

would adhere to the very democratic principles we are trying to export to the Middle East.

There are some that say we need to remain in Iraq until we are sure we have destroyed every last remnant of Iraqi's growing insurgency. The United States has faced this kind of elusive enemy before, in places like Vietnam in the 1970s and the Philippines in the early 1900s. We learned then and we should know now that this is a battle that we cannot win, because it is a battle that is not fought on a traditional battlefield.

Bullets will not win this war, because for every insurgent killed, three more sign up to fill his shoes. The suicide bombers of tomorrow are born from the bombed-out homes of Iraq's war zones of today. We have to be smarter than the insurgents if we wish to see a free and democratic Iraq.

In the end, withdrawing our forces is the smarter option. This is not a suggestion that our troops have failed. It is an acknowledgment that the military option itself has failed us. It is a recognition that we need to address the root causes of the Iraq insurgency instead of watching America become further bogged down in an unwinnable war.

In the 108th Congress I introduced a SMART Security Resolution for the 21st Century which called for a Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. Adopting this type of foreign policy will help us avoid the many mistakes that have been characterized in the war in Iraq.

SMART security calls for the United States to address the root causes of terrorism by engaging our international partners and the humanitarian community in international reconstruction and political transition processes.

SMART security calls for increased developmental aid programs, integrated with peace-building and conflict-resolution measures. By withdrawing U.S. military forces from Iraq, we can spend some of the billions of dollars which formerly paid for military operations on humanitarian projects for the Iraqi people, such as new schools for Iraq's children, water desalination plants and improved economic and civil infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must stop engaging in a reckless national security strategy, because our current path only encourages further terrorist activities. It costs Americans in our taxes, in our loss of our loved ones. It costs our international reputation, and it makes our troops sitting ducks.

It is time we pursue the SMART security strategy for America. That is the best way to secure Iraq, and it is the best way to keep America safe and secure for the future. If we do not, all we will be left with is the consequences of our current failed policies.

LEGENDARY TWIN CITIES SPORTSWRITER SID HARTMAN CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to legendary sportswriter Sid Hartman on his 60th anniversary with the Star Tribune, Minnesota's largest newspaper.

For six decades Sid Hartman has been writing his celebrated column, and his WCCO radio show and daily sports reports are heard by hundreds of thousands of loyal listeners throughout the Upper Midwest.

Mr. Speaker, Sid Hartman personifies the American dream. Born and raised on the north side of Minneapolis, Sid started peddling newspapers as a fifth-grader in downtown Minneapolis and doing chores for the sports editor of the Star Tribune when he was in high school. In all, Sid Hartman has worked for the Star Tribune for 70 years, and to this day nobody, nobody, works harder or gets more scoops than Sid. As he puts it, "I get out every day and make the rounds," and that is exactly what Sid does.

The Golden Gophers, Vikings, Timberwolves, Twins, Wild, Lynx, area colleges and high schools, Sid is there every day, as he puts it, "talking to people in person every day, all the time."

Mr. Speaker, Sid Hartman is a true Minnesota institution. He is the pivotal player and chief architect in making Minnesota major league in the world of big-time sports.

But Sid will tell you he is the lucky one to have lived such a remarkable life and career. Now in his eighties, Sid Hartman has not slowed down one bit. He is the consummate "homer" and Minnesota's biggest booster of our beloved sports teams.

Minnesotans can always count on turning to page 3 of the sports section of the Star Tribune and reading Sid's latest jottings on "sports heroes," "stiffs" and "geniuses," as only Sid can label them.

And, Mr. Speaker, nobody has more close personal friends than Sid Hartman. From Bud Grant and Lou Holtz to Bobby Knight and George Steinbrenner, Sid knows them all in the world of sports. I dare say there is not one major sports figure in the United States who is not a close, personal friend of Sid Hartman.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, it is a privilege to recognize and congratulate Sid Hartman on his 60th anniversary. The people of Minnesota, well, at least most of us, hope Sid continues his legendary sports writing for many years to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF UNITED STATES MARINE LANCE CORPORAL JUAN RODRIGO RODRIGUEZ

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of United States Marines Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez.

On Thursday, January 13, Lance Corporal Rodriguez, a member of the Weapons Platoon, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines Division, died at the young age of 23.

□ 1930

Mr. Rodriguez was deployed in Iraq in August of 2004 where he served as an infantry assaultman. Juan, along with another Marine, was killed in an enemy attack explosion on January 13. He has been described by friends as a true Marine who was proud to fight for his country.

Before joining the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Rodriguez was part of the United South High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC, where he was described as a model cadet by Junior ROTC staff.

A 4-year member of the Junior ROTC, he always sought out perfection as he devoted countless hours to the Color Guard Team, the Shooting Team, and the Unarmed Drill Team.

In his senior year in high school, Juan Rodriguez was part of United South High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC that earned top honors at the National High School Drill Team Championships at Daytona Beach, Florida. In his senior year in high school, Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez went on to earn the rank of cadet colonel and was named the school's Junior ROTC battalion commander.

His exemplary extracurricular record in school brought him the recognition and respect of his classmates, teachers, and school administrators. Juan Rodriguez received the highest honor bestowed upon the graduating seniors: the United South High School Panther Award presented to those who exemplify the true spirit of the United South High School. Only 10 seniors out of a class of 471 received the award that year.

Amid all of his obligations to school and Junior ROTC, Juan Rodriguez found the time to volunteer in multiple community service projects. He played an active role in Christmas drives for underprivileged children, including Toys For Tots and Blue Santa.

In addition, Mr. Rodriguez was an active participant during Veterans Day and Memorial Day celebrations and, on several occasions, volunteering his time by placing U.S. flags at the city cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, or participated with the Presentation of Colors.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in El Cenizo and Laredo,