

open investigation of the rationale for war that was used by the Bush administration to assuage public doubts about preemptive, unilateral action against Iraq." Mr. Spalding from Akron, Ohio.

From Elyria, Ohio, Linda Mitchell writes, "As an American and one of your constituents, I want to know the truth behind what led up to the grossly unjust 'war' in Iraq. It is time for Congress to shed light upon what I believe we all know was the administration's misuse of the tragedy of September 11 to meet their own greedy need for oil." Ms. Mitchell from Elyria, Ohio.

From Strongsville, Ohio, John Regetz, Junior, "I strongly urge you to vote for the establishment of the commission to investigate the validity of the evidence that the present administration used to start the Iraq war. It appears to me that, for the first time in our history," for the first time in our history Mr. Regetz writes, "we unjustly started a war without first being truly provoked. I think the American people need to know the true facts about this whole mess we now find ourselves in."

Elizabeth from Akron, Ohio, "There is little argument that the past three years have been the saddest in our Nation's history. A nonelected President and his staff callously made critical decisions that deeply affect us all today and for generations to come. One such decision," she writes, "was to end the weapons inspection program and preemptively strike Iraq, supposedly before we were struck by weapons of mass destruction.

"Now, countless civilian and soldier deaths later, yet still no evidence of weapons of mass destruction, the administration is willing to admit that the intelligence leading to this mess was flawed. At the same time, they are talking about sending even more of our military personnel into the chaos that they have created."

Susan Clements, also from Akron, Ohio. Ms. Clements writes, It really is of crucial importance that we find out the truth in the matter. Lying to the American people about anything is troubling, but to lie about something like this is outrageous. Support for this war was lukewarm at best. Even that was a result of that argument. To date, thousands of people have died, a country has been devastated, a region thrown into turmoil simply to allow Bush's cronies to make a fortune by cleaning up the mess that he made. This is unconscionable. Please support the American people and hold them accountable. Thank you.

The last letter I will share with my colleagues as my time runs out is from Ron Collins of Barberton, Ohio. Mr. Collins writes, I am certain that you, like many of us here were frightened by the statements made in public back in the State of the Union and earlier by the Bush administration. If those statements were false, we must know of this Mr. Collins writes. Please show

America that you are not afraid to stand up for the rights of the people who put you in office. Despite any pressures you may have been placed under to ignore these issues, those of us in your district implore you to live up to the oath of office you took when you were sworn in.

I thank those people in Ohio that have shared their concerns with me and, most importantly, with the members of this body and with the American people because their concerns do indeed, Mr. Speaker, need to be heard.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST JEFFREY MATTISON WERSHOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Specialist Jeffrey Mattison Wershow. A member of the Florida National Guard, Specialist Wershow served admirably before his life was tragically ended by an assailant in Baghdad a little over a week ago.

Jeffrey was the son of Jonathon Wershow and Ann Marie Mattison. At 22 years old, this young man managed to create a long list of accomplishments. After graduating from High School, Jeffrey enlisted in the Army and served for three years in the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg. Upon fulfilling his obligation as an active duty soldier, Jeffrey received an honorable discharge from the Army and returned to Gainesville, Florida where he began pursuing his degree at Santa Fe Community College.

Everyone who knew Jeffrey recalls his vast knowledge of history and his lifelong desire to be a soldier. One of the most impressive things about this young man is that he had enough wisdom at such a young age to pursue both of his dreams. While continuing his education at Santa Fe and becoming actively and successfully involved in local politics, he also passionately served in the Florida National Guard.

Specialist Jeffrey Wershow was a soldier, a son, a brother, and a friend. He was also a proud American who we can all remember as an example of why this country is so great. I would like to offer my most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MISUSE OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is an old truism that the best defense is a

good offense. We have seen that here this afternoon in a quite effective way because Republicans, unable to defend their misuse of the United States Capitol Police against Democrats meeting in the Ways and Means library, have taken the offense in what I consider a very offensive way against our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK).

After the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) was told to "shut up" by another member of the committee, he responded with an insult, perhaps not appropriate, but certainly after significant provocation. To suggest that the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), a man of 72, surrounded by 20-plus Republican colleagues of lesser age, posed any threat to anyone is ludicrous on its face, and though it is not ordinarily done, since it has been done and incompletely by my colleague, the transcript uncorrected though it is, of the Committee on Ways and Means reflects that after the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) was told to shut up and he insulted his colleague who made that comment, that he then proceeded to say, come on, come on over here and make me, I dare you.

The transcript then reflects that laughter occurred and that thereafter, after additional comments by the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) declared recess is over, the classroom has been resumed.

Now some Americans and undoubtedly some commentators will be inclined to trivialize this entire incident as being mere childish behavior, with wrongs on both sides. There were no wrongs on both sides today.

The Capitol Police were not called out, as the transcript indicates, as the gentleman from California's (Mr. THOMAS) silence indicates, because of anything that the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) did, said, or implied. To suggest otherwise, indeed the suggestion of my colleague from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) instigated this incident is an outrageous slur on the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) who is a person of integrity, even though sometimes of sharply worded comments.

The Capitol Police were targeted not on the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), but Officer Spriggs, who came into the library, indicated they were asked to clear the library where the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) was not even present.

We cannot allow our Federal law enforcement resources to be diverted for partisan political purposes such as occurred today. Even at this very moment, the Inspector General to the Department of Justice is investigating the misuse of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Marshal's involvement in tracking down courageous Texas State legislators who