

SADDAM'S BEHAVIOR JUSTIFIES
LIBERATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the June 11, 2003, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, entitled "The Right Thing." This editorial correctly notes that the atrocities committed by the horrific, repressive regime of Saddam Hussein were reason enough for liberating the people of Iraq.

[From the Omaha (NE) World-Herald, June 11, 2003]

THE RIGHT THING

Amid all the talk about whether, or even if, substantial numbers of weapons of mass destruction are going to be found in Iraq, it is also important to ask how much it matters.

Our assessment is that, yes, it does matter—in the sense that strongly couched reports of such weaponry were at the heart of the Bush administration's argument for toppling Saddam Hussein. Yet we also believe that the answer to the question, while instructive, is not pivotal. Ousting Saddam will turn out to be an overarching good deed. It stands on its own merits.

At present, the purported weapons are not turning up. Does this mean they just weren't there, or does it mean that Saddam's regime and the Baath zealots that undergirded it were exceptionally good at hiding them or destroying them or spicing them across international borders? Let's hope the Pentagon's new weapons-hunting team, slated to take over the search soon, will provide definitive answers.

Four months ago, Secretary of State Colin Powell made an impassioned case before the U.N. Security Council that the weapons existed, along with equipment for making more. We said then that if one-half or even one-fourth of what Powell was asserting were true, there would be a strong case that the Iraqis weren't complying with U.N. mandates. At this point, there has been no hard evidence that the existence of even those fractions will be borne out. In addition (as we said then), the evidence of a Saddam-al Qaida link was iffy.

Fair enough. But we also went on to say that Saddam nonetheless should be ousted.

We stand by that. Saddam's behavior was that of some sort of devil incarnate. He murdered tens of thousands of his own citizens, starved others, tortured and maimed unknown numbers more, snubbed agreed-upon arms inspections and other mandates after the Gulf War of 1991 and attacked aircraft attempting to enforce "no-fly" zones.

We also said earlier that there were three scenarios for Saddam's departure. In descending order of desirability, they were abdication, liberation of Iraq by a U.N. force or liberation via a U.S. attack, aided only by allies.

The last of these three was what played out. That's unfortunate, but this is an imperfect world. Now that world wants to know: Did the U.S. administration, in company with Britain's Tony Blair, (1) get the weapons allegations right at the time when they were articulated; (2) err in assessing the evidence; or (3) just plain confabulate in order to drum up popular support?

If it turns out to be the last of those three, then the U.S. and British administrations will take their lumps in the marketplace of public opinion and perhaps at the polls as

well. We're not saying that's what happened; time will sort such matters out. But it ought to go without saying that Americans and Britons don't need to be "spun" ("conned," in older terminology) in order to do the right thing.

The right thing: Ousting Saddam was that. Exactly that. He was a murderer and a brutal oppressor who helped destabilize a whole region and robbed his people of a generation of progress. On that basis, Americans and Britons—along with others in the international community who will now seek to help Iraqis back to their rightful place in the world—have nothing to apologize for.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN
McCANN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long career of Karen McCann as she retires from teaching in the Troy Public Schools District in June, after 35 years in the classroom. Beginning in 1968, Karen McCann brought dedication and innovation to teaching which continue unabated. Throughout her career, she has been a model for teachers, new and old alike, as well as a role model for her students.

After graduating from Michigan State University in 1967 with a degree in Elementary Education, Karen McCann began teaching English and Social Studies for seventh through ninth grade in the Farmington Public Schools District. She eventually taught all subjects for students in grades ranging from fifth to ninth before moving to Bemis Elementary in the Troy Public Schools District in 1985.

During the course of her career, she has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Disney American Teacher Award in 2000 and the WDIV Outstanding Teacher Award in 2001, and was selected as a Mentor Teacher/Trainer by EDS for the MI JASON Project from 1997 through the present.

That she is a good teacher is evident from what her students have said about her; that she is a great teacher is evident from the remarks of parents and colleagues. Parents frequently expressed admiration for her positive attitude, her willingness to communicate with them, and her ability to challenge each child regardless of their initial interest in learning. Her colleagues have praised her for her enthusiasm and creativity.

She brought programs to the classroom that gave her students the opportunity to learn in creative ways and offered them unique educational experiences. She integrated Hyperstudio, multimedia, Internet, and videoconferencing into her lesson plans, allowing her students to teleconference other students so that they could learn from each other. She also succeeded in making learning about science and technology fun for all of her students, through her work with the JASON Project and the First Lego League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important contributions Karen McCann has made to so many children and their families during her long and celebrated teaching career.

