

forward, and many troops are already in place or heading to their new positions.

I think that is a tragic error, one that I will work to correct. But at the same time we—both the Administration and the Congress—must consider what may come next.

That is why I am today introducing legislation to require that Congress be informed about the extent to which the Administration is doing the planning that is needed if we are to be prepared to respond to what our intelligence agencies tell us may be further catastrophic developments in Iraq and the region.

You'd think it wouldn't be necessary for Congress to legislate to make sure the Pentagon plans for contingencies. And when, at a recent Armed Services Committee hearing, I asked Secretary Gates whether they were doing that, his answer, while vague, was reassuring.

But vague reassurances aren't enough, and I am following up with this bill because I don't want a repeat of the performance that led the Administration to launch a war in Iraq without a plan for what would come after initial military success.

The Bush Administration was warned—by the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's Joint Staff, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and the CIA's National Intelligence Council, among others—that U.S. troops could face significant postwar resistance.

And in February, 2003 an Army War College report warned that without an “overwhelming” effort to prepare for the U.S. occupation of Iraq, “The United States may find itself in a radically different world over the next few years, a world in which the threat of Saddam Hussein seems like a pale shadow of new problems of America's own making.”

But despite these warnings, the Bush Administration rushed ahead without a comprehensive plan in place to secure and rebuild the country once our military had achieved its initial objectives.

We all know where that has led us—to the point where, according to the just-released National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iraq, we're faced with a deteriorating situation in Iraq in which “Iraqi society's growing polarization, the persistent weakness of the security forces and the state in general, and all sides' ready recourse to violence are collectively driving an increase in communal and insurgent violence and political extremism.”

And now we are being warned that things well may get even worse.

Specifically, the NIE states that as Iraq's security environment worsens, three prospective security paths could emerge—chaos leading to partition, the emergency of a Shia strongman, or anarchic fragmentation of power.

Madam Speaker, the NIE is the Administration's own document, and the most authoritative written judgment of the Director of National Intelligence with respect to Iraq. I think it must be taken seriously, and I think we in Congress must demand to be told—specifically and in detail—just how the Administration is preparing to respond should any one of those contingencies occur.

That is what my legislation calls for. It would require that by June 30th of this year the Administration inform the House and Senate Armed Services Committees just how the Department of Defense and other agencies

would respond to each of the three scenarios identified by the NIE, with an explanation of the proposed role of U.S. troops under each scenario, including a comprehensive analysis identifying and justifying the number of U.S. troops needed in each case.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I want assurances that this Administration is thinking about and planning for troubling possibilities they themselves have depicted. No one wants chaos or increased violence in Iraq, but it would be irresponsible not to plan for those possibilities. While looking at Iraq through rose-colored glasses may make us feel better, we will only do right by our men and women in uniform if we plan for likely contingencies, however unpalatable.

Of course, this legislation isn't intended to solve the larger problem of Iraq. To do that, we need a policy aimed at escalating diplomatic and political efforts and lightening the U.S. footprint in Iraq. But so far the President instead is continuing to embrace the idea that the solution is more troop.

Defense Secretary Gates has said that we'll know within months whether or not that escalation has been successful. So it isn't too soon to begin planning now for what may come next. And it is high time for Congress to insist that the Administration is responding to that essential.

TRIBUTE TO DAN E. STRAIGHT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Dan E. Straight. Although Mr. Straight did not reside in my district, he worked on an issue within my district that was dear to his heart—the preservation and reopening of the Rollins Pass road over the Continental Divide near Winter Park, Colorado.

Mr. Straight passed away last week. He led a full life that included patriotic service to our country. He served in the U.S. Air Force for years and saw action in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He also served his community through work with the Boy Scouts, the American Red Cross and his local Rotary.

And because he loved history and the outdoors, he was a champion for the reopening of the Rollins Pass road. Also known as the Moffat Road due to its proximity to the Moffat railroad tunnel, this road was used as a stage and narrow gauge railroad corridor taking passengers from Colorado's east slope communities to the homesteads, resources and recreational activities on the western slope. Rollins Pass contains historic railroad features such as dramatic trestles that span creek valleys and a feature aptly called the Needle Eye Tunnel near the top. Due to age, rock fall has occurred in the tunnel and it has remained closed.

