

ethic, has made her very successful. She has delivered breaking news on a number of notable stories throughout the years. She has extensive experience covering natural disasters. Before taking over as news anchor on CBS 4, Maggie reported on earthquakes and mudslides with KABC in Los Angeles. With CBS 4, she has, unfortunately, covered numerous hurricanes. Like any newscaster in south Florida, the long hurricane season every year has kept Maggie busy.

When hurricanes hit our region, local newscasters play a pivotal role in helping residents prepare and recover from hurricane damage. Oftentimes, they provide around-the-clock coverage. Most recently, Maggie did outstanding work reporting on Hurricane Wilma which severely impacted our region in the year 2005.

Maggie will be moving to New York where she spent significant time reporting for CBS 4 in the aftermath of 9/11. Maggie was noticed by CBS executives for her coverage of this year's Super Bowl in Miami. This led to guest appearances on the "Saturday Early Show" and eventually to a full-time position on this program.

Maggie is a great role model also for Hispanic girls in our community. She received the Young Hispanic Leadership Award from the Hispanic Heritage Council for both her professional accomplishments as well as her efforts in strong community service.

As a local news anchor, she has become an active member of our community, lending a helping hand to those in need. Her professional portfolio has garnered several awards, including six Emmys, along with two Edward R. Murrow awards.

She will be missed by so many people who tune in every afternoon and evening to watch her on CBS 4. However, we look forward to watching her on Saturday mornings nationwide. Her pleasant personality makes her ideal for this new role.

Once again, I congratulate Maggie Rodriguez as she begins this new chapter in her life. She truly deserves the recognition she has received, and now millions of Americans across the country will have the opportunity to watch her on Saturday morning.

Godspeed, Maggie.

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

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

#### HONORING GOVERNOR JAMES HUNT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressmen JONES, PRICE, WATT, ETHERIDGE, McINTYRE, MILLER and SHULER, all of North Carolina, to honor and observe the 70th birthday of our four-term Governor of North Carolina, the Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.

Over the years my long-time and dear friend, Governor Hunt, has successfully dedicated so much of himself to public service. He is a man of immense vision with an extraordinary ability to implement his vision with great results. That vision has often been focused on education.

Governor Hunt's list of accomplishments is long and highly distinguished in the area of education. He led efforts to establish the State's primary reading program. He also spearheaded the efforts to reduce class sizes and prevent students from dropping out of school. Governor Hunt assumed the lead role in establishing the State's school of science and mathematics, the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

Smart Start, which was established under Governor Hunt's leadership, has become a nationally recognized and award-winning public-private partnership that ensures that children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. The program helps provide quality child care, health care and family support for every child in need, and there are now 14 States using this model.

Governor Hunt also assisted with establishing one of the most rigorous approaches to measuring student performance, requiring mastery before promotion and graduation, and providing assistance to turn around failing schools.

He did not allow these initiatives, or any of the many others he headed, to stand alone after he signed them into law. Instead, he demanded follow-through and results, and he got them. A study by the RAND Corporation found that our public schools raised their test scores more than any other State in the 1990s.

Governor Hunt's strong-held belief that the key to a quality education is great teaching has benefited students well beyond North Carolina's borders. In fact, it has benefited students and teachers throughout our Nation.

As the founding Chair for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Governor Hunt was a driving force in fulfilling the promise of improving student achievement by raising the standards. Today, virtually every State and more than 25 percent of all school districts offer financial rewards or incentives for teachers seeking certification.

Madam Speaker, the economic value of an education and knowledge was well understood by Governor Hunt long before people started talking about its central role in the global economy.

Madam Speaker, Governor Hunt has also led the way in opening up the

Democratic Party of our State to full participation by minority citizens. As Governor, Governor Jim Hunt appointed many African American lawyers to the trial bench and appellate court benches to hold positions that had been virtually impossible for them to otherwise obtain. Many of them now serve as judges with distinction, and it was Governor Hunt who made that happen.

In closing, we are honored today to recognize this great man of conviction, principle, and exceptional character on such a joyous occasion. I ask you to join us in congratulating the "Education Governor," the Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr., on his 70th birthday, and in wishing him and his wife, Carolyn, many more years of happiness and accomplishment.

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

□ 1615

#### VERMONTERS SPEAK OUT

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I rise to report on an effort in Vermont that honors the tradition of Vermonters speaking out on issues of conscience. Vermonters take public service, political integrity and citizen involvement extremely seriously. This is a tradition that dates back to our earliest days when Vermont became the very first State to ban slavery.

