

HONORING BERNARD HOPKINS

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Philadelphia's own, Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins. Mr. Speaker, my hometown is one of the greatest sports cities in the world. We have honored many champions over the years. But none of them is more revered than the undisputed Middleweight Champion of the world, Bernard Hopkins.

Bernard always dreamed of being a champion. He first showed his championship form at an early age, winning the Pennsylvania Junior Olympics at age nine. Mr. Speaker, Bernard Hopkins' name is frequently and properly mentioned in the same breath as the best middleweights in history. Men like Sugar Ray Robinson, Carlos Monzon and Marvin Hagler. Even his latest opponent, Oscar De La Hoya once said that Hopkins is "one of the great talents we've had in this generation." De La Hoya, who lost and was go'd by a Hopkins left hook to the body, called the champ one of the top 5 boxers in history. And, like his championship, that description is undisputed. After all, he has won 45 professional bouts, 32 by knockout.

Let's put his record into perspective. Carlos Monzon formerly held the seemingly unbreakable record for successful title defenses, beating back 14 attempts to take his crown. But, Hopkins shattered that record back in 2002. Altogether, he has successfully defended his title 19 times since January, 1996.

This record is historic and he should be proud of it. But, Mr. Speaker, Philadelphians don't simply love and respect Bernard Hopkins the fighter. They love and respect Bernard Hopkins the man. He rose from humble beginnings to reach greatness. And he never left behind the city of his birth.

Bernard is a true role model. He works tirelessly with offenders, especially youth, to help them get on and stay on the straight and narrow. He is a husband and a father and great American.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all my colleagues join me in honoring a great champion, and an even greater person, Bernard Hopkins.

LETTERS FROM A MARINE  
OFFICER**HON. LAMAR S. SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two letters that were forwarded to me by Bill and Bonnie Nofsinger. Their nephew, 1st Lt. Robert I. Nofsinger, is stationed in Iraq with the United States Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Nofsinger's letters contradict much of what has been reported in the national news media about the war on terror in Iraq. Reports have led some Americans to conclude that all of Iraq is in turmoil and despair, which is not supported by the facts. Much of the country is making the successful transition to stability.

Lt. Nofsinger writes:

"When you watch the news and see doomsday predictions and spiteful opinions about our efforts over here, you can refute them by knowing that we are doing a tremendous amount of good. So spread the word."

Mr. Speaker, I will follow Lt. Nofsinger's advice and spread the word by submitting his eloquent and heartfelt letters for my colleagues and others to read.

HELLO EVERYONE: I am taking time to ask you all for your help. First off, I'd like to say that this is not a political message. I'm not concerned about domestic politics right now. We have much bigger things to deal with, and we need your help.

It seems that despite the tremendous and heroic efforts of the men and women serving here in Iraq to bring much needed peace and stability to this region, we are losing the war of perception with the media and American people.

Our enemy has learned that the key to defeating the mighty American military is by swaying public opinion at home and abroad. We are a people that cherish the democratic system of government and therefore hold the will of the people in the highest regard. We love to criticize ourselves almost to an endless degree, because we care what others think. Our enemies see this as a weakness and are trying to exploit it.

When we ask ourselves questions like, "Why do they hate us?" or "What did we do wrong?" we are playing into our enemies' hands. Our natural tendency to question ourselves is being used against us to undermine our effort to do good in the world. How far would we have gotten if after the surprise attacks on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, we would have asked, "Why do the Japanese hate us so much?" or "How can we change ourselves so that they won't do that again?"

Here in Iraq the enemy is trying very hard to portray our efforts as failing and fruitless. They kill innocents and desecrate their bodies in hopes that the people back home will lose the will to fight for liberty. They are betting on our perceived weakness as a thoughtful, considerate people. Unfortunately our media only serves to further their cause. In an industry that feeds on ratings and bad news, a failure in Iraq would be a goldmine. When our so-called "trusted" American media takes a quote from an Iraqi doctor as the gospel truth over that of the men and women that are daily fighting to protect the right to freedom of the press, you know something is wrong. That doctor claimed that of the 600 Iraqis who were casualties of the fighting in Fallujah, the vast majority of them were women, children and the elderly. This is totally absurd. In the history of man, no one has spent more time and effort, often to the detriment of our own mission, to be more discriminate in our targeting of the enemy than the American military. The Marines and Soldiers serving in Iraq have gone through extensive training in order to avoid shedding innocent blood.

