

The 100 elite U.S. infantrymen, who tried to capture and defeat a Somali warlord in his home, suffered 70 percent casualties—a figure sadly compared to a 1965 massacre in Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley. So badly pinned down were the Americans in Mogadishu that they could not evacuate their wounded, including Ranger commander Lt. Col. Danny McKnight, for nine hours. The biggest problem in that situation was the thousands of young men floating around the country laying in wait for our American troops.

Since then President George Bush ordered more than 25,000 U.S. troops to intervene in Somalia in December 1992 to help stop deaths from starvation, exacerbated by clan warfare, 30 Americans died in combat and 175 were wounded. There also were six non-combat deaths, and seven soldiers were killed and one missing off the Kenyan coast in a crash this month of an AC-130 Specter gunship. In addition, about 68 U.N. soldiers were killed and 262 wounded, according to U.N. figures, making this the bloodiest peace-keeping operation since the Congo crisis three decades ago.

This situation is similar to that experienced by our troops today in Iraq. I visited the As-Sayliyah Central Command Base in Doha, Qatar on October 13, 2003 and heard the concerns of the troops from their own mouths. Leaders of the units keep a warm smile and upbeat attitude to keep their troops feeling positive despite the compound feeling of homesickness due to the failure of our government to timely relieve them and the feeling of vulnerability due to the lack of a sufficient number of trained MP's. I heard testimony about how a ground soldier watched his partner and the operator of a military vehicle get tossed out as the vehicle was thrown airborne by a land mine. "Why did you hit this mine," I asked. "It was just one of those mines that was missed in the sweep . . .," said the soldier. Because there isn't enough personnel or specialists to assign to technical tasks, unskilled or untrained technicians frequently get asked to do jobs that they have not mastered enough to guarantee the lives of those who must traverse the sands of Baghdad. He misses his wife and newborn baby dearly. Because there hasn't been a change in the personnel on the front lines in several months, many reservists and active duty servicemen and women have spent a longer time in Iraq than was promised by the Administration. May 1, 2003 was supposed to have been a day of hope and homecoming; instead, it was a sham. Some of these troops feel like "sitting ducks" out in the foreign terrain. They don't speak Arabic. They don't know Tikrit like they know their hometowns. When I asked them if they have seen any troops of other coalition nations, they responded, "what coalition troops?" They need support and they need continuous relief.

Many of the vulnerabilities that led to the death of the 18 soldiers in "Operation Restore Hope" affect our troops in "Operation Iraqi Freedom." I value the service that our troops of "Operation Restore Hope" provided, and I am honored to support this important legislation to commemorate them.

REPUDIATING ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor and in strong support of H. Res. 409, a resolution to repudiate the Malaysian Prime Minister for racist comments harmful not only to the global Jewish community but to the advancement of peace in the Middle East and global tolerance of racial and ethnic diversity.

The speech by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to a gathering of Muslim leaders earlier this month has been described by other world leaders of democratic and free nations—including President Bush during his recent trip to Asia—as offensive and anti-Semitic. Rhetoric of this nature, which embodies age-old stereotypes, can be neither excused nor rationalized. It only serves to incite further sectarian violence and should be condemned universally.

Even more disturbing is that none of 57 national representatives attending the Organization of the Islamic Conference, including some U.S. allies, have raised their voices in protest. In fact, many demonstrated complicity in spreading this message of hate and incitement against Jews by applauding the Prime Minister's remarks. The standing ovation he received and the subsequent defense of his remarks by almost all the participants at this meeting of Muslim leaders reminds us that anti-Semitic beliefs remain prevalent throughout the world, even in moderate states like Malaysia.

I was proud to be one of 80 Members of the House who signed a letter to the Prime Minister of Malaysia condemning his remarks and calling upon him to clarify or retract his statements. I also commend the Senate for passing a resolution condemning the statement and requesting that President Bush condemn the remarks during his meeting with the Malaysian Prime Minister in Bangkok during Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Mr. Speaker, we must always take a stand against hatred and bigotry by world leaders whose rhetoric threatens to make peace in the Middle East and around the world more elusive. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this important resolution and urge my colleagues to support it today.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROTHER BENNO FOUNDATION

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 29, the Oceanside community will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Brother Benno foundation.

