

logical world, an excuse for the murder of people wholly uninvolved in this.

The question of the judgment of the people who made that terrible movie must be kept entirely separate from the question of whether or not there was any justification for any of the violence that it caused. The answer is, without any doubt, that there was not.

It is bad enough when some leaders of the Muslim world suggest that there was some justification for killing people because someone felt that their religion was insulted. This error is compounded by the extraordinary hypocrisy involved when many of those who declaim what they found insulting are themselves guilty of equal vituperation of other religions and ethnic groups.

In an extraordinary, eloquent and thoughtful column in the New York Times for September 19th, Thomas L. Friedman, a balanced commentator on the Middle East who has often been very sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of Muslim people, wrote an excellent column on the essentiality of free speech, the absolutely unjustified nature of violence, and the hypocrisy to which I just alluded—and to which, to be honest, I was not paying enough attention until I read Mr. Friedman's column.

As Mr. Friedman says, "an insult—even one as stupid and ugly as the anti-Islam video on YouTube that started all of this—does not entitle people to go out and attack embassies and kill innocent diplomats. That is not how a proper self-governing people behave. There is no excuse for it. It is shameful." Mr. Friedman goes on to note, with regard to some in the Muslim community who have been demanding that America apologize for this, said "they might to look at the chauvinistic bile that is pumped out by some of their own media . . . insulting Shiites, Jews, Christians, Sufis and anyone else who is not a Sunni, or Fundamentalist, Muslim."

Thomas Friedman's column should be very widely read, both because he has earned the right to be taken very seriously on the crisis in the Middle East, and because of its wisdom and eloquence.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 18, 2012]

LOOK IN YOUR MIRROR

(By Thomas Friedman)

On Monday, David D. Kirkpatrick, the Cairo bureau chief for The Times, quoted one of the Egyptian demonstrators outside the American Embassy, Khaled Ali, as justifying last week's violent protests by declaring: "We never insult any prophet—not Moses, not Jesus—so why can't we demand that Muhammad be respected?" Mr. Ali, a 39-year-old textile worker, was holding up a handwritten sign in English that read: "Shut Up America." "Obama is the president, so he should have to apologize!"

I read several such comments from the rioters in the press last week, and I have a big problem with them. I don't like to see anyone's faith insulted, but we need to make two things very clear—more clear than President Obama's team has made them. One is that an insult—even one as stupid and ugly as the anti-Islam video on YouTube that started all of this—does not entitle people to go out and attack embassies and kill innocent diplomats. That is not how a proper self-governing people behave. There is no excuse for it. It is shameful. And, second, before demanding an apology from our president, Mr. Ali and the young Egyptians,

Tunisians, Libyans, Yemenis, Pakistanis, Afghans and Sudanese who have been taking to the streets might want to look in the mirror—or just turn on their own televisions. They might want to look at the chauvinistic bile that is pumped out by some of their own media on satellite television stations and Web sites or sold in sidewalk bookstores outside of mosques—insulting Shiites, Jews, Christians, Sufis and anyone else who is not a Sunni, or fundamentalist, Muslim. There are people in their countries for whom hating "the other" has become a source of identity and a collective excuse for failing to realize their own potential.

The Middle East Media Research Institute, or Memri, was founded in 1998 in Washington by Yigal Carmon, a former Israeli government adviser on counterterrorism, "to bridge the language gap between the Middle East and the West by monitoring, translating and studying Arab, Iranian, Urdu and Pashtu media, schoolbooks, and religious sermons." What I respect about Memri is that it translates not only the ugly stuff but the courageous liberal, reformist Arab commentators as well. I asked Memri for a sampler of the hate-filled videos that appear regularly on Arab/Muslim mass media. Here are some:

ON CHRISTIANS Hasan Rahimpur Azghadi of the Iranian Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution: Christianity is "a reeking corpse, on which you have to constantly pour eau de cologne and perfume, and wash it in order to keep it clean." <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1528.htm>—July 20, 2007.

Sheik Al-Khatib al-Baghdadi: It is permissible to spill the blood of the Iraqi Christians—and a duty to wage jihad against them. <http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/5200.htm>—April 14, 2011.

Abd al-Aziz Fawzan al-Fawzan, a Saudi professor of Islamic law, calls for "positive hatred" of Christians. Al-Majd TV (Saudi Arabia), <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1992.htm>—Dec. 16, 2005.

