The President's inaccurate declaration about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities are not just incompetent, they are immoral. And what a mistake that was.

There has to be a better way, and there is, one that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, one that is consistent with American values. I have introduced legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. We need to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and keeping the American people safe must be our highest priority. On that point the President is not mistaken, but he is wrong, wrong to equate our security with aggression and military force. Just because you have a hammer, not every single problem is a nail. The United States possesses the world's largest hammer in the form of its mighty military, but some situations require a more delicate touch.

SMART security calls for aggressive diplomacy, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, strong regional security arrangements and vigorous inspection regimes. The United States must set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons.

We must maintain our commitment to existing international treaties like the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

To be smart we would support and adequately fund programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles, secure nuclear weapons in Russia. And we must replicate this program in other troubled regions like North Korea and Iran, because it is a mistake to believe that every country will proactively choose to give up its nuclear program. In the long run negotiations with other countries will keep us much safer than believing we can scare them into submission.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. In fact, it is a huge, huge mistake. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART security is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. SMART security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, the victory of the independence for Texas, and the greatest, most diverse State in our Union.

Proving its timeless value as a story of political struggle and personal heroism, the Battle of the Alamo has been made into another feature-length motion picture, ''The Alamo,'' by Disney, not doing as well at the box offices we have, but I bet you it is doing well in Texas.

I encourage all Americans to learn and relearn this important historical story.

On this day I want to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two newspaper articles from the Baytown Sun and the Pasadena Citizen that are newspapers in my district regarding the tremendous devotion and expertise of the San Jacinto reenactors, many of whom are my constituents. These folks have committed tremendous amounts of time and resources to providing an educational service to our community, and some of these reenactors have gone so far as mastering the original Mexican Army drills in the original Spanish, and many were involved in the production of the Disney film ''The Alamo'' as consultants and extras.

The story of San Jacinto occurs less than 60 days after the fall of the Alamo. On April 21, 1836, exactly 168 years ago today, approximately 900 Texans and Tejanos of the Texan Army overpowered a large and better trained Mexican Army. I say Texans and Tejanos because the struggle for Texas independence was not between Anglos and Hispanics.

For example, noted Tejano patriot Captain Juan Seguin commanded a cavalry company during the final victory at San Jacinto and later became a senator in the Republic of Texas. For those people that have seen the movie ''The Alamo,'' they will remember he was sent out from the Alamo seeking reenforcements and against his wishes was told to stay away so he could live to fight another day at San Jacinto.

One of the main proponents of the Texas Revolution was Lorenzo de Zavala, who served in the Mexican Government until the military dictator General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna abolished the Mexican Constitution of 1824. Zavala, a former Mexican citizen, went on to become the first Vice President of the Republic of Texas.

Less than 100 years after American patriots threw off the tyrannical British Empire's military domination, Texans and Tejanos succeeded in a similar struggle against a military dictator, General Santa Anna. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been ''forcibly changed without their consent from a restrictive Federal republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated military despotism.''

As Sam Houston and other Texas delegates signed the Texas declaration of independence, General Santa Anna's army was besieging the Texans and Tejanos at the Alamo in San Antonio. The Alamo fell on the morning of March 6, 1836, when Lieutenant Colonel William Barrett Travis, former Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texans and Tejano defenders were killed in action.

The Mexican Army was full of confidence after their hard-fought victory at the Alamo, and Texan forces were in retreat, but in late April 1836 they chose not to flee to the safety of Louisiana and instead turned to fight on the banks of the bayous outside of Houston, Texas. In fact, the San Jacinto battleground is in the new congressional district that I am receiving.

On the afternoon of April 21, 1836, the two armies were camped near one another, but the Mexican Army, confident of its superiority, failed to post guards during their afternoon siesta. They underestimated the determination of the Texan army in its fight for an independent nation and were totally unprepared for the surprise attack. As a result, the nation, and then the State of Texas, was born. Like the American Revolution, the Texan Revolution brought many different people together fighting military oppression.

A misconception of the Texas war for independence is that the conflict was a case of Anglos versus Hispanics. But accurate Texas history tells us that Hispanics who had long lived in Texas mostly did not refer to themselves as Mexicans, but instead thought of themselves as Tejanos. Tejanos inhabited Texas long before Mexico existed, and they lived there for the same reason Anglos later moved there, for freedom and productive land.