But with rising alarm, Vermont has watched abuse of power and a disregard for checks and balances in Washington that has occurred over the past 6 years.

□ 1615

Vermonters have such extraordinary concern, particularly with the prosecution of this war in Iraq, that many are now actually calling for the President and the Vice President to be impeached.

Impeachment is a dramatic position, but it reflects the collective judgment of many in Vermont that we are in extreme circumstances. Madam Speaker, I do not believe that impeachment is the answer, but I endorse the indictment of the policies of the current administration.

What this Nation has experienced over the past 6 years has been staggering: a war in its fifth year that was justified based on false intelligence; the politicization of our Nation's top

law enforcement agency; the cavalier disregard for civil liberties and constitutional protections; no-bid war contracts to well-connected friends; the use of signing statements to disregard the law; and the denial of habeas corpus, a basic right, for those in U.S. custody.

The list could go on. These and other transgressions have caused some Vermonters to rise up and promote the use of impeachment to restore accountability and curb the abuse of power. This impeachment movement in Vermont started last year in the small town of Newfane, population 1,700, by Dan DeWalt, a selectman on the town board.

After voting for the town clerk, the tax collector and voting whether to fund a village sidewalk project and the local school, the town then voted on a resolution to send a message to Congress to initiate impeachment proceedings. This initiative then spread from one small southern Vermont town to 40 towns across the State.

My own hometown of Hartland joined this call, and I've spoken with many of my neighbors, farmer, teachers, doctors and store owners, about their vote, and what they share is an outrage about the conduct of this administration and the prosecution of this terrible war.

Even last month, the Vermont General Assembly took up the issue. On April 20, the Vermont State Senate voted 16-9 in favor of Congress launching impeachment investigations, and while the Vermont House of Representatives defeated the resolution, it still received 60 supportive votes from Vermont legislators. And nearly 400 Vermonters representing 102 of Vermont's 251 towns came to the State House that day to voice their views. And this past Saturday, I held a town meeting in the town of Hartford, Vermont, and heard from 250 Vermonters advocating for this extraordinary measure.

I applaud these citizen activists who have acted in the Vermont tradition of speaking out and taking a principled stand to protect our democracy. They raise valid concerns about the actions of this administration and, if those actions are allowed to go unchecked, the threat to democracy that we face. Their concerns are well-founded.

But let me be clear, opinion is divided in Vermont about whether impeachment is the right remedy and whether it's the right tactic, but what motivated this effort is a commonly shared view that this administration has grossly abused its power and pursued terribly misguided policies.

Madam Speaker, while I disagree with the tactic of impeachment, I completely share the goal of restoring accountability and a new direction to our government.

Our oversight investigations in Congress have exposed egregiously sub-standard care at Walter Reed where we have heard about soldiers still recover-

ing from brain surgery forced to wander the grounds to find the outpatient care they were promised.

Congressional oversight has documented unacceptable accounts of political interference by the administration over sound global warming science, with political appointees editing scientific reports.

And our probes have uncovered waste and fraud and abuse associated with the war in Iraq to an unimaginable scale, \$12 billion of \$100 bills flown from the United States to Iraq and then distributed from the back of pickup trucks.

And through our oversight and subpoenas, we are vigorously seeking to expose and investigate the peddling of faulty intelligence that the administration presented to justify their case for war.

And through our oversight and subpoenas, we are vigorously seeking to expose and investigate the peddling of faulty intelligence the Administration presented in their case for war.

We must demand to know whether the Administration's active dissemination of bad intelligence was premeditated with the intention of deceiving the American people, or was it reckless and cavalier, done to justify a decision to go to war that had already been made?

At every corner, step by step, Congress is methodically peeling back the layers of deception and deceit, holding this Administration accountable. We must get the facts and follow the facts. And that is exactly what is being done.

Madam Speaker, this pursuit of impeachment has consequences to real lives and real people. I measure every decision I make here in Congress based on whether it will hasten or delay an end to this war. Nothing illustrates this urgency more than a phone call I received before a recent trip to Iraq. The call was from a mother in the town of Brattleboro who lost her son in this terrible war. She so desired closure over her son's death, that she asked to accompany me to Iraq so she could see where her son had died. It was a stark reminder that there is no greater challenge we face than ending this war.

I also submit for the record a letter that was read at the Hartland town meeting from Lisa Johnson of Essex Jct. about the death in Iraq of her son Captain Pierre Piché.

