

not retaliate in kind. The United States, by contrast, can retaliate with overwhelming force, including weapons of mass destruction. This is why Mr. Hussein did not use chemical or biological weapons against American forces or Israel during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Nor has he used such weapons since, even though the United States has bombed Iraq repeatedly over the past decade.

The same logic explains why Mr. Hussein cannot blackmail us. Nuclear blackmail works only if the blackmailer's threat might actually be carried out. But if the intended target can retaliate in kind, carrying out the threat causes the blackmailer's own destruction. This is why the Soviet Union, which was far stronger than Iraq and led by men of equal ruthlessness, never tried blackmailing the United States.

Oddly enough, the Bush administration seems to understand that America is not vulnerable to nuclear blackmail. For example, Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, has written that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction "will be unusable because any attempt to use them will bring national obliteration." Similarly, President Bush declared last week in his State of the Union Address that the United States "would not be blackmailed" by North Korea, which administration officials believe has nuclear weapons. If Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear arsenal is "unusable" and North Korea's weapons cannot be used for blackmail, why do the President and Ms. Rice favor war?

But isn't the possibility that the Iraqi regime would give weapons of mass destruction to Al Qaeda reason enough to topple it? No—unless the administration isn't telling us something. Advocates of preventive war have made Herculean efforts to uncover evidence of active cooperation between Iraq and Al Qaeda, and senior administration officials have put great pressure on American intelligence agencies to find convincing evidence. But these efforts have borne little fruit, and we should view the latest reports of alleged links with skepticism. No country should weave a case for war with such slender threads.

Given the deep antipathy between fundamentalists like Osama bin Laden and secular rulers like Saddam Hussein, the lack of evidence linking them is not surprising. But even if American pressure brings these unlikely bedfellows together, Mr. Hussein is not going to give Al Qaeda weapons of mass destruction. He would have little to gain and everything to lose since he could never be sure that American surveillance would not detect the handoff. If it did, the United States response would be swift and devastating.

The Iraqi dictator might believe he could slip Al Qaeda dangerous weapons covertly, but he would still have to worry that we would destroy him if we merely suspected that he had aided an attack on the United States. He need not be certain we would retaliate, he merely has to think that we might.

Thus, logic and evidence suggest that Iraq can be contained, even if it possesses weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, Mr. Hussein's nuclear ambitions—the ones that concern us most—are unlikely to be realized in his lifetime, especially with inspections under way. Iraq has pursued nuclear weapons since the 1970's, but it has never produced a bomb. United Nations inspectors destroyed Iraq's nuclear program between 1991 and 1998, and Iraq has not rebuilt it. With an embargo in place and inspectors at work, Iraq is further from a nuclear capacity than at any time in recent memory. Again, why the rush to war?

War may not be necessary to deny Iraq nuclear weapons, but it is likely to spur pro-

liferation elsewhere. The Bush administration's contrasting approaches to Iraq and North Korea send a clear signal: we negotiate with states that have nuclear weapons, but we threaten states that don't. Iran and North Korea will be even more committed to having a nuclear deterrent after watching the American military conquer Iraq. Countries like Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia will then think about following suit. Stopping the spread of nuclear weapons will be difficult in any case, but overthrowing Mr. Hussein would make it harder.

Preventive war entails other costs as well. In addition to the lives lost, toppling Saddam Hussein would cost at least \$50 billion to \$100 billion, at a time when our economy is sluggish and huge budget deficits are predicted for years. Because the United States would have to occupy Iraq for years, the actual cost of this war would most likely be much larger. And because most of the world thinks war is a mistake, we would get little help from other countries.

Finally, attacking Iraq would undermine the war on terrorism, diverting manpower, money and attention from the fight against Al Qaeda. Every dollar spent occupying Iraq is a dollar not spent dismantling terrorist networks abroad or improving security at home. Invasion and occupation would increase anti-Americanism in the Islamic world and help Osama bin Laden win more followers. Preventive war would also reinforce the growing perception that the United States is a bully, thereby jeopardizing the international unity necessary to defeat global terrorism.

Although the Bush administration maintains that war is necessary, there is a better option. Today, Iraq is weakened, its pursuit of nuclear weapons has been frustrated, and any regional ambitions it may once have cherished have been thwarted. We should perpetuate this state of affairs by maintaining vigilant containment, a policy the rest of the world regards as preferable and effective. Saddam Hussein needs to remain in his box—but we don't need a war to keep him there.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAY DIX

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of one of Colorado's accomplished sons, Dr. Jay D. Dix. A former resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Jay Dix recently passed away, leaving behind a legacy as one of our country's leading pathologists. As his family mourns their loss, I would like to take this time to highlight his life before this body of Congress and this nation.