Many folks were happy under Mexican rule until General Santa Anna's forces began plundering areas of Texas, and then Tejanos and Texans both reacted with revolution.

It is inspiring to me that many Tejanos joined the fight for independence when the Mexican Government became an exploitive military regime. The brotherhood of freedom can be stronger than the brotherhood of nationality, as Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and also along the banks of the San Jacinto River, and in this the government of the Republic of Texas.

Like the American patriots in 1776, Texans did not create a perfect State with their independence. It would not be until June 19, or Juneteenth, 1865, that Texas' African American citizens achieved the freedom that is an inalienable human right. Every Juneteenth we remember that struggle for equal rights is long and difficult, and demands our own enduring commitment.

On San Jacinto Day we celebrate the achievements of Texan and Tejano patriots, and renew our commitment to preserving our represented government, freedom, and human civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I will include for the RECORD the two newspaper articles that I previously mentioned.

[From the Baytown Sun, Apr. 7, 2004]

RE-ENACTING HISTORY

(By Carla Rabalais)

'''Let me die in the Alamo. Just let me get shot in there,' I pleaded. But I was a Mexican officer, and no Mexican soldier died inside the Alamo.''

Don Herlitz is a Baytonian, but most of all he is Texan, or Texian, or Mexican captain, depending on the year in which he's operating.

Re-enactors aren't strapped to the same calendar that most of us are. They have the privilege of operating in both the past and the present and with Disney's ''The Alamo,'' set for release Friday, local re-enactors like Herlitz will also have a presence in the future.

The film stars Dennis Quaid, Billy Bob Thornton and Jason Patric. Already this week three sneak previews have unfurled in Houston.

Crowds who lined up for those free seats were greeted by local reenactors ready and willing to talk about their acting experience and field expertise . . . locals like Herlitz and his wife, Marie, Pete Juarez, Allen Hutton, Clabert Menard of Dayton and David Pomeroy of Pasadena.

''That's what we do,'' Marie said. ''We talk to people about Texas history and we show them what it looked like.''

The re-enactment window reveals all history's facts, from the mundane to the explosive, like period clothing, hand-sewn with home-spun cotton; cooking styles, with no electricity, gas or running water; toys and games, which often doubled as useful equipment; and weaponry, including home-fashioned muskets, gunpowder and knives. The common denominator in every category is ''authentic.''

Mexican artillery is one of Herlitz's specialties. He has re-enacted Texas history for almost 20 years, but for the past seven has portrayed a 19th century Mexican soldier. In the Alamo, that expertise earned him an officer's role in Santa Anna's army.

''Many of the re-enactors played both sides during the movie,'' Herlitz said. ''I really wanted to—I even brought my Texian clothes with me—but they wouldn't let me switch.

''That's all right, though,'' he laughed. ''After seven years of shooting at Davy (Crockett), I finally got to die beside him in the next film.''

''The Alamo'' united many reenactors, but that battleground wasn't their first time together and it certainly wasn't their last. In fact, since ''The Alamo'' completed filming last year, some reenactors have participated in two additional films, including the one Herlitz named. That film is ''Remember the Alamo,'' a documentary that aired on the history Channel this spring.

David Pomeroy served as a site resource, re-enactor, and cook—along with his wife, Cait—for the two hour documentary. The business manager of Pomeroy Energy volunteers his time and knowledge for of the San Jacinto Battleground Association and is the author of ''Pasadena: The Early Years.''

''There are eyewitness accounts and there are myths that enhance the Alamo story,'' he said, ''and in some cases the two contradict. The documentary addresses those historical issues.''

Contradictory accounts of the Alamo were not the only issues re-enactors face as they re-create turning point battles in Texas history. To accurately re-enact, they had to study history from multiple sources, not just American ones. In their study, they came face-to-face with facts they never were taught in grade school.

''The Alamo is a boiling pot of ideas and views,'' and Herlitz, ''You can't just go by what a history book said, because it's tainted by political attitudes. 'The Alamo' is a lot broader story and I think those issues will come out more in the director's cut of 'The Alamo' '' DVD.

''You see, those men on the inside of the Alamo were trying to create a new republic, and the men on the outside were trying to preserve a young republic. Who the heroes are just depends which side of the wall you're standing on,'' he said.