Due to Mr. Straight's efforts, I included language in the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act to allow for the reopening of the Rollins Pass road to two-wheel drive vehicles. Conversations are occurring between the acted countries and the U.S. Forest Service in this regard. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Straight as we were working on this legisla-

tion. It was clear that he had a love for this road, this state and this country and he served it all with distinction and passion.

Madam Speaker, I have attached a story from the Longmont Times-Call newspaper noting his passing.

[From the Daily Times—Call, Feb. 9, 2007]

LONGMONT LOSES ‘THE COLONEL’

(By Trevor Hughes)

LONGMONT.—Dan E. Straight, a retired Air Force colonel and tireless advocate of reopening Rollins Pass Road over the Continental Divide to Winter Park, died suddenly Wednesday. He was 84.

A longtime local resident, Straight volunteered with groups ranging from the American Red Cross to the Boy Scouts. He helped launch the Twin Peaks Rotary.

Originally from Greeley, Straight and his family settled in Longmont around 1976 after he retired from the Air Force, for which he had flown more than 29 types of aircraft. The front fuselage of one of them, a B-26B Marauder nicknamed “Flack Bait,” is displayed at the Smithsonian.

Straight, known locally to many as “The Colonel,” was one of many pilots of the storied World War II bomber. He flew one mission in the bomber, on Valentine's Day 1945, carrying his young daughter's shoe in his pocket so she'd always be near.

Straight often regaled high school students with stories from his service during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, according to his family.

He and Juanita also were Red Cross volunteers who helped Special Transit transport people in Longmont and Boulder County to medical appointments.

But it was perhaps his 25-year presidency of the Rollins Pass Restoration Association that brought Straight the most local attention. The pass, along an old railroad grade and through the Needle's Eye Tunnel, offers a shortcut between Boulder and Grand counties.

The 23-mile route fell out of use by trains in 1928, when the 6.2-mile Moffat Tunnel was completed. With the tracks removed in the late 1920s, trains gave way to cars, and for decades the pass and tunnel drew sightseers and travelers from across the Front Range.

Part of the Needle's Eye Tunnel collapsed in 1979, but it was re-opened to cars in 1987 before another partial collapse that injured a sightseer closed it again in 1990.

“I'm just amazed at the people who built it,” Straight said in 2003.

Technically difficult to pull off at 11,000 feet, the tunnel-stabilization project entailed drilling eight-foot holes into the tunnel walls and roof, then gluing in inch-thick steel rods.

The 1990 collapse injured an area firefighter who was hit by falling rocks from the roof of the tunnel's southern entrance.

The cause: a single missing rock bolt. Ironically, the space where the missing bolt should be is clearly visible in the commemorative photos given to association members. Straight took that photo, a signed copy of which hangs in the Times-Call newsroom.

Despite the setback, Straight remained committed to reopening the tunnel, and negotiations among local officials about fixing it continue to this day.

“That was his favorite mission in life,” said his daughter Su Eckhardt.

She added that Straight was involved in many other endeavors, including the Longmont Rotary Club, Westview Presbyterian Church, the Masons, the Shriners, the St. Vrain Photographic Society and the Salvation Army.

“He made a commitment beyond simply joining and paying dues,” she said.

Clark Misner served as project manager for the Rollins Pass reopening in 1987. Now the county's transportation director, he said Straight's love of railroads and the old wagon route over Rollins Pass prompted his interest in the project.

"He was a really decent guy, a straight shooter, no pun intended," Misner said. "He was direct about what he thought should happen. He was honest and just a good guy."

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Westview Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Bruce McQueen officiating. Military honors will be presented by the Mile High Honor Guard, USAF.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the Rollins Pass Restoration Association, Shrine Children's Hospitals or Westview Presbyterian Church in care of Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St., Longmont 80501.