Born in Germany to Harold Leon and Faith Louise Pfeffer Dix, Jay was raised in Pueblo, Colorado, where he graduated from Centennial High School in 1966. In 1969, he married Mary Jay Stewart and started a two-year stint in the U.S. Army. After his service, Jay went on to graduate from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1973 and then, in 1977, from the University of Missouri School of Medicine. In 1980, Jay received his certification from the American Board of Pathology and started working as the medical examiner of Missouri's Boone and Callaway counties. He also taught at the University of Missouri as an assistant professor of pathology and, in 1990, spent a year in New York City as its chief deputy medical examiner.

Beyond the recognition, education, and experience, Jay stood out for his professionalism

and expertise. Investigators and law enforcement professionals credit him as a great team member, one who contributed objectively to investigations. Perhaps it was his reputation for solid work that helped make him a key player in Missouri's first criminal investigation that relied almost entirely on DNA evidence.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Dr. Jay D. Dix's memory before this body of Congress and this nation. Jay has made many contributions to our community. His work as an instructor and as a medical examiner has touched thousands of lives and brought closure to many cases. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Mary, their daughters Kelsey and Melissa, and his mother Faith. Jay's lifetime of contributions to this nation and to the communities he has served is worthy of our praise, and I am proud to honor him today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FLORINE RAITANO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Florine Raitano for her outstanding contributions to rural Colorado. Flo will be stepping down as the Executive Director of the Colorado Rural Development Council (CRDC) at the end of January. She has been a leader in this organization for 10 years bringing new ideas and innovative solutions to Colorado's rural communities.

At this position, Flo has been a tireless advocate as working on such diverse issues as renewable energy, telecommunications, and teenage health, to name a few, in an effort to improve rural living.

Rural communities often are many miles away from urban areas and lack much of the basic infrastructure and services most of us take for granted. One of the biggest needs in these areas include access to adult education opportunities for rural citizens so that they can enhance their skills and improve the quality of their lives. Most urban residents can find classes on almost anything, from cosmetology to computer science. These opportunities are rare for rural communities whose population are spread out over wide distances. Even online computer courses can be difficult if users haven't had training on how to use computers and the Internet.

Living in Dillon, Colorado, Flo understands first hand the needs of these rural citizens and communities. Her work with the CRDC created a new volunteer program with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension to help residents learn how to use the Internet. Bringing rural areas up to speed on the information highway is critical if we are going to make sure that nobody is left behind. However, many rural areas are stuck on the information dirt road. Flo has worked with the state government to raise awareness and look for innovative solutions to ensure these communities keep pace with the rest of Colorado.

Colorado has a rich and vibrant farming and ranching history, which is also still an important part of its economy. Looking forward, Flo

has seen the possibility of how biofuels can stimulate rural economies. New fuels developed from crops could provide us with a renewable and sustainable energy supply and move our country beyond oil dependence—while also creating new markets for these crops.

Flo worked to bring “Opening Windows,” a unique theater and human services project that addresses adolescent health and behavior issues from a rural perspective, to Colorado. This entertaining, provocative and value-neutral program deals with such issues as substance abuse, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, eating disorders, sexually transmitted diseases and suicide, and is based on extensive interviews with rural adolescent teenagers and their families. Each performance is followed by a facilitated dialogue involving the cast, local resource personnel, and the audience. This interactive program helps communities understand some of the dilemmas today’s adolescents are trying to deal with, as new ways to approach these issues.

Flo will be missed at the CRDC, but I know she will continue to be a strong force working to improve Colorado. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Flo for her years of dedicated service to Colorado, and to rural residents and communities throughout our nation.

EXPAND MEDICARE MSA
PROGRAM

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation which enhances senior citizens’ ability to control their health care and use Medicare money to pay for prescription drugs. This legislation accomplishes these important goals by removing the numerical limitations and sunset provisions in the Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSAS) program so that all seniors can take advantage of the Medicare MSA option.

Medicare MSAs consist of a special savings account containing Medicare funds for seniors to use for their routine medical expenses, including prescription drug costs. Seniors in a Medicare MSA program are also provided with a catastrophic insurance policy to cover non-routine expenses such as major surgery. Under an MSA plan, the choice of whether to use Medicare funds for prescription drug costs, or other services not available under traditional Medicare such as mammograms, are made by the senior, not by bureaucrats and politicians.