I am proud of the Vermonters pushing for facts, prodding for accountability, and demanding oversight.

As I travel around the State, meeting with Vermonters, I also hear a sense of optimism: it is the optimism that comes from Congress restoring the checks and balances that had for too long been lost and an optimism from seeing a Congress finally getting down to making progress with new priorities and a new direction for this country.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 16

Whereas, President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney have exercised the duties of their respective offices with respect to both domestic and foreign affairs in ways that raise serious questions of constitutionality, statutory legality, and abuse of the public trust, and

Whereas, the President's conduct in his role as Commander in Chief in leading our nation into the military conflict in Iraq, and the Vice President's continual advocacy for

American troops remaining in Iraq, have cost the United States much of the good will that was extended to our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, and

Whereas, the President's and the Vice President's domestic leadership on issues relating to individual privacy and personal liberty under law has raised constitutional issues of the greatest concern to the nation's citizenry, now therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate:*

That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges Vermont's Representative in the United States House of Representatives to introduce, and Vermont's United States Senators to support, a resolution requiring the United States House Judiciary Committee to initiate impeachment proceedings against the President and the Vice President of the United States, and be it further

*Resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to United States Representative Peter Welch, United States Senator Patrick J. Leahy and United States Senator Bernard Sanders.

— MAY 11, 2007.

DEAR MR. WELCH: my son, Captain Pierre Piche', should be teaching young people history or political science right now. Like many of the young people who represent the best that our country has to offer, he is a casualty of the war in Iraq. He was killed in a Blackhawk helicopter on November 13, 2003. He was sent to fly over a high-risk area in Bagdad because he was being required to attend a mandatory R and R. He did not want to go. He knew it was very dangerous and he also knew that was completely illogical. It turned out that these soldiers were being sent in to be part of a photo op for the president. I have to live with this knowledge every day.

My son served proudly in the military for ten years before being sent to Iraq. He earned the rank of captain with blood, sweat and tears, and he loved every minute of it. Before my son was killed he told me that he did not like what he was seeing in Iraq and he did not want to be a part of it.

My son Pierre gave the ultimate sacrifice, knowing that he had been deceived. It is difficult for all of us who oppose this war to observe the ongoing carnage and wearing down of the fabric of the American spirit as this war kills our young people, eats away at the economy and, worse yet, the hearts of the American people. For me, the betrayal is pointed and more personal.

There must be accountability for the real reasons for this war. Keep up the investigations. Keep up the pressure, and add to the pressure by investigating the two people most responsible, Bush and Cheney.

Your courage is needed because this war has to end.

Thank you.

LISA JOHNSON,  
Essex Jct. Vermont.

WARNING FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL NEWFANE TOWN MEETING AND ANNUAL NEWFANE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING, NEWFANE UNION HALL, MARCH 7, 2006

The legal voters of the Town of Newfane, Vermont and the Town School District of Newfane, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17 VSA, Section 2655, they are to meet at the Union Hall, in the Village of Newfane, Vermont on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 9 a.m. to act upon the following Articles, to wit:

Article 1: To elect all Newfane Town Officers and Newfane Town School District Officers as required by law for the ensuing year.

(Voting on this article to be by Australian Ballot from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.)

Town: Constable 1 year term; Delinquent Tax Collector 1 year term; Grand Juror 1 year term; Lister 3 year term; Lister 1 year term; Moderator—Town 1 year term; Selectman 3 year term; Selectman two 1 year terms; Town Agent 1 year term; Town Clerk 1 year term; Town/School Treasurer 1 year term; Trustees Moore Free Library; and Building Fund five 1 year terms

School: Moderator 1 year term; School Director 3 year term; School Director two 1 year terms.

Leland & Gray: Newfane Representative 3 year term and Newfane Representative 1 year term.

Article 2: To see if the voters of the Town and the Town School District will accept the annual report of the Auditor and other Town Officers.

Article 3: To see what salaries and expenses the Town and the Town School District will vote to pay its Officers for the ensuing year. Town Clerk—\$12.49/hour, not to exceed 40 hours per week; Town Treasurer—\$12.49/hour, not to exceed 40 hours per week; Listers—\$10.00/hour. Other Elected or Appointed Officers—\$7.25/hour; School Treasurer—\$12.49/hour; Mileage reimbursement at 34 cents per mile.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Town and the Town School District will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the School District to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and in anticipation of Federal & State Monies to be allocated to the Town and the Town School District.