IN HONOR OF JENNIFER
BERNARDES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring dedication of Jennifer Bernades, a 13-year-old student whose compassion has had a wonderful effect on the life of her fellow New Jerseyan, Harry Ettlinger.

Ms. Bernades was one of the first students in New Jersey to take part in the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program, which matches young students with Holocaust survivors. Sponsored by the Holocaust Council of the United Jewish Communities of Metro West in Whippany, NJ, this program provides an amazing opportunity for young students to develop lasting relationships with and learn from those who have survived or escaped the Holocaust.

Mr. Ettlinger, a World War II veteran who escaped the Holocaust, was the adoptee of Jennifer Bernades, an eighth-grade student at Oliver Street School in Newark, NJ. As a participant in this program, Jennifer agreed to learn about Mr. Ettlinger's experiences, and to tell his story in 2045, the 100th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps.

Jennifer Bernades has demonstrated a strong commitment to learn about Mr. Ettlinger's experiences and met with him several times over the course of a year to hear his first-hand accounts. Recently, Jennifer spoke at Newark's Municipal Holocaust Commemoration sponsored by Mayor Sharpe James. She has also taken part in talks at the Jewish Community Campus in Whippany, NJ, and Oliver Street School, and has spoken with other school groups about participating in the program. Jennifer's dedication has taught her about humanity's darkest hour, and, in learning Mr. Ettlinger's story, she has inspired others to participate in this invaluable program.

Jennifer's commitment has gone beyond what the "Adopt-a-Survivor" program hopes to accomplish. Earlier this year, Jennifer helped reunite Mr. Ettlinger with Hanne Hirsch, a childhood neighbor and schoolmate from his hometown of Karlsruhe, Germany, who he had not been able to locate after the Holocaust. On a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, Jennifer and a fellow student noticed Mrs. Hirsch's story at an exhibit, and after successfully tracking her down, Mr. Ettlinger was reunited with Mrs. Hirsch after 64 years.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jennifer Bernades for her devotion and enthusiasm, and for her commitment to keeping alive the personal histories of Holocaust survivors. It is through the dedication of America's youth that we can ensure that these important stories are never forgotten.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR CON-
STRUCTING A FACILITY TO EN-
RICH URANIUM, AND FOR SUP-
PORTING TERRORISM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution, which calls on

the government of Iran to comply with its NPT obligations, sign the AIEA Model Additional Protocol, and halt support for terrorism. Also, it asks President Bush and the international community to renew their commitment to the war against terrorism, and impede the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The knowledge, non-nuclear materials, and components needed for the production of nuclear weapons are already accessible worldwide. The main technical barrier is obtaining the nuclear material. Therefore, to prevent any further proliferation of nuclear weapons, we must work to prevent the propagation of nuclear materials.

The director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA) has recently announced that Iran has built a plant to enrich uranium—a key component of advanced nuclear weapons. This deeply worries me, because U.S. intelligence sources indicate that Iran could develop as many as 50 nuclear weapons from this facility.

Mr. Speaker, members of this chamber have not yet given adequate attention to the dangers of a nuclear Iran.

Iran's nuclear intentions are a cause of fear. It is unclear whether Iran, by pursuing a sophisticated and advanced nuclear program, has chosen to break from the NPT treaty now; but it is obvious that it has positioned itself to do so within a very short time if it ever decides to.

Iran is the most active state sponsor of terrorism, and continues to provide material support to Hizballah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad—all recognized terrorist groups. The country's construction of nuclear facilities coupled with its known ties to terrorist groups constitutes a threat to global peace and security.

Nuclear materials that could be used to develop nuclear weapons must not fall into the hands of terrorists or state sponsors of terrorism—like Iran. Preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons capabilities must remain a foreign policy and homeland security priority.

There are many difficulties, but also opportunities, on the road towards nuclear non-proliferation. For the last few decades a number of diplomatic and political strategies have been pursued. Let me empathetically opine that we need to redouble these efforts. If we are to achieve a non-nuclear Iran, we must commit to a thoughtful strategy of dialogue.