ON SHIITES The Egyptian Cleric Muhammad Hussein Yaaqub: "Muslim Brotherhood Presidential Candidate Mohamed Morsi told me that the Shiites are more dangerous to Islam than the Jews." www.memritv.org/clip/en/13466.htm—June 13, 2012.

The Egyptian Cleric Mazen al-Sirsawi: "If Allah had not created the Shiites as human beings, they would have been donkeys." <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/13101.htm>—Aug. 7, 2011.

The Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan video series: "The Shiite is a Nasl [Race/Offspring] of Jews." <http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/6208.htm>—March 21, 2012.

ON JEWS Article on the Muslim Brotherhood's Web site praises jihad against America and the Jews: "The Descendants of Apes and Pigs." <http://www.memri.org/report/en/10/0/0/0/51/6656.htm>—Sept. 7, 2012.

The Pakistani cleric Muhammad Raza Saqib Mustafai: "When the Jews are wiped out, the world would be purified and the sun of peace would rise on the entire world." <http://www.menui.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/51/6557.htm>—Aug. 1, 2012.

Dr. Ismail Ali Muhammad, a senior Al-Azhar scholar: The Jews, "a source of evil and harm in all human societies." <http://www.memri.org/report/en/10/0/0/0/51/6086.htm>—Feb. 14, 2012.

ON SUFIS A shrine venerating a Sufi Muslim saint in Libya has been partly destroyed, the latest in a series of attacks blamed on ultraconservative Salafi Islamists. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19380083>—Aug. 26, 2012.

As a Jew who has lived and worked in the Muslim world, I know that these expressions of intolerance are only one side of the story and that there are deeply tolerant views and strains of Islam espoused and practiced there as well. Theirs are complex societies.

That's the point. America is a complex society, too. But let's cut the nonsense that this is just our problem and the only issue is how we clean up our act. That Cairo protester is right: We should respect the faiths and prophets of others. But that runs both ways. Our president and major newspapers consistently condemn hate speech against other religions. How about yours?

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAUL MINTZ

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Mr. Saul Mintz, whose ardent presence as a family man, business man, and philanthropist in Monroe, La., will be sorely missed.

Mr. Mintz was brilliant in business, opening the very successful Strauss Interests with his wife, Jean, many years ago, but he will be remembered more for his community philanthropy than his genius for the market. A family man and mentor by nature, many of his crowning philanthropic works bettered the lives of children in 12 parishes in our area.

The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana received their first donation 15 years ago from the Mintz family, and Mr. Mintz was with the Coalition every step of the way thereafter, lending not only financial, but also social and philosophical support. Similarly, he and his wife were steadfast supporters of the Strauss Theatre and were integral to the establishment of a children's theatre, among many other institutions.

In reflecting on his life, Mr. Mintz said "I don't think too many people have been submitted to so many opportunities as I. So, it would be irresponsible if I didn't take advantage of what God [has] given me to try to leave a better future for others." His grateful spirit and humble generosity have won him a spot in the hearts of everyone who knew him, and he serves as a reminder of the responsibility that we all have to give what we can and take care of one another in our families and communities.

When we look back on Mr. Mintz's life, we see a life of giving. Not only did he personally do everything he could to better our community, he also preached about the joy of giving generously and helping others to anyone who would listen. For his three children, 10 grandchildren, one great grandchild, and for all of us, the way in which Mr. Mintz led his life should be emulated. We are all grateful to have known him and will never forget what a beautiful and civic-minded person he was.

To say Mr. Mintz left his fingerprint on the world would be an understatement. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his efforts, and he will stay in the hearts of Louisianians forever.

RECOGNIZING TERRE JONES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Rep. FRANK WOLF and Rep. JIM MORAN, to recognize and commend Terrence D. "Terre" Jones on the occasion of his retirement after 17 years of distinguished service as President and CEO of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Terre's career in the performing arts spans more than 40 years, and he leaves a rich legacy both on and off the stage that will benefit the arts community and Northern Virginia for years to come.

During his tenure, Terre helped fulfill and then expand Wolf Trap's mission of providing a world-class platform for aspiring and accomplished artists alike at the majestic Filene Center and the 18th century Barns at Wolf Trap. Thanks to his innovative spirit, the Foundation continues to set new attendance and fundraising records. As the guiding force behind America's only National Park for the Performing Arts, Terre has positioned Wolf Trap as a leader not only in the arts, but also in connecting education, technology and environmental stewardship through the arts and inspiring passion for those pursuits in a new generation. And though its artistic scope is on the national and global stages, Terre has made sure that Wolf Trap also is a resource for our local communities.

