

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF COALITION SOLDIERS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the news media is quick to provide gratuitous coverage of anti-war protests in Europe and elsewhere. They are quick to provide a forum for critics of U.S. policy in Iraq and even quicker to highlight the problems, misfortunes, and missteps of our coalition forces in Iraq. What they rarely do, however, is to highlight the contributions and valor of our coalition soldiers.

Take, for example, the case of Salvadoran Corporal Samuel Toloza. According to a recent Associated Press story, "One of his friends was dead, 12 others lay wounded and the four soldiers still left standing were surrounded and out of ammunition. So Toloza said a prayer, whipped out his . . . knife and charged the Iraqi gunmen."

The story goes on, "In one of the only known instances of hand-to-hand combat in the Iraq conflict, Toloza stabbed several attackers who were swarming around a comrade. The stunned assailants backed away momentarily, just as a relief column came to their rescue."

According to the reports, Toloza and 16 other members were trapped by members of Muqtada al-Sadr's al-Mahdi militia. They initially did not fire their weapons for several hours, for fear of inflicting civilian casualties, despite the fact that insurgents were peppering the group with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Finally, after fighting back, the group, comprised of Salvadoran and American soldiers, ran out of ammunition. Faced with mounting casualties, they placed wounded soldiers on transports and tried to make their way back to the base. Unfortunately, they ran into a contingent of about 10 insurgents on the way. That is when Toloza, out of ammunition, rushed the insurgents with nothing but his knife, buying enough time for reinforcements to arrive.

"We never considered surrender," Toloza reportedly said, "I was trained to fight until the end."

Phil Kosnett, who heads the Coalition Provisional Authority in Najaf, also has nothing but praise for the nearly 400 Salvadoran troops fighting shoulder to shoulder with American troops in Iraq. In fact, he is so impressed with their valor and dedication to duty, he has nominated six of them for the Bronze Star, and for good reason. The AP story goes on to explain that Kosnett himself believes he owes his life to them. Salvadoran troops, the story continues, "repelled a well-executed insurgent attack on Kosnett's three-car convoy in March."

Mr. Speaker, let us pay tribute to the sacrifices and heroism of our soldiers, as well as those of our allies, like Corporal Toloza, for their efforts and contributions to protecting freedom and on their efforts in the war on terror.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY MCGRORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Mary McGrory, who passed away 2 weeks ago at the age of 85. During her magnificent career with the Washington Star and The Washington Post, Mary informed and engaged her readers on every major event of the past half century.

Mary was a keen observer, an elegant writer and a tenacious journalist; and she was an inspiration to so many women. It was a joy to read her columns, and of course, we miss her terribly. That is why I am so pleased to join my colleagues here today, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), who was a very close personal friend of Mary McGrory, and our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who is in the Chamber now, as well as our colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), who had the honor of being pallbearers for Mary. What a tribute.

We loved Mary for her insights. No matter how many reporters covered an event, Mary always found the small detail that had large implications others may have overlooked.

She noted the manner in which Richard Nixon's staff reacted to his retirement press conference in 1962, the bearing of Secretary of Army Robert Stevens during the Army-McCarthy hearings, and so many other fine points. At times, it seemed that Mary grasped the significance of everything that she saw.

She saw nearly everything. We loved Mary for her diligence. She was one of the hardest-working people in Washington. Even into her eighties, she would come to Capitol Hill to see firsthand the events of the day.

She was always willing to have a cub reporter, even a senior editor, take her bags; but she would never ask someone else to take her notes.

She was legendary for looking after every detail, even writing out the instructions for her own funeral. She had directed her former Washington Star colleague, Phil Gailey, to talk about her beloved Star in the eulogy, and she told him: "Don't go blubbering on me the way you do when you read a dog story with a sad ending."

Mary's insight and her industry were matched only by her eloquence. We loved Mary for choosing every word with care.

Mary had a vocabulary that would send her editor reaching for his dictionary, and when she wrote about a retiring Congresswoman once that her "black eyes still snap with the old fire," she gave her readers in eight words a better understanding of the congresswoman than lesser writers did in eight paragraphs.

From the Army-McCarthy hearings that brought her to Washington's attention, to her Watergate coverage for which she won the Pulitzer Prize, to her chronicling of the Iraq War debate which proved to be her swan song, her writing enriched our national dialogue. Those of us who were inspired by President John F. Kennedy, as she was, took sad solace in her loving reporting on his assassination.

Here, in the Congress, we were so fortunate to have the opportunity to honor Mary McGrory in March and to see the outpouring of affection and gratitude for her career. We were joined by many Members of the House of Representatives, many members of the United States Senate, many of her colleagues from the press corps. We were her fans, and we were there for her.

God blessed America with Mary McGrory, a beautiful writer, a wonderful person. Her passing is a tremendous loss for us all.

She loved Boston. She loved being Irish, but she also loved Italy; and she had a bond always with the Italians. She visited Italy frequently.

She loved her garden. We all know how much she loved her garden. One could talk all day about Mary McGrory and never be able to capture her in the way she would capture her. Nonetheless, it was an honor and a privilege, and, indeed, a joy to be able to call her friend.

Again, I know that I speak for many in this Chamber who will say thank you, Mary, for what you have given us. Thank you for being a blessing to our country. We will miss you sadly. Thank you.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again this week as part of the Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican working group dedicated to rooting out the rampant waste, fraud and