Having six children in the public school system and being a concerned, loving and dedicated parent, Mae took a strong interest in the neighborhood’s public school system. She was very involved and an active presence in many different capacities. She served as President and Secretary of the Community Board 19 and President of the P.T.A. at P.S. 213, I.S. 171 and I.S. 292. Additionally, she was Chapter 1 Chairperson for the District for both P.S. 213 and I.S. 171 as well as P.A.C. President for the Board for two day care centers, Georgia-Livonia and Einstein in East NY.

Mae is not only an advocate for education, but she is also very involved in community and politically based issues and activities. She has been a long-time advocate for senior citizens, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has served as Secretary to the Tenants’ Advisory Board and Property Manager at Elva McZeal Housing Development and as a Community Advisor at Beekman Houses in the Bronx, NY. She also set up a parents’ rights advocacy for immigrant parents at P.S. 213, was a community liaison for Health Plus, and an advocate for the senior citizens at Elva McZeal Houses.

Mr. Speaker, Mae Catherine Greene has strengthened her community through her numerous volunteer efforts with the PTA, the Community Board, and local housing associations. As such, she is more than worthy of recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the truly remarkable person.

HONORING MSGT ROBERT F. GREEN, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MSGT Robert F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident of Ontario, New York is retiring from the United States Air Force after years of dedicated service.

His retirement allows for reflection on what can only be considered a sterling career. He has admirably served his country without question or reservation. His fellow soldiers will remember F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident of the United States Air Force after years of dedication.

As a mother, a wife, a businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall’s life has embodied the values of family, community, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

JEFF JACOBY SHOWS INTEGRITY ON TORTURE ISSUE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest and most disturbing political dialogues is that partisanship has extended into the intellectual sphere. That is, very much agree that people should pick one party or the other as being more representative of their views than the alternative and generally support that party. That is the ideology of partisanship. Excessive partisanship comes when people are never willing to admit that their side ever makes mistakes, or that the other side ever has any virtues.

It is for this reason, as well as the substance of his well-reasoned articles, that I was very grateful to read Boston Globe Columnist Jeff Jacoby’s two-part series on torture. Mr. Jacoby is a strong, outspoken conservative who supports the war in Iraq. But unlike many, he does not let his general ideological position in this set of issues make him an apologist for torture techniques that flirt with torture, to say nothing of those that end in death, cross the moral values that the war in Iraq is supposed to be vindicating.

In a forceful two-part series in the Boston Globe, Mr. Jacoby makes a principled, thoughtful, fact-based case against the use of torture by Americans, even in the service of our entirely justified fight against terrorism.

Mr. Jacoby puts eloquently in his first article: “Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamic fascism. Those are crucial ends and they justify tough means. But they don’t justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flirt with torture, to say nothing of those that end in death, cross the moral line that separates us from the enemy we are trying to defeat.”

In his second article, Mr. Jacoby argues that the case against torture is not only a moral one but also a pragmatic one, noting, among other things, “torture is never limited to just the guilty.”

Mr. Speaker, I salute Jeff Jacoby both for his force of his arguments and for the intellectual integrity he has shown in making them. No issue confronting our Nation is more important than how we deal with this set of questions and I therefore ask that Mr. Jacoby’s very significant contribution be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 17, 2005]
WHERE’S THE OUTRAGE ON TORTURE?

(By Jeff Jacoby)

In August 2003, when he was commander of the military base at Guantanamo Bay, Major General Jeffrey D. Miller offered some advice for US interrogators at Abu Ghraib prison. As Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, the military police commander in Iraq, later revealed, Miller’s bottom line was blunt: Abu Ghraib should be “Gitmo-ized.” Iraqi detainees should be exposed to the same aggressive techniques being used to extract information from prisoners in Guantanamo.

“You have to have full control,” Karpinski quoted Miller as saying. There can be “no mistake about who’s in charge. You have to treat these detainees like dogs.”

Whether or not Miller actually spoke those words, it is clear that harsh techniques authorized for a time in Guantánamo forced nudity, hooding, shackling men in “stress positions,” the use of dogs were taken up in Afghanistan and Iraq, where they sometimes degenerated into outright violence and even torture. Did the injunction to “treat these detainees like dogs” give rise to a precedent? On occasion it was even condemned in December 2002, for example, some Navy officials denounced the Guantánamo techniques as “unlawful and unworthy of the military services.”