In 2003, Terre helped lead the fund-raising effort to establish a National Center for Education on the Wolf Trap campus. Wolf Trap's education programs focus on early childhood arts education and also serve as a resource for the entire community, particularly local school children. More recently, Wolf Trap received a competitively awarded grant from the U.S. Department of Education to demonstrate the effectiveness of the arts in advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning for young children.

Terre also has strengthened Wolf Trap's connection to its environmental roots. In 2007, he launched the Foundation's "Go Green" program with the stretch goal of making Wolf Trap carbon neutral. To date, the program has decreased the park's carbon footprint by 20% and cut landfill waste in half. Wolf Trap has been designated as a Climate Friendly Park by the EPA and National Park service. Terre also led the effort to establish the National Council on the Arts and Environment and a partnership with the Aspen Institute on a nationwide Summit on the Arts and the Environment.

Prior to taking the helm at Wolf Trap, Terre served as CEO and artistic Director of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He previously served as General Manager of Clowes Memorial Hall in Indianapolis, Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Butler University, and he also founded the Bradford Repertory Theater in Vermont.

Throughout his distinguished career, Terre has received local and national recognition.

He received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from his alma mater, the University of Kansas, was named Washingtonian of the Year in 2006 by Washingtonian Magazine, and was recognized by his peers with the Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. During his tenure as Foundation president, Wolf Trap also has received numerous awards and accolades.

Beyond these accomplishments, we want to recognize Terre's exemplary role not just as an arts advocate and executive, but also as an individual. When asked in an interview what he loves most about his job, he said: "People—I don't think you could do this job if you didn't enjoy people and didn't like being around people." We can all recognize and appreciate Terre's unequivocal commitment to his craft and our community.

Mr. Speaker, Terre Jones has left a tangible, lasting imprint on the rich history of our National Park for the Performing Arts, and his legacy will continue to inspire a new generation of artists. We wish Terre, his wife, Polly, and their family the continued success as he enters this next act of his life, and we ask our colleagues to join us in expressing our appreciation for his tremendous contributions to the arts, our nation and the Northern Virginia community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 5044, the Andrew Carpenter Tax Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

2. H.R. 5912, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

IN HONOR OF ARMENIAN STATEHOOD DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Armenian Statehood Day. As the Armenian community in Greater Cleveland gathers to celebrate, I join them in appreciation of their rich history and culture.

September 21, 1991, marks the day that Armenia restored its independence by becoming the first republic proclaiming independence from the Soviet Union. Armenia was originally established by the Artashisian Dynasty in 189 BC. Following hundreds of years of invasions, the last Armenian kingdom fell at the onset of the 14th century. The first Armenian democratic republic was not established until 1918, which followed the Armenian Genocide in

1915. Unfortunately, just two years later, in 1920, the Armenians were occupied by the Soviet Union until they declared sovereignty in 1991.

Cleveland is home to a strong Armenian community which has succeeded in preserving their heritage while wholeheartedly supporting American society, thereby contributing to the unique richness and diversity of our national culture.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Armenian Statehood Day. May every American of Armenian heritage hold memories of their past forever in their hearts, remembering the day that their forbears gained their freedom.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL HUNTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Michael S. Hunter of the 1st Special Forces Group from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, who has received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star with Valor. These medals were awarded by Major General Jeffrey Buchanan, I Corps Deputy Commanding General on September 12, 2012.

Master Sergeant Hunter performed many heroic acts during his deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He helped execute a joint raid with 28 Afghan commandos and three other American special operators. Master Sergeant Hunter put himself in danger to protect others and led the way for the U.S. and Afghan special operators. In June 2010, he delivered medical assistance to two injured soldiers during a long 16 hour firefight.

His courageous actions earned him the Silver Star and Bronze Star with Valor. The Silver Star is the Nation's third highest medal for combat valor and ranked fifth in military awards. Master Sergeant Hunter's award is also the highest for combat valor that is not unique to a specific service branch.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Master Sergeant Hunter for receiving the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our great appreciation for his dedication to protect and serve our country.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUGLAS IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important milestone for our nation's Capitol. The statue of abolitionist leader, Frederick Douglass, will soon grace the halls of the United States Capitol. This effigy will serve as a reminder of the hard work of this great American and civil rights leader