The foundation was established by Harold and Kay Kutler in 1983 based on the work of a Benedictine monk, Brother Benno Garrity, from the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside,

CA. Brother Benno died in 1992 after dedicating his life to feeding the poor and homeless.

The foundation began with a small soup kitchen at 307 Minnesota Street in Oceanside. It has since grown into a ministry addressing many types of social problems in San Diego County including hunger, homelessness, and alcohol and drug addiction.

Anyone needing help can come to Brother Benno's and register for services provided by the foundation. In their 20 years of service the foundation has provided 132,000 nights of lodging, more than 434,000 articles of clothing, 18,900 blankets and medical and dental care.

On behalf of all the people whose lives have been touched by the Brother Benno Foundation I want to recognize the volunteers and support staff at the Brother Benno Foundation. Thank you for 20 years of service.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW CHAPTER OF THE COLLEGE REPUBLICANS AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a new organization on the Southern University campus. A new chapter of the College Republicans has been created at this Historically Black University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is a welcome event for all Louisiana Republicans.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to all of the members of the Southern University College Republicans, and especially club president Gene Tinner, for their hard work in founding this new organization. I am confident that this chapter will earn respect on the Southern Campus and throughout Louisiana, and become a valuable addition to the state Republican Party. I am honored to share this affiliation with such a bright group of young Louisianians from one of our great educational institutions.

My best wishes go forth to this new group for their vision and leadership, and to the Southern University campus for their support.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a leading Insurance Provider that serves Western Pennsylvania. October 24, 2003 marks the 100th anniversary of Travelers Property Casualty, a leading provider of a broad range of insurance products.

Travelers Property Casualty, located in Pittsburgh since 1903, currently employs more than 225 individuals. Travelers provides a wide range of insurance products including workers compensation, integrated disability, property, liability specialty lines and broiler and

machinery. The company is the third largest commercial lines insurer and has been rated the second largest writer of homeowners and auto insurance through independent agents.

I applaud Travelers Property Casualty for their long-standing dedication to serving the people of Western Pennsylvania and all of their insurance needs.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this successful business for their 100 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE FRED C. FISCHER LIBRARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fred C. Fischer Library of Belleville, Michigan, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Serving the residents of Belleville, Sumpter Township, and Van Buren Township, the Fischer Library was built in 1953, when the public library outgrew its space at the J.C. Pullen Furniture store, and 3 other locations.

From 1953 until 1992 the Fred C. Fischer Library remained the quaint and homey 3,500 square foot library it was built to be. Meanwhile, the population of the area grew from 12,400 to over 35,000. The library became increasingly crowded and more bookshelves were needed to accommodate the growing collection.

Thanks to contributions from the Belleville Rotary Club's Charles B. Cozadd Foundation, the Simester estate, many smaller individual contributions, federal grants, and the commitment of the City of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren Townships, the Fischer Library was able to triple the size of the library, expand its catalog to include just about everything from books to DVDs, as well as offer public internet access, and events for patrons of all ages.

The Fred C. Fischer Library continues to live up to its mandate of "making the library an attractive place for all users, young people particularly."

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the Fred C. Fischer Library for its outstanding service to the people of Michigan, and wish them well in the next 50 years.

A BILL TO CLARIFY THE TAX TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today to ensure that burdensome regulation does not add unnecessarily to the cost of housing.

The need for this legislation is brought about because the Department of Treasury has issued regulations to provide guidance on the definition of contributions in aid of construction, so called CIAC, as enacted under the Small Business Job Protection Act of

1996. Despite the fact that Congress specifically removed language concerning "customer services fees" in its amendment in 1996, the Department added the language back into the proposed regulation specifying that such fees are not CIAC. They then defined the term very broadly to include service laterals, which traditionally and under the most common state law treatment would be considered CIAC.