But surely, Church was asked at a congressional hearing, someone should be held accountable for the scores of abuses that even the government admits to? “Not in my church,” the admiral replied.

So the buck stops nowhere. And fresh revelations of horror keep seeping out.

Afghanistan, 2002: A detainee in the “Salt Pit” of the secret CIA camp north of Kabul is strapped naked, dragged across a concrete floor, then chained in a cell and left overnight. By morning, he has frozen to death. According to The Washington Post, which sourced the story to four US government officials, the dead man was buried in an unmarked grave, and his family was never notified. What had the Afghan done to merit such lethal handling? “He was probably associated with people who were associated with Al Qaeda,” a US official told the Post.

Iraq, 2003: Manadel al-Jamadi, arrested after a terrorist bombing in Baghdad, is brought in handcuffs to a shower room in Abu Ghraib. Shackles are connected from his cuffs to a barred window, hoisting his arms painfully behind his back a position so unnatural.

Sergeant Jeffrey Frost later tells investigators that he saw al-Jamadi’s arms “didn’t pop out of their sockets.” Frost and other guards are summoned when an interrogator complains that al-Jamadi isn’t cooperating. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning. They find him slumped forward, moaning.

Then there is the government’s use of “extraordinary rendition,” a euphemism for
By "extreme circumstances" he meant what is often called the "ticking-bomb" scenario: A deadly terror attack is looming, and you can prevent it only by getting the information needed to stop it. The CIA says it always gets an assurance in advance that a prisoner will be treated humanely. But of what value are such assurances when they come from places like Syria and Saudi Arabia?

Of course the United States must hunt down terrorists and find out what they know. Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented, and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamist fascism. Those are crucial ends, and they justify torture. But they do not justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flit with torture to say nothing of those that end in torture to say nothing of those that end in shock, and other torture. The CIA says it all occurred, "my answer might be different in extreme circumstances."

The Bush administration and the military insist that any abuse of detainees is a violation of policy that will be strictly punished. If so, why do it to allow a genuinely independent commission to investigate without fear or favor? Why do Republican and Senate leaders refuse to allow a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who usually justify tough means. But they don't justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flit with torture to say nothing of those that end in shock, and other torture. The CIA says it all occurred, "my answer might be different in extreme circumstances."

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which the United States ratified in 1994, prohibits the torture of any person for any reason by any government at any time. It is the explicit legal standard that separates us from the enemy we are trying to defeat.

In short, the international ban on torture—can be incorporated into US law—is absolute. And before Sept. 11, 2001, few Americans would have argued that it should be anything else. But in post-9/11 America, the unthinkable is not only being thought, but openly considered. And not only by hawks on the right, but by even by critics in the center and on the left.

"In this autumn of anger," Jonathan Alter commented in Newsweek not long after the terrorist attacks, "a liberal can find his principles and his values intact, a conservative can find his thoughts turning to—torture." Maybe cattle prods and rubber hoses should remain off limits, he wrote, but "some torture clearly works," and Americans had to "keep an open mind" about using unconventional measures—including "transferring some suspects to our less squeamish allies."

In March, a few days after arch-terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was captured in Pakistan, Stuart Taylor Jr. acknowledged that he was probably being made to feel "real pain" if that's the worst chance of making him talk, it's OK by me," he wrote in his National Journal column. In principle, interrogators should not cross the line into outright torture. But, Taylor continued, "my answer might be different in extreme circumstances."

RECOGNIZING ERIN ROBNETT, WINNER OF TEXAS VALUES VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Erin Robnett, an eighth grader at Crowneover Middle School of Comal, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for being one of the winners of the Texas Values Arts Competition. This is truly an outstanding accomplishment for Erin. More than 250 students from Plano, Denton, Lewisville and surrounding communities entered the contest. Over Time is the name of Erin’s piece which represents changes that have occurred during Texas’ history. With Erin’s win, she received a savings bond from Huffines Auto Dealerships.

Erin’s piece had the pecan tree, mocking bird and the bluebonnet as the Alamo and a soldier standing where the head piece would be. The head piece is half complete representing Texas’ past and present.

Erin Robnett’s talents are not only a testament to her artistic skill but also a stellar example of how parents and educators are rewarded when combining a core curriculum with study in the arts. I am proud of the education system in Texas, especially our students, and involved parents and teachers at Crownover Middle School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth of our communities. And I wanted to extend a special thank you to Huffines Automotive for their generous contribution to these aspiring students.