Allen Hutton of Baytown agrees. The pyrotechnician has re-enacted since he was 12 years old and has worked in the entertainment industry with movies like ''American Outlaws'' and ''the Patriot''. In ''The Alamo,'' he portrays both a Mexican first sergeant and a Texian first sergeant.

''As a kid I learned the Alamo was about big, mean, mad Santa Anna against the poor innocent Texians,'' he said. ''But the Mexicans weren't just 'bad guys,' they were protecting their country's land. Think of it in modern terms: What would we do if some of Saddam Hussein's guard came here and settled in a town and then said, 'This is our land now and you can't control us'?

''I don't want in any way to minimize the sacrifices made by the Texians, but the Mexicans had a side too,'' he said.

Herlitz and Hutton filled similar roles in ''The Alamo''. Both were involved in the movie a year before actual filming took place and both were Mexican officers who trained hundreds of extras during three-day boot camps.

Herlitz and his wife spent six months camping in a canvas tent, cooking on an open fire, near Dripping Springs, where the movie was filmed. Hutton camped on the set for five months while his wife stayed in Baytown preparing for the birth of their first child.

As Mexican officers, the two Baytonians were required to learn maneuvers from an 1830s military guide written in Spanish. Not modern Spanish, not Castilian Spanish, but a colonial Spanish that is now obsolete. Or almost obsolete.

An extra who had come from New Mexico recognized the language. His native dialect is a preserved form of colonial Spanish, so he translated the book for the actors and trainers. The drills Herlitz and Hutton learned became second-nature to them.

''I can still tell you the (gun-) loading procedure in proper Spanish,'' said Hutton.

During boot camp, they trained hundreds of extras. One of those was Clabert Menard of Dayton, who was singled out for the Texian side as an expert marksman.

''I ended up helping to train about 40 guys under me,'' Menard said. ''The more experienced re-enactors they put next to the stars and told us to keep the other guys from running in front of them.''

Menard, like many of his peers, has re-enacted since his teens. He has represented many characters in his historical career, including World War II soldiers, a French and Indian trader and a Texas Army scout.

''I just want to eat, drink and sleep history,'' he said. ''We can replicate anything, except the fear of death.''

One of his favorite activities is to spend weekends hiking 15 to 20 miles into the Texas wilderness with nothing but his 1820s era gear. He used those items in ''The Alamo'' as well, including two of his homemade weapons, a flintlock musket and French pistol.

''I knew I could depend on my own gear,'' he said.

The boot camp involved marching drills and training stations for learning stunt-fighting, horseback riding, ladder manipulation, artillery use and firing orders. The extras weren't the only ones who grew accustomed to the orders, said Herlitz.

''The horses learned what the word 'Action!' meant, so whenever they heard it, whether they were supposed to move or not, they took off,'' he said. ''So we had to have new commands for starting the filming, like 'Go!' or eventually, 'G-o!' ''

Herlitz and Hutton recall one moment in their six month experience on ''The Alamo'' set that gripped both their memories.

The film's director, John Lee Hancock of Texas City, had been filming the Mexican siege on the Alamo for several nights. But he held back the final attack where the wall would be scaled and the Texian army killed. That would be filmed on the exact anniversary of its occurrence, March 6, at 5:30 a.m.

The actors filmed through the night March 5 and into the next morning's hours. But moments before the final siege, the entire set observed 13 minutes of complete silence, one minute for each day of the Alamo siege, in memory of those who lost their lives, both Texian and Mexican. Then at 5:30 a.m., the storming began.

''Whatever hardships we had to deal with during the filming were all worth it right then,'' said Herlitz. ''To be a part of that moment was something I will always remember.''

''When I do a job, I don't go to seek fame or rub shoulders with stars,'' said Hutton. ''It's just a job and you concentrate on doing it well. But that moment brought it all together. That was as close as I will ever come to experiencing the reality of the Alamo.

''Many of our guys were moved to tears. They were on the Mexican side, and they saw it, too, as part of their heritage.''

Local re-enactors who participated in ''The Alamo'' and other living history events hope that the new movie will have a ripple of positive effects through our state and nation.

''I hope it will get more people excited about history,'' said David Pomeroy. ''Then historical venues will have more response and in turn receive more educational funding.''