RECOGNIZING HAYDEN OSWALD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hayden Oswald, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 59, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hayden has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Hayden has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hayden Oswald for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ON OBSERVING THE 2007 NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VET- ERANS WEEK

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's veterans as we observe the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

Each year, during the month of February, our nation's hospitalized veterans are recognized for their brave service to this nation. However, each day I am thankful for their selfless service as they put their lives on the line to defend our freedom at home. Many gave the ultimate sacrifice, and many returned home injured. Over 98,000 veterans currently receive daily care in a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center, clinic, or nursing home. It is to these brave and women we extend our deepest gratitude.

The price of freedom can be high, but soldiers fighting for our country believe freedom

is worth every bit of that price and more. They are the reason we can sleep at night here at home, knowing full well that when we wake up the next day liberty will still be the cornerstone upon which this nation stands. We, as a nation, owe them a debt of gratitude, and I hope that Americans all over the world will take a moment this week to remember what our soldiers put on the line for our liberty here at home.

The National Salute Chairman for this year is none other than famous singer and actor Jerry Reed. I have great confidence that Mr. Reed's memorable face, humor, and famous singing and songwriting will draw increased attention to Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, and I applaud his dedication to such a noteworthy cause. His leadership will be vital to informing others about our hospitalized veterans.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a great honor for me to personally salute those who have borne the battle while we recognize the 2007 Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow colleagues in mourning the passing of Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD. My friend and the honorable representative for the people of the Ninth District of Georgia passed away on Tuesday after his long battle with lung disease and cancer. This Chamber, and the State of Georgia has lost a friend and one of our most capable and dedicated Members. Even before CHARLIE came to Congress in the election of 1994, he was a courageous individual and public servant. The former Army dentist was a decorated officer serving in Vietnam, having been awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars for his service.

Words cannot fully express the sorrow that is felt by those who have known and loved CHARLIE. My heart goes out to CHARLIE's wife, Gloria, their two sons, Charles and Carlton, and their four grandchildren. I also will be keeping CHARLIE's staff in my thoughts and prayers, as I had the pleasure of working with Dr. NORWOOD on a variety of issues, and his staff was always a delight to work with. I can only imagine how tough it is for them, and all of CHARLIE's family and friends right now during this difficult time. I will be keeping CHARLIE's memory in my thoughts and prayers. He was always a dear friend of mine, someone who I looked to for his opinion and judgment.

CHARLIE is now leaving us for a better place, but he leaves behind a lasting legacy, and shoes that can never be filled. We have lost a hero and a champion, God bless.

RECOGNIZING GARLAND AND MILDRED KING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize two outstanding constituents of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Garland and Mildred King of Harrison County, MO. Garland and Mildred celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on December 3, 2006.

Garland and Mildred King were married on December 3, 1932 in Trenton, MO. They have 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild on the way. They have owned a family farm in Harrison County for 64 years.

Garland and Mildred King have been outstanding citizens of Harrison County and northwest Missouri. They are dedicated and active members of Melbourne Baptist Church where Garland is a deacon.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Garland and Mildred King. Their marriage of 74 years is inspirational, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress.

FORGETTING THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, the following 1984 speech by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger provides an important perspective on the use of military force in Iraq.

THE USES OF MILITARY POWER"

(By Caspar W. Weinberger)

Thank you for inviting me to be here today with the members of the National Press Club, a group most important to our national security. I say that because a major point I intend to make in my remarks today is that the single most critical element of a successful democracy is a strong consensus of support and agreement for our basic purposes. Policies formed without a clear understanding of what we hope to achieve will never work. And you help to build that understanding among our citizens.

Of all the many policies our citizens deserve and need to understand, none is so important as those related to our topic today the uses of military power. Deterrence will work only if the Soviets understand our firm commitment to keeping the peace, . . . and only from a well-informed public can we expect to have that national will and commitment.

So today, I want to discuss with you perhaps the most important question concerning keeping the peace. Under what circumstances, and by what means, does a great democracy such as ours reach the painful decision that the use of military force is necessary to protect our interests or to carry out our national policy?

National power has many components, some tangible, like economic wealth, technical pre-eminence. Other components are intangible such as moral force, or strong national will. Military forces, when they are