Article 5: To see if the voters of the Town will pay taxes for the ensuing fiscal year on a quarterly basis, due on the 15th of August, October, January and April; and that the charge for interest be at the maximum legal rate of 1% per month for the first three months and 1.5% per month for each month thereafter until paid.

Article 6: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize operational fund expenses in the amount of \$1,582,195 for the coming year.

Article 7: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town School District.

Article 8: To see if the voters of the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise convey property acquired through tax sale proceedings.

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Newfane instruct our State Representatives and Senators to oppose: any use of the State Education Fund for purposes that are outside the law's original intent to make payments to school districts and supervisory unions for the support of education; the shifting of existing State General Fund expense obligations to the Education Fund; and the reduction of any existing State General Fund revenue support to the Education Fund?

Article 10: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750 (Seven-hundred fifty dollars) for Connecticut River Transit, Inc.

Article 11: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$420 (Four-hundred twenty dollars) for West River Watershed Alliance.

Article 12: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 (One-thousand dollars) for Williamsville School Preservation Society.

Article 13: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise \$3,760 by taxation for the Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont & New Hampshire (VNA of Southeastern Vermont and the Southern Vermont Home Health Agency). [In the budget]

Article 14: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise \$2,700 by taxation for Early Education Services. [In the budget]

Article 15: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise \$2,604 by taxation for the Valley Health Council. [In the budget]

Article 16: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise \$2,500 by taxation for Grace Cottage Foundation, which supports the services of the Otis Health Care Center, including Grace Cottage Hospital and Emergency Room, Grace Cottage Family Health Services, and Heins Home Community Care Home. [In the budget]

Article 17: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to help defray the cost of the Village of Newfane Sidewalk project on West Street (TH#1).

Article 18: To see if the voters will vote to exempt from taxation all real property of the Incorporated Village of Newfane Union Hall building and land property (3 acre ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3840.

Article 19: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to exempt from taxation all real property of the South Newfane Community Association building and land (2 acre ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3840.

Article 20: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to exempt from taxation all real property for the NewBrook Volunteer Fire Association building and land (1.6 acres ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3840.

Article 21: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to exempt from taxation all real property for the South Newfane/Williamsville Fire Station and land (3 acre ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3840.

Article 22: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to exempt from taxation all real property of the Valley Lions Club property (12.9 acres ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3832(7).

Article 23: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to exempt from taxation all real property of the Williamsville School Preservation Society (2 acre ?) for a period of five years pursuant to 32 VSA ' 3832(6).

Article 24: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to approve the expenditure from the Town Reappraisal Fund for town wide update of values for the real property in Newfane to be completed by May 1, 2007 for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Article 25: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise by taxes the amount of \$75,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund to be used for future Capital needs.

Article 26: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to authorize capital fund expenditures in the amount of \$357,142 as proposed in the Capital needs plan for Fiscal Year 2007, with \$146,642 to be used from the capital reserve funds.

Article 27: To see if the voters of the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow up to \$148,500 for Capital needs.

Article 28: To see if the voters of the Town will authorize Town and Highway operational expenditures in the amount of \$980,658 for the coming year.

Article 29: We the voters of Newfane would like Town Meeting, March 2006, to consider the following resolution:

Whereas George W. Bush has:

1. Misled the nation about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction;
2. Misled the nation about ties between Iraq and Al Quaeda;
3. Used these falsehoods to lead our nation into war unsupported by international law;
4. Not told the truth about American policy with respect to the use of torture; and
5. Has directed the government to engage in domestic spying, in direct contravention of U.S. law.

Therefore, the voters of the town of Newfane ask that our representative to the

U.S. House of Representatives file articles of impeachment to remove him from office.

Article 30: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

Board of Selectmen School Directors: Hendrik W. van Loon, Chairman; Johanna Gardner, Co-Chairperson; Priscilla M. Cotton Robert Gunther-Mohr, Co-Chairperson; Daniel DeWalt Mikell Lasch; Patricia Halloran Lysa Singleton; and Gary M. Katz James Urbaska

Town of Newfane, Vermont Town of Newfane, Vermont, February 1, 2006, February 3, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas 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 Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HARE 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. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### THE OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the Speaker so very much for the opportunity for presenting once again before the House of Representatives. I want to thank my leadership for allowing me to head up and chair this hour that is a Special Order hour. It is an opportunity for us in the minority party to come and try to shed some light on some issues that frankly don't get a whole lot of attention here on the floor of the House of