

In short, Saddam Hussein was preserving his options. And it makes no sense to believe that his intentions were any less malevolent than they had been throughout his sordid history.

Perhaps inspection teams will not find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. First, as we have noted before, it's a big and complex place. Second, perhaps there really was nothing there to find. If that's the case, clearly there was an intelligence debacle—so big that President Bush ought to get to the bottom of it and act to forestall a recurrence.

But even in that case, the larger picture of these findings shows that Saddam Hussein was a threat to his neighbors, to his own people (just ask the Kurds) and potentially to anyone on the planet whom he viewed as his enemies. He was a human time bomb, always poised to start ticking again when he believed the time was right.

Even if the effort to rebuild and stabilize Iraq is not proceeding as tidily as had been hoped, the United States and its allies removed a clear and terrible danger from the world scene. About that, the world should have no second thoughts.

MS. SHARON SCHUCHERT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert of Stanislaus County who is being awarded the Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award. It is truly an honor to recognize all of her achievements as a dedicated social worker in our community.

Ms. Schuchert is the recipient of the 2003 award of Adoption Excellence Award, for her outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care.

In 1969, Ms. Schuchert began her public service career as a social worker for Stanislaus County Community Services Agency and in 2001, in collaboration with other community leaders, she founded Camp A Life With Adoption Yields Success (A.L.W.A.Y.S.). Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. mission statement is to provide every member of an adoptive family with a supportive environment. At Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. adoptive families spend time in Pine Crest, California learning about the unique challenges facing adoptive families in a positive family oriented setting. For many families who attend Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S. this is one of the few times they are surrounded by others with similar family structures.

Ms. Schuchert's award is especially relevant as November is National Adoption Month. There are roughly 130,000 children ranging from toddlers to teenagers who are currently in foster care waiting to be placed in a safe, permanent home. Recognizing their plight on a national level is an important first step to permanency. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them on their journey to becoming confident and successful members of society.

Mr. Speaker, the county of Stanislaus, and the 18th Congressional District of California have been greatly strengthened by the efforts of Ms. Schuchert and Camp A.L.W.A.Y.S.

America's children must not be forgotten and through the leadership of individuals like Ms. Schuchert we can continue to fight on their behalf.

I ask my colleagues to help honor Ms. Sharon Schuchert today for her service to this great nation.

COMMENDING JOHN WILLIAMS

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank John Williams, Mayor of Bedford, Indiana, for completing 24 years of service to the great people of Indiana. I wish John, Jean and their family well in his retirement.

Public service often brings great satisfaction in the ability to help people. During the last three decades, John has worked hard to better the lives of those in southern Indiana. At the same time, those who serve cannot do so alone. John's wife, Jean, too, has been a valuable member of the community in public service and, has given her support, even as she had her own personal health battles.

Mr. Speaker, Indiana has benefitted from the service of these two fine Hoosiers and I am proud to call both John and Jean Williams my friend.

Tonight, I rise to recognize a unique man who has left a positive mark. By my count, Mayor Williams will have served some 8,760 days in office spanning 24 years. During his unprecedented tenure, the city's landscape has undergone a remarkable change for the better as vacant stores acquired tenants and empty lots sprouted new homes and businesses. City pride has swelled and Bedford's reputation of sound government and livability has spread throughout the State of Indiana.

When Mayor Williams entered office he inherited a city with a decaying downtown business district and an outdated and malfunctioning infrastructure. To be successful, he realized that community action and involvement were needed. He established a citizens' committee to lead efforts to rejuvenate downtown and at the same time worked with state officials to improve transportation and utility services.

Mr. Speaker, today that same "citizens' committee" still operates and has evolved into the present-day Bedford Revitalization, Inc. As with many smaller communities, the courthouse square, once a bastion of activity had slowed. In recent years, the community behind the leadership of Mayor Williams, focused upon the development of the Courthouse Square business district and they succeeded in redeveloping it into the center of the community as it once stood. Moreover, they have succeeded in having the district included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bedford, Indiana, located approximately 76 miles south of Indianapolis, had many of the same challenges regarding transportation and infrastructure of other cities its size. In the early 1980s, Mayor Williams used his creativity to solve the transportation problem for local residents. He worked with state and federal agencies and created the Transit Authority of the Stone City (TASC). In the 1990s, he

built upon that effort and initiated a point-to-point, or door-to-door, pickup service that streamlined the operation. This success prompted state transportation officials to cite TASC as a model program for other small to medium-sized Hoosier cities to emulate. Today, the buses record about 80,000 passenger trips a year, providing mobility and independence for many of our citizens.

Mayor Williams' transportation successes, and his efforts to expand and develop opportunities for local businesses and individuals to compete in the marketplace, resulted in a four-lane east-west street connecting Indiana State Road 37 and Lincoln Avenue that is now named after the Mayor. Doing so, opened hundreds of acres for industrial and business development. The process took ten years from inception to completion, but, today, John A. Williams Boulevard is a main artery in the city.

Mr. Speaker, furthering recreation has been a continuing program in Mayor Williams' administration. Today, Bedford has seven city parks and an 18-hole golf course, which has been called one of the best municipal courses in Indiana.

Mayor Williams may be retiring but he still has a lot to give to Indiana and Indiana owes a lot to him. I am pleased to join with the citizens of Bedford and salute my friend, Mayor John Williams, on a lifetime of public service and a job well done. God speed!

PATENT AMENDMENT

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 2003*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this summer I introduced an amendment that provides congressional support for the current federal policy against patenting humans. It was approved by the House of Representatives without objection on July 22, 2003 as Sec. 801 of the Commerce/Justice/State appropriations bill.

Since that time, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) has launched a lobbying campaign against the amendment, and has now enlisted the political aid of the broader "Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research" (CAMR), an umbrella organization of groups supporting human cloning for research purposes.

BIO and CAMR claim to support the current policy of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) against patenting human beings. However, they oppose this amendment, saying it would have a far broader scope—potentially prohibiting patents on stem cell lines, procedures for creating human embryos, prosthetic devices, and in short almost any drug or product that might be used in or for human beings.

The absurdity of these claims is apparent when one compares the language of the amendment with the language of the current USPTO policy that these groups claim to support.

The House-approved amendment reads:

"None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to issue patents on claims directed to or encompassing a human organism."

The current USPTO policy is set forth in two internal documents: