

these acts are offensive in the eyes of God. This murder had no purpose except to show that these cowards had one purpose, and that is to take an innocent life. They hid behind hoods and executed a citizen of this country who loved the people of Saudi Arabia, who enjoyed working in that country to help the people of Saudi Arabia, who was an innocent, decent, kind husband and father.

This was not an execution but a barbaric and demonic act of torture. If these sadists believe this type of action will unnerve America and weaken our resolve in our war against terror, they are both stupid, as they are wrong.

I take great exception to the speech by the gentleman from Washington moments ago who tries to conclude from the 9/11 report that there is no connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. It all is of the same vein and nature. The death of Paul Johnson, the death of Nicholas Berg, the retaliation against Saudi officials, the attempt to bomb the Jordanian intelligence service, the murder of hundreds of Spanish citizens peacefully on their way in Spain are all interconnected and intertwined.

He says there is no connection. I urge people to read the Wall Street Journal today and its editorial page because there is a lot of spinning going on. Maybe there have not been enough dots to connect yet so the gentleman comes out here and alleges that the President lied, that there is absolutely no connection. If he spoke any longer, I would have assumed he would have called Saddam Hussein just a sad, old, tired man who really should have been left alone to live in peace.

He killed a million of his own citizens. He said there is no link. A citizen of my county died from anthrax. He worked at National Media, the owner of National Enquirer. It is interesting that Mohammed Atta was living in Palm Beach County, a few miles from the facility in which that citizen died in Palm Beach County.

It is interesting, in the 9/11 Report, "al Qaeda operatives trained in Iran, and al Qaeda helped Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists obtain explosives."

"Another revelation concerns al Qaeda and anthrax. The 9/11 panel says al Qaeda had an 'ambitious' biological weapons program and "was making advances in its ability to produce anthrax prior to September 11." That is in the report, anthrax, prior to September 11.

It is telling, too, that the henchmen for the Iraqi leader agent al-Ani happened to be in Prague for meetings. Oh, lo and behold, cell phone records indicate that phone calls were placed from Florida to Mohammed Atta's cell phone at the same time he was reportedly in Prague. A coincidence, I guess. A sheer coincidence that Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 9/11 hijacking of planes, who was living in Delray Beach, Florida, close to where a citizen was killed by anthrax, meeting with Iraqi

officials in Prague, is all coincidental, all coincidental, all sheer fantasy.

Read this editorial in the Wall Street Journal today.

Paul Johnson died at the hands of terrorists, not because we are in Iraq. They are going to kill Americans and other freedom-loving people because they resent our way of life. They resent who we are. For Members to come to this floor and say there is no link and no connection with the terrorists and Iraqis and anthrax and 9/11 have not read the entire report and are simply spinning a tale that they want America to believe.

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER 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 Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCGOVERN 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 Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND 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 Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to address the House regarding the very important issue of autism and the epidemic of autism that we are seeing in this country today, but before I begin my prepared remarks on this subject, I want to extend my condolences to the family of Paul Johnson.

His son lives in Merritt Island, an area in my congressional district, and it is indeed a great tragedy for our Nation and very obviously a great tragedy for his family. As I understand it, he was a great person, a great American, a patriotic American, and it goes to show to all of us that the war on terror continues and that there is a great peril to American contractors, probably anywhere in the Middle East, but particularly in Saudi Arabia and, obviously, as we know, in Iraq.

I do want to salute those contractors that do take the risk and go over there. They perform vital functions. In many ways, they are as important as our military people over there and we need to honor them and respect them.

So my condolences go out to the Johnson family, and certainly I hope that they will be comforted by the good Lord in their time of grief.

I would like to take this time to address what I consider to be a very growing problem, the epidemic of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders that are plaguing our Nation.

In January of this year, the Department of Health and Human Services sent out an autism alarm to the Nation's pediatricians. In this alarm, they stated that one in every 167 children is being diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. I will repeat that. One in every 167 children being born in the United States today is being diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder.

Furthermore, one in seven children is being diagnosed with either a learning disability or a behavioral disability.

Mr. Speaker, something dreadful is happening to our youngest generation, and we must sound the alarm and figure out what is going on with our children.

I had the pleasure of addressing an autism conference in Chicago last month, and I would like to share today some of the thoughts I shared then with about 1,000 researchers, doctors, nurses, educators and, most importantly, parents who were there to seek answers to this growing problem.

I have said repeatedly that the autism community is the 900-pound gorilla that has not had its voice properly heard on Capitol Hill. This is largely due to the endless demands on the time, effort, emotions and financial resources of the parents of these children who are struggling to meet the unique needs of these kids with autism. There is little time, money, energy left to engage in public debates, let alone engage