''It's all for the kids,'' said Herlitz. ''As a re-enactor, I believe children don't understand what price was paid for freedom. The fertilizer to the tree of liberty is the blood of the patriots. Someone has to be willing to put their life on the line—for you to have the freedom to go downtown and buy a $200 pair of tennis shoes. The Alamo is an excellent example of the price people were willing to give—the ultimate sacrifice.''

Some children are understanding that concept.

''I never really thought about the Alamo, but when I saw the actual building and stood inside it, it was neat,'' said fourth-grader Cody Fisher. ''A bunch of people were lost there fighting for what they believed in.''

''There were brothers fighting each other, and whole families coming apart,'' added Cassie Perez, also a fourth grader. ''They wanted freedom.''

''I think if I had lived back then, and I was a little bit older,'' said Cody, ''I think I would have fought for the Alamo.''

David Pomeroy encourages families to ''See the movie, then come smell the smoke.''

On April 24, a re-enactment of the battle of San Jacinto will be held at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park. This year the re-enactment will be accompanied by a living history festival. Local re-enactors from ''The Alamo'' will be onsite to autograph photos and talk about their filming experience. Festival hours will be from 10

a.m. to 6 p.m. with the battle re-enactment at 3:30 p.m.

[From the Pasadena Citizen, Apr. 14, 2004]

POMEROY CONTRASTS REALITY, HOLLYWOOD

(By Gloria Walker Smith)

Using the latest movie of The Alamo as a backdrop, Texas history expert and Pasadena native, David Pomeroy, brought an educational and entertaining program to the Bay Area A&M Club luncheon.

Focusing primarily on Texas history between 1820 and 1845, Pomeroy surprised the audience with a history pop quiz, where the winners received Alamo movie posters. Since Sam Houston is so much a part of any mention of Texas history, it was noted that Sam Houston IV is from Galena Park, which spawned a comment that Constable Bill Bailey was also from Galena Park and 'does that have any significance?'

Since Pomeroy has been involved in the making of this Alamo movie from its inception, (even back when Ron Howard visited and originally planned to make the film), he had many insider comments about the preparations, the actual filming, the actors involved and the differences in their personalities. One amusing story contrasted the behavior of Dennis Quaid (Sam Houston) and Billy Bob Thornton (David Crockett). At the end of each filming sequence, Thornton was most definitely ''one of the easy-going run-of-the-mill'' cast members, so he was very popular. On the other hand, Quaid dismounted his horse and headed for his tent, without any interaction. Consequently, the group almost 'hated' him for being so conceited. When filming was finally over, the cast saw a totally different Quaid, who was well aware of their previous feelings toward him. He explained that he found it necessary to remain completely immersed in his character throughout production.

One glaring omission to a historian was the lack of mention of the earlier battles at Gonzales, Goliad and Zacotecas, significant in their own right.

''It has been suggested that it would take a mini-series to adequately tell the story of the Texas war for independence,'' said Pomeroy. ''Had there not been the battle at San Jacinto, much of the Alamo story would have been forgotten.'' The fact that so many made a conscious decision to stay and die, if necessary, for what they believed, makes the defenders stand out. And die, they did. Sam Houston had advised the leaders to abandon the Alamo, but Bowie, Fannin and Travis said no.

Going back centuries in history, Pomeroy traced the conquests in the area to the Spanish, who came first, then the French and then the English, each of whom took the land from the Indians and each other. Along came the American Revolution and later, the French Revolution—struggles to free citizens from the tyranny of rulers across the ocean.

In Mexico and the Spanish southwest, the people were determined to overthrow the foreign emperor, and Santa Ana headed this movement. After driving out the Spanish emperor and establishing a constitution, Santa Ana then installed himself as emperor and threw out the constitution. Originally, the Texians did not seek to leave Mexican authority, but wanted to be a separate state, instead of being part of the state of Coahuila. Santa Ana refused in the strongest terms and so began the Texas War for Independence.

Much like the American Revolution, the ''colonists'' in Tejas were facing a military trained in European-style. The Texicans were a rag tag bunch, out-numbered, out-trained and out-gunned. However, they had the home-court advantage and used methods far more suited to the territory than the more formal strategies employed by the Mexican generals.

