

around this summer. Mr. Hadley originally said the intelligence folks alerted the White House and indicated that the President should back off a bit. He certainly did not back off.

The reason I raise these issues is because I remember back about 5 years ago going to a room in which top-secret briefings were offered to Members of Congress as a leadup to the war in Iraq. I remember directly the Vice President, the National Security Chief, now the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, I remember the discussion by the head of the CIA, I remember the top-secret material that was told us, which turns out not to have been accurate as a leadup to the Iraq war.

I remember when Secretary Powell, then-Secretary of State, went to the United Nations and made the case describing things we had previously been told about in many cases in top-secret briefings.

For example Powell talked about the danger of the mobile biological weapons labs that supposedly existed in the country of Iraq.

It turns out the mobile biological weapons labs did not exist. It turns out the mobile biological weapons laboratory story was from a fabricator from the country of Iraq, a former taxicab driver in Baghdad, as a matter of fact, someone who was telling this to the German intelligence community. And someone in the German intelligence community wondered whether this person was credible and expressed doubts about the person's credibility to the American intelligence service. They nicknamed this man "Curve Ball."

So from a single source, a man named Curve Ball who, among other things, used to drive a taxicab in Baghdad, the world is treated by Secretary Powell to a presentation at the United Nations saying Iraq has mobile biological weapons laboratories which are a danger to all of us. It turns out not to have been true, a fabrication based on a single source without credibility.

None of us were told that at the time, of course. The world wasn't told that. We were just told that Iraq had mobile biological weapons laboratories. We were told Iraq was buying aluminum tubes for the purpose of reconstituting their nuclear capability. The world was told that by Secretary Powell. It turns out that was false as well. And it also turns out that even as we were told that information, the administration knew there were others inside the administration who did not believe it, and yet that information was imparted to us as a set of facts that represented the danger coming from the country of Iraq.

We were told that Iraq was attempting to purchase yellowcake from Niger for the purpose of reconstituting a nuclear capability. We discovered only later that the documents on that were fraudulent. We discovered they were forgeries. Again, the information given the Congress was inaccurate.

Yellowcake from Niger, aluminum tubes, mobile biological weapons laboratories—not accurate, not true. It was presented to the Congress as fact, presented to the American people as fact prior to the Iraq war.

There has been a great deal of discussion and also concern in the country, in this Chamber, about whether this administration is preparing to do something with respect to the country of Iran, and that has been heightened by the language President Bush used recently, including language that said "World War III" in the context of the danger of a nuclear weapons program in the country of Iran. That statement was about 5 or 6 weeks ago.

We now know that the National Intelligence Estimate, representing all of the intelligence agencies in this country, has indicated that the nuclear weapons program of Iran that has been discussed so much by the administration was discontinued in 2003.

I think there are serious credibility questions. The President held a press conference today that seemed to suggest that, well, there is no real issue here. There is a very big issue, I say to the President, a very big issue. This country needs to take action internationally to develop strategies based on what we know to be the truth, not what someone alleges to be true. This country needs to have good information, information that is not fabricated by a man named Curve Ball who used to drive a taxicab. This country deserves better than that.

In my judgment, this country has been failed in many ways, some by the intelligence community, some by the administration, perhaps some by Congress. But we certainly deserve straight answers. We deserve the best intelligence that is available.

Look, the fact is we face a challenging and difficult world. One part of that world is the country of Iran. I do not by being here tonight suggest that Iran's behavior is not troublesome, or that they are not a danger in their neighborhood. They are. But I have always believed that the constructive approach to dealing with Iran and, yes, other circumstances around the world is through diplomacy and negotiation and aggressive diplomacy at that. This administration does not believe that is the right course. But I do believe that facing the world that we face, a very challenging world, a war against terrorism, this country will be protected by good intelligence, by an intelligence community that works.

I appreciate the fact that yesterday we were told finally that the Iranians are not at the moment engaging in a nuclear weapons program. They discontinued that in 2003. They say they have high reliability with respect to that conclusion. I appreciate the fact that we are getting that conclusion at this point. And if that is a valid conclusion, if that is the result of good intelligence—and I certainly hope our intelligence service has improved because

they got it wrong about 5 years ago. We need to be well served by the best intelligence service we can be capable of producing.

I know today there are men and women risking their lives as members of our intelligence community. My thoughts are with them. I want the best they can give us. And if yesterday's National Intelligence Estimate gives us opportunities to better understand what is happening in that region, then that advances our knowledge.

I will say this: I think this Congress and this administration need to have some straight talk about credibility because there are serious credibility issues with respect to this issue that at this point have not been answered at all, certainly were not answered in the President's news conference today.

The safety of this country hinges on our ability to have good intelligence. This war on terrorism is not a bunch of words, it is real, and there are too many victims out there in this country today who understand that reality. The way to protect our country in the future is to have a good understanding of what is going on in the world, have good intelligence, have good information, and take steps to protect ourselves. But it does not serve this country's interest by ratcheting up the rhetoric and talking about World War III with respect to a country that the administration has alleged up to now has had a nuclear weapons program, only to find out that nuclear weapons program was discontinued 4 years ago.

