

administration is not supporting our troops. But, Mr. Speaker, when are congressional Republicans going to realize that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY and Secretary Rumsfeld simply cannot conduct this war, they do not know how?

How many more months should we sit by silently enduring the kind of month that we had in April? How many more months can we ignore the fact that the minuscule amount of international support we once had in Iraq continues to shrink? How many more months are we supposed to sit by silently and not question the Bush administration on why it did not develop a post-Saddam plan before going to war?

It is time that someone is held accountable in this administration, and it is time for the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, to resign.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Iraq, Republicans here in the House of Representatives stand by obediently, wrapping themselves in the American flag, but refusing to ever question any action taken by the Bush administration. Now with the unveiling of these deplorable pictures of abuse from Iraq, House Republicans once again obediently followed their leader, President Bush.

Today, House Democrats called on this House to oversee the Bush administration and investigate these awful abuses. In the other Chamber, Secretary Rumsfeld is scheduled to testify tomorrow on his role in the abuses committed by a few American interrogators. I would imagine my colleagues over in the other Chamber will ask Secretary Rumsfeld why he never mentioned these pictures during a visit to Capitol Hill last week, hours before they would appear on the CBS News Magazine.

I would imagine my colleagues over in the other Chamber will ask Secretary Rumsfeld why he never bothered to read the Taguba report, even though it had been on his desk for more than a month before these outrageous instances of abuse finally came to light on CBS news.

Mr. Speaker, these are valid questions; and they should not only be asked in the U.S. Senate. It is time congressional House Republicans take their oversight responsibilities seriously and call on Secretary Rumsfeld to come over here to the House and answer these questions.

Earlier this week, when the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), was asked whether or not he called for an investigation into the abuse of prisoners in Iraq, the gentleman responded, "A full-fledged investigation, that is like saying we need hearings on every case of police brutality, and I do not think they are warranted."

Well, Mr. Speaker, for the majority leader to minimize the abuses committed in Iraq does nothing to help our troops in Iraq. The Congress must show the Arab world that it takes this issue

seriously, so we can save the lives of American troops in the future.

Mr. Speaker, if we truly want to support our troops in combat, the U.S. House of Representatives must oversee actions of the Bush administration. Failing that, in my opinion, we are failing our troops.

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

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

HONORING THE GREATEST GENERATION

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I have a special honor. I get to present the World War II medals that my uncle earned in the war to him. He is what Tom Brokaw has called part of the Greatest Generation. In fact, last week we opened the World War II Memorial, with a formal ceremony coming Memorial Day weekend.

Since we are in a challenging world environment, many people are saying today that we are seeing the next Greatest Generation.

□ 1600

The services are reporting that they are meeting their recruiting goals. Imagine that. In an environment where we are at war, soldiers are dying, recruitment levels are being met. Truly, we are seeing a revival of patriotism and, very possibly, another "greatest generation."

However, that is not without cost, and today I am here to mention five individuals from my district who have lost their lives in service to their country, not all in Iraq, as we will come to see.

Each of these people gave their lives in pursuit of freedom and democracy. They should be recognized for their sacrifices.

Corporal Foster Jostes was a 21-year-old from Albion, Illinois who served as an Army Corporal in the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. He was a 2000 graduate of Edwards County High School, after which he joined the National Guard at age 17. He had only been in Iraq for about a week when military personnel say his Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing Jostes and the driver, in a suburb of Baghdad.

Lance Corporal Torrey Stoffel-Gray was a 19-year-old Marine from Patoka, Illinois. Patoka is a rural town in my district with around 630 people. At 16, Lance Corporal Stoffel-Gray left Patoka to enter Lincoln Challenge, a military-style alternative school at Rantoul, Illinois. Many friends and

family say that Lincoln Challenge changed his life and helped him find his way. This young man was recently killed in action in Iraq when his convoy was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade and gunfire in the Al Anbar Province.

Gary Weston was a 52-year-old from Vienna, Illinois. He was employed by DynCorp International, serving with the United Nations as international police officers. He and other officers were fired upon by a Jordanian police officer for unknown reasons. Two fellow workers were killed in the resulting fire fight. Gary was flown to a hospital after receiving several gunshot wounds. He later died from complications from the gunshot wounds. His wife Nina Weston was there by her husband's side.

Kim Bigley was a 47-year-old who lived most of her life in southern and Southwestern Illinois. She was an employee of DynCorp International, which was serving with the United Nations as an international police officer and was a former warden at the Shawnee Correctional Center. She had just completed her first day of job orientation when she was killed. Along with Mr. Weston, Kim was fired upon by a Jordanian police officer for unknown reasons and was killed as a result of the fire fight.

Captain John Tipton was a 32-year-old who grew up in Granite City, Illinois. He died recently in an explosion during combat in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq. The province, west of Baghdad, and is one of the most hostile regions in Iraq. He was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas with his wife, Susie Tipton of Collinsville and their two children: Austin, 4 and Kaitlyn, 2. He was commander of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

I cannot say enough about these men and women who are putting their lives on the line every day in the hopes of making a difference in far-away lands. They made the ultimate sacrifice and should never be taken for granted. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of the troops, their families and their loved ones.

Truly, we are seeing the next "greatest generation." May God bless our troops and may God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).