Yet, despite all of this, our media consistently sides with those who openly lie and directly challenge the honor of our brave heroes fighting for liberty and peace. What we have to remember is that peace is not defined as an absence of war. It is the presence of liberty, stability, and prosperity. In the face of the horrendous tyranny of the former Iraqi regime, the only way true peace was able to come to this region was through force. That is what the American Revolution was all about. Have we forgotten?

Freedom is not free and "peace" without principle is not peace. The peace that so-called "peace advocates" support can only be brought to Iraq through the military. And we are doing it, if only the world will let us!

If the American people believe we are failing, even if we are not, then we will ultimately fail. That is why I am asking for your support. Become a voice of truth in your community. Wherever you are, fight the enemy's lies. Don't buy into pessimism and apathy and say that it is hopeless, that they hate us too much, that this part of the world is just too messed up and it is our fault anyway, that we are to blame.

Whether you're in Middle School, working a 9-5 job, retired or a stay-at-home mom, you can make a huge difference! There is nothing more powerful than the truth. So, when you watch the news and see doomsday predictions and spiteful opinions about our efforts over here, you can refute them by knowing that we are doing a tremendous amount of good. Spread the word. No one is poised to make such an amazing contribution to the everyday lives of Iraqis and the rest of the Arab world than the American Armed Forces. By making this a place where liberty can finally grow, we are making the whole world safer.

Your efforts at home are directly tied to our success. You are the soldiers at home fighting the war of perception. So I'm asking you as fellow soldiers to do your duty; stop the attempts of the enemy wherever you are. You are a mighty force for good, because truth is on your side.

Together we will win this fight and ensure a better world for the future.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,

1ST LT. ROBERT L. NOFSINGER USMC.

DEAR FRIENDS: Well, my unit has come to the end of its time here in Iraq and I wanted to send a final note. During the past seven months 3rd Battalion 11th Marines has accomplished much. Our artillery Battalion was given the mission of convoy security and provisional MP (Military Police) duties. From that mission gnaw other duties and we eventually ended up accomplishing a wide range of tasks.

We were assigned to assist the Iraqi Border Patrol along the Saudi Arabian border. Along with that came the responsibility to care for the nearby town of Nukhayb. It is a fairly small town that had been ravaged by two wars, 12 years of sanctions, and a tyrannical government that neglected its basic needs. Over the course of seven months, our small civil affairs section was able to spend roughly \$1.3 million on the infrastructure, people of Nukhayb and outlying areas. The projects included the following:

Hospital renovation and medical supplies; school refurbishment; water supply improvement; sanitation equipment; regional fire department; agricultural cooperative; multiple power generators and transformers; equipment and gear for local Iraqi Security Forces; electrical rewiring; refurbishment of local government buildings; establishment of employment programs; and local mosque refurbishment.

Nukhayb is now a thriving active community with a renewed sense of direction. The local economy is rapidly increasing and is already far beyond where it was at any time during the past 30 years. 3/11's main mission was to provide convoy security for military and non-military convoys throughout Iraq. This was done with the utmost patience and professionalism. The Marines of 3/11 being trained as artillerymen, performed tremendously as provisional infantrymen without skipping a beat. As this war has only further proven, Artillerymen are the "go to" Marines of the Marine Corps. In the end 3/11 was responsible for escorting hundreds upon hundreds of vital convoys throughout the theater.

In addition to this responsibility 3/11 was asked to supervise and run a provincial Iraqi

Security College where Iraqi Security Forces were trained to take control of their country. The college was so successful that it is now entirely run by Iraqis.