One of the major weaknesses of the Medicare program is that seniors do not have the ability to use Medicare dollars to cover the costs of prescription medicines, even though prescription drugs represent the major health care expenditure for many seniors. Medicare MSAs give those seniors who need to use Medicare funds for prescription drugs the ability to do so without expanding the power of the federal bureaucracy or forcing those seniors who currently have prescription drug coverage into a federal one-size-fits-all program.

Medicare MSAs will also ensure seniors access to a wide variety of health care services by minimizing the role of the federal bureauc-

racy. As many of my colleagues know, an increasing number of health care providers have withdrawn from the Medicare program because of the paperwork burden and constant interference with their practice by bureaucrats from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (previously known as the Health Care Financing Administration). The MSA program frees seniors and providers from this burden thus making it more likely that quality providers will remain in the Medicare program!

Mr. Speaker, the most important reason to enact this legislation is seniors should not be treated like children and told what health care services they can and cannot have by the federal government. We in Congress have a duty to preserve and protect the Medicare trust fund and keep the promise to America’s seniors and working Americans, whose taxes finance Medicare, that they will have quality health care in their golden years.

However, we also have a duty to make sure that seniors can get the health care that suits their needs, instead of being forced into a cooking cutter program designed by Washington-DC-based bureaucrats! Medicare MSAs are a good first step toward allowing seniors the freedom to control their own health care.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to provide our senior citizens greater control of their health care, including the ability to use Medicare money to purchase prescription drugs by cosponsoring my legislation to expand the Medicare MSA program.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT
GREGORY W. VERBECK

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and career of one of the Monterey Park Police Department’s finest officers, Sergeant Gregory W. Verbeck.

Sergeant Verbeck graduated from the Southern California Peace Officers Academy at Riverside City College in 1971. That same year, Sergeant Gregory W. Verbeck began his 31-year career with the Monterey Park Police Department. Sergeant Verbeck rose quickly in the force and on September 21, 1974, he was promoted to the rank of Police Agent. From 1978 to 1980, he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau working juvenile investigations and on January 24, 1980, he was promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Verbeck also served as a K-9 Handler, a department firearms instructor, the department’s fleet manager and the Monterey Park Emergency Communications Coordinator.

Outside of his official duties on the force, Sergeant Verbeck was a member and served as President of the Monterey Park Police Officers Association. He has also been active in the community as a member of the Eastside Optimist Club, as a board member of the Japanese Amateur Radio Society and Chair of the Community Relations Commission.

During his career, Sergeant Verbeck received over fifty letters and commendations for his unwavering commitment to service. These awards included Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Supervisory Police Certificates. In 1996, Sergeant Verbeck’s excellence earned

him the Public Safety Employee of the Year Award.

Sergeant Verbeck has been a true professional, mentor and a friend to our community. He will be greatly missed by his many friends at the Monterey Park Police Department and the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in expressing my appreciation for Sergeant Verbeck’s lifetime of service and commitment to our community.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF BILL BLAIR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Sheriff Bill Blair of Delta County, Colorado. Bill Blair has been the Sheriff of Delta County for the past fourteen years where he has faithfully served his constituents with the honor, courage, and integrity that Americans have come to expect from their elected officials. Recently, Sheriff Blair has announced his retirement and, as he leaves office this January, I would like to pay tribute to his career and accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Throughout his life, Sheriff Blair has proven himself to be a dedicated American, committed to the service of his community and country. At age seventeen, Bill Blair joined the United States Navy where he faithfully served his country for twenty years. During his career in the military, Bill was an aircraft firefighter while on four aircraft carriers. Bill also served in the Vietnam War, where he received the Navy’s Professional Service Award for meritorious service in both 1968 and 1972.

Soon after leaving the military, Bill Blair began his career in law enforcement, where he served the Delta County Sheriff’s office as a reserve deputy and later as a deputy sheriff. He was promoted again as the department’s first non-uniformed investigator for the Delta County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Blair was later appointed Undersheriff by then Sheriff Richard Miklich, a position that he held for two years. From there, Bill was appointed Sheriff in the middle of Miklich’s final term of office.

As a former law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our police officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee their fellow citizens rights and protections. They work tirelessly and with great sacrifice to their personal and family lives to ensure our freedoms remain strong in our homes and communities. Their service and dedication deserves the recognition and thanks of this body of Congress, and that is why I am so honored to celebrate the retirement of a man who has given so much to his community and country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude that I recognize Sheriff Bill Blair of Delta County, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. Sheriff Blair has served the citizens of Delta County with great character and integrity, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding American in this Congress. I wish Bill all the best in his retirement.