This Congress and this administration needs to have an aggressive conversation about credibility. We actually represent the same country. I am sure we want the same result. We want to protect this country. We want a foreign policy that deals with reality and a foreign policy that deals with truths that exist out there in a very challenging world.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT KENNETH R. BOOKER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from Vevay, IN. SGT Kenneth Raymond Booker, 25 years old, died November 14th in Mukhisa, Iraq. Sergeant Booker died of injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. With an optimistic future before him, Kenneth risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Kenneth graduated in 2000 from Switzerland County High School in southeastern Indiana. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Army, happy at the prospect of serving his country. As a member of the 82nd Airborne division from Fort Bragg, NC, Kenneth served in Afghanistan and Iraq. His exemplary service earned him an assignment in military intelligence at Fort Lewis, WA. Kenneth, however, preferred working in the field to an office and requested to transfer back to infantry.

Joining a Stryker Brigade Combat Unit at Fort Lewis, Kenneth returned to Iraq for his third deployment. Kenneth was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He will be remembered by his friends and family for his clever sense of humor, his love of hunting and target shooting, his outgoing nature, and above all, his outstanding dedication to his country. Kenneth is survived by his father, SSG Charles Booker; his mother, Becky Graham; and his brother, Kaleb Daniel Booker.

Today, I join Kenneth's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Kenneth. Today and always, Kenneth will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Kenneth's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Kenneth's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SGT Kenneth Raymond Booker in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Kenneth's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Kenneth.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of the National Bible Association and the most influential force ever known to mankind, the Holy Bible.

Each day, about 168,000 Bibles are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States. November 18 through 25 was National Bible Week, which, along with the National Bible Association, I hope increased that exposure to help spread the Good News contained within its pages.

The timing of National Bible Week couldn't be more appropriate since it encompasses the Thanksgiving Holiday. As you know, Thanksgiving commemorates the story and the plight of the Pilgrims, who fled to the New World to escape religious persecution and joined with their new neighbors to give thanks for offering their friendly aid and for coming to their rescue in a dire time of need. Like the Pilgrims, the Bible recounts numerous cases of religious persecution of the children of Israel and the extreme hardships suffered by many over thousands of years. But the Bible also gives us hope, and the comfort of knowing God will help us to persevere and endure.

The theme of neighborly assistance and thanks, as well as the many other valuable and moral lessons or guidance for treating one's neighbor and fellow man, are imparted in the Bible and even served as a moral compass to our Founding Fathers. The Judeo-Christian Bible became the cornerstone of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As we now find ourselves in the midst of the Christmas season, National Bible Week should serve as an important reminder to always turn to the Bible, recognize its wisdom and Divinely inspired words, and reflect on its meaning in our own lives, especially in how we interact with and treat our neighbors.

Beyond serving as a personal moral compass on how to become a better person and neighbor, the Bible reassures us of God's infinite love for His creation. I encourage you to pick up and read the Bible and become awed by the history, lessons, and adventures found within its pages. As we celebrate National Bible Week, let us share the positive message of the Holy Bible with our families, friends, and neighbors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JUDGE CLYDE MIDDLETON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to recognize a dear friend and one of Kentucky's most distinguished citizens, Judge Clyde Middleton, on his 80th birthday.

Born January 30, 1928, Judge Middleton achieved a commendable record of public service to Kenton County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A

graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a retired Navy captain, he later earned an MBA from my alma mater, Xavier University, and a juris doctor from Chase College of Law in northern Kentucky. Judge Middleton served with distinction as a Kentucky State senator and judge executive of Kenton County, and still today is very active in his community. He and his wonderful wife Mary are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Mr. President, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Clyde Middleton to his community, and ask you to join me in honoring him on his birthday.●

REMEMBERING SALLY L. SMITH

• Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on December 1, America lost a great and innovative educator and a wonderfully decent human being when Sally Smith passed away this week at the age of 78. Sally was the founder and director of one of America's most important teaching institutions, the Lab School in Washington, DC.

Sally was a New York City native, and longtime resident of the District. She graduated in 1950 from Bennington College, and received a master's degree in education from New York University in 1955. In 1967, inspired by her own son's difficulties in learning, she founded the Lab School.

Beginning with just her son and three other students, the Lab School has now grown into an internationally renowned school for students with learning disabilities. Sally's fundamental belief was that all children, no matter what the disability, have the potential, ability and ingenuity to learn. Sally created a unique and innovative learning environment where students are given the tools and encouragement needed to fulfill their goals. She also provided through the Lab School the resources needed for others to teach students with disabilities.

In 1976, Sally became a professor at the School of Education at American University, where she ran the master's degree program specializing in learning disabilities. The Lab School serves as the primary training site for most graduate students in the program. Sally is the author of 10 books on education. Her teaching techniques have been showcased in a four film series on PBS.

My wife Lilibet and I are privileged to have been actively involved with the Lab School over the last 11 years, and we came to know and admire Sally. She was an American original and represented the best of our society.

Like all of Sally's many friends, Lilibet and I offer our prayers to the Smith family. She leaves the world a better place than she found it. She will be missed by that world.

Sally is survived by her sons, Randall, Nick and Gary Smith; a sister; and one granddaughter.●