Continuing the Military Police role 3/11 also maintained and operated a provincial detention facility where detainees were treated with respect and humanity. Long before incidents at other prisons in Iraq were discovered, 3/11 set the highest of possible standards in the country for quality of care and facility conditions. The detention facility has been heralded as a hallmark in our area of operations and brings much praise to the battalion.

All along the way 3/11 was asked to step outside its area of expertise and provide the highest level of performance, and each time the expectations were met and exceeded. Few units if any can claim to have accomplished such a wide variety of missions in such a short period of time. The Marines of 3rd Battalion 11th Marines can return home to their loved ones knowing they provided absolutely vital contributions to the war in Iraq. The Iraqi people have never known liberty in their entire history and now they finally have a chance to live free. With Marines and soldiers out there like those from 3/11, the war on terror will be definitively won and the world will know a higher level of freedom and prosperity than it has ever known. I personally want to thank each of you who have supported me through this journey. I will never be able to put into words, my appreciation for all you have done for me. My definition of family has grown exponentially since being over here and I thank you. But more than just your personal support I am grateful for your support of the cause. Not everyone in America is educated enough to understand the full importance of what we are doing in this part of the world and I am so thankful that you all do. Freedom and liberty are fragile and America seems to be one of the only countries actively fighting to ensure that they do not perish from this earth. Your continued efforts at home are much needed in spreading the truth. Together we will win this fight and secure a better future for the whole world.

God Bless and Semper Fidelis,  
1ST LT. ROBERT L. NOFSINGER USMC.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LET PARENTS RAISE THEIR KIDS ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Let Parents Raise Their Kids Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the Federal government adopt a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends the government implement universal or mandatory mental-health screening in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally funded uni-

versal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there was a 300-percent increase in psychotropic drug use in two to four year old children from 1991 to 1995!

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a Federal mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Mr. Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Let Raise Their Kids Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
DONALD GLENN BROTZMAN

**HON. JOEL HEFLEY**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 6, 2004*

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of former Republican Congressman Donald Brotzman of Colorado, who recently passed away at the age of 82. Congressman Brotzman honorably

represented Colorado's second Congressional District from 1962 through 1975, during some of this great nation's most tumultuous and trying times.

He was born June 28, 1922 on a farm in Logan County, on Colorado's eastern plains. Both a musician and three-sport athlete at Sterling High School, Don Brotzman won a football scholarship in 1939 to the University of Colorado in Boulder where he was an all-conference center and varsity letter-winner in shot put and discus.

As war continued to rage on the other side of the world, Don Brotzman delayed his education and served as an Army officer in Yokohama, Japan, and the Philippines through World War II. Following the end of the war, he returned to Boulder to complete degrees in business and law in 1949.

Mr. Brotzman began working as a lawyer in Boulder in 1950, and was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1952 and later the State Senate. Local media named him the outstanding freshman member in both chambers.

By 1959, he was appointed United States Attorney for Colorado by President Eisenhower and served as such until he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1962, where he was voted president of his freshman class.

Congressman Brotzman served five terms and helped to shape laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Public Broadcasting Act. He reached across the aisle to champion causes such as the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area west of Boulder, a national program to help runaway youth and a tax credit for higher-education expenses. Despite serving on the minority side of the aisle, he successfully found the funds to complete the Chatfield Dam and Reservoir, and sponsored the bill authorizing the building of Bear Creek Dam and Reservoir in Colorado.

Furthermore, he persuaded the Johnson Administration to sponsor a study that eventually changed the Army's environmental practices at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Adam's County, Colorado, and he was one of the first members of Congress to call for an all-volunteer military.

Colorado lost a great friend and a tremendous leader when it lost Donald Brotzman. His strong western values and commitment to always do what was right, despite partisan interests and outside persuasion, has continued to serve as a great example.

RECOGNIZING SPIRIT OF JACOB  
MOCK DOUB AND EXPRESSING  
SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT "NATIONAL  
TAKE A KID MOUNTAIN  
BIKING DAY" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED  
IN JACOB MOCK DOUB'S  
HONOR

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 5, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 480, expressing the sense of Congress that "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" should be established in honor of Jacob Mock Doub.