Because state regulators require all of the costs of new connections to be paid up front, these regulations will force water and sewerage utilities to collect the federal tax from homeowners, builders, and small municipalities. Because they collect it up front, the utility is forced to "gross up" the tax by collecting a tax on the tax on the tax, resulting in an over 55 percent effective tax rate.

This bill will clarify prospectively that water and sewerage service laterals are included in the definition of contributions in aid of construction (CIAC). It clarifies current law by specifically stating that "customer service fees" are CIAC, but maintains current treatment of service charges for stopping and starting service (not CIAC).

Mr. MATSUI and Mrs. JOHNSON along with many of our colleagues here in the chamber, worked hard over the course of a number of years to restore the pre-1986 Act tax treatment for water and sewerage CIAC. In 1996, we succeeded in passing legislation. It was identical to pre-1986 law with three exceptions. Two of the changes were made in response to a Treasury Department request. The third removed the language dealing with "service connection fees" primarily because of potential confusion resulting from the ambiguity of the term. The sponsors of the legislation were concerned that the IRS would use this ambiguity to exclude a portion of what the state regulators consider CIAC.

As part of our efforts, we developed a revenue raiser in cooperation with the industry to make up any revenue loss due to our legislation, including the three changes. This revenue raiser extended the life, and changed the method, for depreciating water utility property from 20-year accelerated to 25-year straight-line depreciation. As a consequence of this sacrifice by the industry, our CIAC change made a net \$274 million contribution toward deficit reduction.

What is most important to keep in mind is that this unnecessary tax of over 55 percent is passed directly on to homeowners and local governments. I urge my colleagues to join with us in sponsoring this important legislation in order to ensure that American homeowners do not face further burdens.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for this needed legislation, which ensures the federal government's deep commitment to a highly trained, diverse workforce. But we should go even further. In order to best maximize federal government resources, we should encourage competition in all as-

pects of the student loan program, including consolidation loans.

In order to instill such competition, we will need to make sure that during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is currently moving through the Education and the Workforce Committee, we repeal the single holder rule. I want to thank Chairman BOEHNER and Congressman MCKEON, for their efforts to keep college costs under control during consideration of this important legislation. It will be part of my commitment to them as well as Federal agencies, students and families everywhere that they can have the benefit of competition from the more than one thousand qualified lenders in the program when they consolidate their loans and, thus, allow them to take advantage of historically low fixed interest rates.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT M. WATERMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rev. Robert M. Waterman for his devout commitment to his congregation and dedication to his community.

Rev. Robert M. Waterman, the son of a Pentecostal preacher, was born in Brooklyn, New York. As a young man, he was reared in Hemingway, South Carolina, and steeped in both the Pentecostal and Baptist traditions.

In 1985, he was licensed to preach by Abundant Life Tabernacle. Rev. Waterman also served as the Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor at Union Baptist Church in White Plains, New York under the pastoral guidance of Reverends Robert L. Mason and Verlin D. Williams. He began his work at Antioch on November 4, 2001, and was officially installed as the church's reverend in May of 2003. During this time, Reverend Waterman graduated from the New York Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

Rev. Waterman has brought many talents to Antioch including a youthful exuberance, a commitment to getting the job done, and a quiet yet ebullient spirituality. With his leadership, new seats and carpet have been installed in the balcony, an after school homework program was created, the Wednesday night bible study was revived, and a large influx of new worshippers have come to the church. Since his installation, Reverend Waterman has worked closely with the youth ministry, forming Teens United for Fellowship (TUFF). He has also established leadership classes and retreats, reinstituted the Christian education department, spearheaded the purchase of a state-of-the-art sound system in the sanctuary, and revived the Antioch Community Service program for youth and seniors. He has also been instrumental in the building fund for the elevator project.

Spiritually, Reverend Waterman is known as "The Preacher of Thunder" as he encourages his congregation to know God so that hearts, and thereby lives, can be changed. His commitment to Antioch is demonstrated by his relocation to the Bedford-Stuyvesant community.

As Antioch Baptist Church celebrates its 85th anniversary, the church is stronger than