Also attending the luncheon was Stan Wojcik, a fellow San Jacinto battle re-enactor. Wojcik was wearing an outfit that he sewed himself—deerskin britches, coarse vest and calico shirt. He has even made his wife a period costume for re-enactment programs. Although a very recent ''Texan,'' Wojcik has become fascinated and knowledgeable about the San Jacinto battle.

During his appearance, Pomeroy was completely in character with his ''almost stove-pipe'' beaver hat, calico shirt and powder horn.

Responding to questions about the changes to be made to the San Jacinto Monument area, Pomeroy gave a brief overview of the plans to return the area to a more historically-correct look, with an emphasis on the educational value. Adjacent industries have donated land to affect many of the changes, which will eventually double the size.

On April 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment will feature all-day exhibits, hand-on history activities for children, including an archaeological dig, as well as celebrity historians and authors. The admission is free and food booths will be available. For more information, call (281) 479–2421 or visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Texas and these United States.

WE MUST NOT ABANDON THE KURDS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the casualties in Iraq are a bitter reminder of the truth and consequences of war whether you oppose it, as I do, or wage it, as the President has.

As America grieves over our losses, we should also grieve over the losses suffered by the Iraqi Kurds in a war that went largely unnoticed in this country. In fact, this is not the second Gulf War, but the third in our memory.

After the first Gulf War, America pulled out of Iraq, leaving Saddam to reorganize his henchmen. They did more than take names; they took hostages, and they look lives, thousands of lives. It can happen again.

After the first Gulf War, we established a no-fly zone, but we did not disarm Saddam's Republican Guard, and we did not destroy his lethal helicopter gunships, killing machines used not against Americans, but against Iraqis. The outcome was a blood-drenched record of atrocities. At least 8,000 Kurds were massacred by Saddam and his henchmen after the United States withdrew from Iraq, having urged them to rise up. The Kurds cried out for help, but no one listened, and no one saw.

The war was over, then-President Bush number one declared. Victory was at hand. We marvelled at the stories told, many untrue, of how U.S. technology had spared lives, reduced casualties, and proved America's warmaking superiority. The satellite images showed everything except the coming slaughter of these peace-loving people.

The Kurds represent about 20 percent of the Iraqi population. They have their own language and culture. Although Muslim, they are not Arab. Historically they have lived in the mountainous regions of northern Iraq in an area around Kirkuk. This region holds about 7 percent of the world's known oil reserves. The vast oil wealth represented around Kirkuk has always been a motive for Saddam and other ethnic Iraq groups to act. Remove the oil by removing the Kurds. Saddam used every opportunity to hunt them down and eliminate them. But America is barely aware of the suffering Saddam inflicted on these people.

While the President never found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Kurds would tell you that the President would have found evidence of mass murder. Kurds fear, and we should, too, that it could happen again. Kurds fear, and we should, too, that if the U.S. pulls out on the 30th of June, it will not take long before the killing begins again.

We should never have left the Kurds alone after the first Gulf War, and we must not leave them alone after June 30. The date is meaningful only for the President's political ambitions. We know what happened the last time we pulled out of Iraq. We cannot do it again and silently sanction a new outbreak of unspeakable crimes again the Kurds.

The Kurds deserve liberation. The Kurds deserve protection. The bloodshed we see daily in Iraq reminds us of the country's instability. It should be a warning of the bloodshed that will come if America forsakes its responsibility to Iraq and all the Iraqi people, all the Iraqi people.

We must stay the course. Stay past June 30. Stay until the Kurds are safe, until Iraq itself is a safe place. We owe Iraq and the world nothing less. By declaring war we took responsibility for the future of Iraq. We cannot walk away and throw it open to the chaos that we have created.

It was our warning to the President when we started, winning the war, the military part, that will be pretty easy because we have a tremendous fighting force. But as for establishing the peace, that is where the trouble is. The President never planned for it.

He ignored the State Department's efforts to do that. He ignored everybody's warnings. General Shinseki said it will take 300,000 troops. They said, shut up, and they fired him because he told truth. Anybody who tried to tell him the truth coming into this was discarded or shuffled off or put somewhere else.

We are about to do it again because the President wants to have another sign that says ''Mission Accomplished, Democracy Delivered.'' You could have a little ceremony somewhere and hand some paper around, I guess. It reminds