

community and to uphold our American values with the same patriotic zeal exemplified by her father.

Last year, for the fourth consecutive year, I submitted a resolution in the Senate to designate the week of Veterans Day as "National Veterans Awareness Week." It explicitly underscores the need for our schools to develop educational programs to highlight the contributions of veterans in our country.

This past year, Ellen held a very moving ceremony. The school invited every friend, relative, or neighbor of a student who served in our military to come and speak at the ceremony in front of the entire school and faculty about their experiences.

Madam President, included in the list of speakers was the mother of LT Scott Travis, a Wilmington native, a graduate of Brandywine High School and West Point, who is currently serving in Iraq.

The ceremony brought real people with real stories into the classroom and gave the kids a tangible sense of what it meant and what it means to sacrifice for one's country. The climax was when students pinned medals on the veterans in attendance as a way to personally thank them for their service.

That is the kind of school Ellen runs. That is the kind of person Ellen is.

By the way, for the record, let me say that in my 31st year in the Senate, Rabbi Bernhardt is only the fifth guest Chaplain I have invited from Delaware, following in the footsteps of Father Jim Trainer from St. Patrick's Church, Rabbi Kenneth S. Cohen from Congregation Beth Shalom, and Father Robert Balducci from St. Anthony's Parish.

From where I sit, you are in good company and so are they.

I thank Rabbi Bernhardt for being here this morning. By the way, you should be very proud of your son sitting behind me who is a relatively new member of my staff. He is already having an impact in the conduct of business around here.

Again, I know I speak for all my colleagues when I welcome you and your family here today. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made for this country, and thank you for the values you are imprinting on the young men and women of my community.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee wishes to speak on an important subject. Will the Senator indicate how much time he wishes to take?

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I say to the Senator, I do not want to interfere. I want to speak for about 10 minutes regarding Ahmed Chalabi. I do not have to do it now.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I say to the distinguished ranking member, we have 25 minutes that have been allocated. We could easily, I am confident, get another 10 minutes. Does the Senator wish to speak right now?

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I would like to do whatever accommodates the Senate.

Mr. REID. Through the Chair to the distinguished Senator from Florida, how is the Senator's time schedule?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I say there is never a dull moment in the life of this Senator from Florida. Since I have learned the ways of comity, accommodation, felicity, I yield to the distinguished Senator from the State of Delaware. In fact, in my remarks about are we better off now than we were 4 years ago, I was going to try to engage my distinguished colleague in a colloquy.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there be 5 additional minutes on both sides for morning business. That will allow the Senator from Delaware to speak for 10 minutes. If my unanimous consent request is granted, that would allow him to begin now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will need an additional 10 minutes. All time in excess has expired.

Mr. REID. Our time is gone?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are 23½ minutes remaining.

Mr. REID. Where did our time go? Did somebody speak?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Delaware and the junior Senator from Delaware.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 10 minutes on each side, then.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AHMED CHALABI

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I thank my friend from Florida who knows much more about what I am going to mention today. He and I worked on what I am going to talk about for some time. And that is—there are reports coming in that the home and offices of Ahmed Chalabi were raided today in Baghdad.

I do not have clear evidence yet as to whether they were raided by the Iraqi government or by the CPA, but both the Senator and I have been incredible skeptics of this administration's reliance on this fellow, Ahmed Chalabi, who has been indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced in Jordan.

For the last 2 years—although I have nothing personal against Mr. Ahmed Chalabi—I have been urging this administration, particularly the Secretary of Defense, the Vice President, and Mr. Wolfowitz: Do not put our eggs into Mr. Chalabi's basket.

Mr. Chalabi is the President of the Iraqi National Congress. I was so concerned about this that my friend from Nebraska, Senator HAGEL, and I were literally smuggled into northern Iraq about a month before the war began because we wanted to meet with the Barzani and Talibani clients in northern Iraq to determine what their attitude was, first, toward our invasion with Iraq—would they be with us? There were reports that they would have been, but we wanted to find out firsthand.

And B, we wanted to find out whether Ahmed Chalabi spoke for them. The leaders of both those clans said: We want to make it clear that the INC does not speak for us. We did form the INC with him, but he is out for himself, not us.

I could never quite understand the incredible preoccupation of the administration with Mr. Chalabi. I think that reliance has done us great damage in terms of establishing legitimacy.

Today's raid comes on the heels of an announcement earlier this week that the Defense Department belatedly, after well over a year, has cut off the \$340,000 monthly payment to the INC, headed by Mr. Chalabi.

Last month, I wrote to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense asking them to explain why we continue to pay Mr. Chalabi a monthly stipend. The action was seen as sort of putting our thumb on the scale—we say we want the Iraqis to decide their outcome, and here we are pouring into one man, an outfit, \$340,000 a month.

It is no secret Mr. Chalabi has long been the favorite of the Pentagon civilians and the Vice President, although the CIA, the uniformed military, and the State Department have been adamantly opposed to him.

We recently had a meeting with the Secretary of Defense in a closed session, but I am allowed to say this in public, and I raised the question of funds to Chalabi and the phrase—well, I guess I cannot quote exactly what the phrase was. I cannot quote the Secretary. But the point is there has been a real difficulty in pushing back.

It has been clear for some time our close association with Mr. Chalabi has damaged American interests in Iraq. Chalabi is the best known figure in the Iraqi Governing Council, according to a poll taken. We appointed him. By the way, a poll taken a couple of months ago in Iraq shows that he is not only the best known member of the Governing Council, but he is also the least popular, with a negative rating of over 60 percent.

Chalabi, as my colleagues will recall, was flown in to southern Iraq literally days before the statue of Saddam fell. It was actually during the war; he was flown in to a portion of southern Iraq we had already conquered and passed. He had been flown in without the knowledge of the State Department and other senior officials. I guess he was going to be the triumphant Shi'a