magazine every single month (surely a new world record for egomania). This is not "meaning."

—Meaning is doing for others.

—Meaning is risking your life for hers.

—Meaning is putting your bodies and families' peace of mind on the line to defeat some of the most evil, sick killers the world has ever known.

—Meaning is leaving the comfort of home to fight to make sure that there still will be a home for your family and for your nation and for free men and women everywhere.

Look, soldiers and Marines and sailors and airmen and Coast Guardsmen, there are eight billion people in this world. The whole fate of this world turns on what you people, 1.4 million, more or less, do every day. The fate of mankind depends on what about 2/100 of one percent of the people in this world do every day and you are those people. And joining you is every policeman, fireman, and Emergency Medical Technician in the country, also holding back the tide of chaos.

Do you know how important you are? Do you know how indispensable you are? Do you know how humbly grateful any of us who has a head on his shoulders is to you? Do you know that if you never do another thing in your lives, you will always still be heroes? That we could live without hollywood or Wall Street or the NFL, but we cannot live for a week without you?

We are on our knees to you and we bless and pray for you every moment. And Oprah Winfrey, if she were a size two, would not have one millionth of your importance, and all of the Wall Street billionaires will never mean what the least of you do, and if Barry Bonds hits hundreds of home runs it would not mean as much as you going on one patrol or driving one truck to the Baghdad airport.

You are everything to us, as we go through our little days, and you are in the prayers of the nation and of every decent man and woman on the planet. That's who you are and what you mean. I hope you know that.

Love,

BEN STEIN.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.