COMMENDING PASCHAL HIGH SCHOOL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the faculty and students of my alma mater, Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas for being ranked among the nation's finest schools by Newsweek magazine. Officially, Paschal placed No. 12 in Texas and No. 200 nationally based on advanced placement test scores. This year alone, the senior class included 11 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

Founded in 1885, Fort Worth's oldest high school has always been regarded as an aca-

democratic leader. Today, Paschal exists primarily as a large, urban school with a diverse population and student body. The curriculum emphasizes balance, preparing students for college or university life through a variety of academic disciplines, clubs, advanced placement classes, and a host of athletic teams. This preparation enables students to understand and appreciate other cultures, become active participants of their community, and take ownership of their education.

Paschal High School is a terrific example of a successful collaboration between students, community representatives, faculty members, parents, alumni, and the Fort Worth Independent School district. This collaboration is truly remarkable, when considering the awards and accolades that this school has amassed since its inception.

Again, congratulations to the students and faculty of Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas for this latest achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHEILA O'LEARY FOR HER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION REGIONAL SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the efforts of Mrs. Sheila O'Leary. After nearly 40 years as an educator, 14 years of which as the principal of the Immaculate Conception Regional School (ICRS) in Franklin, New Jersey, Mrs. O'Leary is now moving on to work at the Catholic Diocese of Paterson.

Political theorist Henry Adams once wrote, "A teacher affects eternity." He believed that the influence of educators over children is never ending. He understood that educators like Mrs. O'Leary play a vital role in the moral and intellectual education of our children.

During her years of dedicated service Mrs. O'Leary has inspired students, fueled their imaginations, advanced their natural abilities and encouraged them to explore the possibilities that life has to offer.

As an educator, Mrs. O'Leary could have chosen any school to work at—yet she chose Immaculate Conception. She took road less traveled and chose to take on the challenge of building ICRS into the great school it is today. With her guidance and a strong commitment to helping her students, Immaculate is now a better place. By increasing attendance and expanding the number of classrooms, constructing new science labs and starting a pre-K program, to name just a few, Mrs. O'Leary has fulfilled her deep conviction in giving every child a chance to learn and succeed in life. Truly she has brought new life to the school and its community.

Over the last 40 years, not only has she taught children the important concepts of reading and writing, but she has also educated them about the difference between right and wrong. She taught them to welcome knowledge and to reject ignorance. For this, Mrs. O'Leary is a model for America's educators and young people to follow.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District, it is with great

honor, that I recognize and thank Mrs. Sheila O'Leary for her years of service to the Immaculate Conception community. Our nation is very fortunate to have her in our schools working with the future of our great Nation.

FLAG DAY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge the observance of Flag Day, June 14, 2003.

The American Flag is an integral component of many national holidays commemorating the creation of our nation, the lives of our Founding Fathers, the legacies of great leaders, and the sacrifices of our military service men and women, veterans, and retirees. But Flag Day is the one day we acknowledge the American Flag itself and all it symbolizes. On this day, we celebrate the 53rd National Flag Day.

As our national symbol, the American Flag is our ambassador to all corners of the globe and beyond, reminding people of who we are and what we stand for. The Flag symbolizes what is great about American democracy: the liberties and freedoms provided by the Constitution. It serves as a hopeful symbol of freedom to many people in the world, embodying the great American Dream of equal opportunity for all citizens.

The American Flag serves as a source of pride for special and outstanding achievements, from athletes winning Olympic gold medals to astronauts reaching the moon. It has inspired poets, musicians, and artists. It was the very inspiration for Francis Scott Key in 1814 to write the Star Spangled Banner. With the British attacking Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, Key was overwhelmed by emotion when the sun rose revealing the war-torn flag was still there.

The Flag continues to inspire people across the world and encourages them to recognize their potential and ability to achieve their own version of the American Dream. It is a focal point of respect for our active duty service men and women, military retirees, veterans, and those who work tirelessly to protect us: our police, firefighters, and first-responders.

In times of difficulty the tattered Flag reminds us of the sadness of war and terror, and the tragic loss of life that all too often occurs. Yet in such difficult times, the Flag inspires and reminds us that we are still here, and that we remain steadfast in our commitment to American democracy.

From school children to Members of Congress, many begin their day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We do not do this as mere habit nor do we do it lightly. I, along with my colleagues and fellow Americans, have great respect for the American Flag and for all it represents. It is a great privilege to represent the Maryland 2nd Congressional District and to honor the American Flag for all it embodies at this critical time in our nation's history.