

week for playing down the possibility of a “grand bargain” with Iran after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But al-Jazeera, the leading media outlet of the Arab Middle East, focused on an entirely different piece of news out of Mr. Gates’ Cairo news conference. Asked whether U.S. aid to Egypt would be linked in the future to democracy or human rights, the Pentagon chief answered that “foreign military financing” for Mr. Mubarak’s autocracy “should be without conditions. And that is our sustained position.”

The Obama administration, which has rushed to embrace Egypt’s 81-year-old strongman, would do well to consider why al-Jazeera—not known for pro-American sympathies—would choose to trumpet that report. The Obama administration’s policy assumes that the Bush administration’s attempts to promote democratic reforms in Egypt produced yet another case of damaged ties and bad public relations to remedy, such as Guantanamo Bay or the war in Iraq. So Mr. Gates, like Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton before him, heaped praise on Mr. Mubarak while making clear that the new administration will not trouble him about his systematic and often violent repression of the country’s liberal politicians, bloggers and human rights activists.

Yet, as al-Jazeera well understands, Mr. Mubarak and his fellow Arab autocrats are widely despised across the region—and the United States is blamed for unconditionally propping them up. In fact, Mr. Bush won credit from many Egyptians for pressing for democratic change; he was criticized because he failed to follow through. Now, Arabs around the region are learning that the Obama administration is returning to the old U.S. policy of ignoring human rights abuses by Arab dictators in exchange for their cooperation on security matters—that is, the same policy that produced the Middle East of Osama bin Laden, Hamas and Saddam Hussein.

The pullback is not only rhetorical. Funding for democracy promotion in Egypt has been slashed from \$50 million to \$20 million this year. The State Department has agreed to Egyptian demands not to use economic aid to fund civil society organizations not approved by the government. As a result, U.S. funding for pro-democracy and human rights groups will drop by about 70 percent. Meanwhile, Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee this week inserted \$260 million in fresh security assistance for Egypt into a supplemental appropriations bill, along with \$50 million for border security. No conditions were attached.

What will all this appeasement buy from Mr. Mubarak? The Egyptian ruler continues to pledge to stop arms trafficking to Hamas in Gaza, and to fail to do so. He keeps a cold peace with Israel, withholds an ambassador from Iraq and, as Mr. Gates tacitly acknowledged, opposes any broad rapprochement between the United States and Iran. He is grooming his son to succeed him, a step that could entrench Egypt’s autocracy for decades more—or maybe produce an Islamic revolution. Does all that really merit unconditional U.S. support?

IN TRIBUTE TO PERRY LUNTZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 11, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, with great sadness and affection, I rise to pay trib-

ute to a dear friend, Perry Luntz, who passed away in April. Perry was an author, journalist and marketer who served on his community board, became President of his local political club and actively participated in numerous political campaigns. I was privileged to have known him, and I will miss him deeply.

Perry was a lifelong civic activist. He served for many years as a member of Community Board 6 in Manhattan, and was President of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club. Perry was actively involved in numerous political campaigns, including Freddy Ferrer’s two unsuccessful runs for Mayor of the City of New York and Eugene Nickerson’s campaign for county executive in Nassau County (Nickerson served from 1962 to 1970 and was the only Democrat to win that office until 2001). Perry was also a volunteer literacy teacher. During the Vietnam War, he participated in several protests and had the misfortune to be tear-gassed at a rally in Washington, DC.

Public service was Perry’s passion, but his career was as a journalist and marketing specialist. In one way or another, Perry was involved with the beverage alcohol business for most of his adult life. For more than a decade, he served as Director of Marketing Communications (a term he coined) for Seagram Distillers, and subsequently worked on the creative side of several advertising agencies, including a stint as a creative director of a Young & Rubicam division. For several years he headed his own marketing communications agency. For more than 20 years Perry was publisher and editor of “Beverage Alcohol Market Report,” an international e-letter for beer, wine, and spirits executives. He was Senior Editor and columnist for the Beverage Media groups of trade magazines.

Perry believed in moderation, maintaining that spirits should be appreciated for their gustatory delights. When he was interviewed about Irish whiskey he admonished: “It’s supposed to be enjoyed, to be savored. It’s not meant to be guzzled.” Perry served as Chair of The Wine Media Guild and was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. At age 80, in November 2007, Perry published his first book, *Whiskey and Spirits for Dummies*, which has been translated into both German and Spanish. The book takes readers on a journey into the rich heritage and diverse taste profiles of different spirits from around the globe, tracing the origins of whiskey, rum, brandy, vodka, gin and tequila, among others, explaining how they are made, and showing the reader how to evaluate, serve and enjoy them.

Tragically, while suffering from lung cancer and a broken hip, Perry contracted Legionnaire’s Disease at a skilled nursing/subacute rehabilitation facility where he was recuperating. As required by law, the New York City Department of Health has reported his illness to the New York State Department of Health, which oversees such facilities. When I first met Perry, he was deeply involved in efforts to improve conditions at a variety of facilities in my district, and he always had a profound sense of empathy for the disadvantaged. It would, therefore, be particularly fitting for so dedicated an activist if his last illness were to become the impetus for improved conditions at nursing homes in general.

Born in Brooklyn in 1927, Perry graduated from Boys High (now known as Boys and Girls High) and went on to earn a degree in mar-

keting from New York University. Perry served with the 473rd Air Service Group in Berlin at the end of World War II and was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. Perry is survived by his wife Carol Ann Rinzier, two sons, Ira and Russell, and two grandchildren, Eli and Ari. His son, Lloyd, predeceased him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Perry Luntz, an informative author and journalist, creative ad man, committed community activist and exceptional human being who cared deeply about his community and sought to improve the world around him. He will be profoundly missed.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 11, 2009

Mr FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from Northwest Louisiana.

On April 11, 2009 a group of 104 veterans and their guardians flew to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these Louisiana veterans to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight, free of charge. For many, this will be the first and only opportunity to visit the memorials created in their honor. These brave men and women, from my home state of Louisiana, deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thank them for their unselfish service.

James L. Adams, William P. Atkins, Joe B. Aulds, Fred Winston Baily, Charles Baird, Howard G. Barnett, Ed J. Barras, John E. Blanchard, Charles E. Brister, Joseph J. Brocato, Chester C. Bums, Billy G. Cantrell, J. C. Carlin, C. C. Carpenter, Edmond H. Chandler, Jr., LaVon E. Chandler, Waylon H. Chandler, Fred L. Cheek, Steve K. Cheek, Ralph J. Cooper, Luther R. Couch, William R. Cutler, Golan A. Davis, Heuy G. Davis, William E. Davis; and

George W. Davison, Lee Day, Ellison DeMoss, Donald R. Downs, Herschel M. Downs, George Forrest Dunn, Herman H. Edwards, Ray C. Ellerd, John M. Farrar, Theodor Finkbeiner, Noble E. Flenniken, James M. Gatner, Clyde E. Gilber, Challie Bruce Griggs, August E. Hayden, Raymond L. Heck, Clem V. Henderson, Sr., Marvin Higginbotham, Eugene L. Hill, Harry J. Hilman, Fahy E. Hodge, Howard Holder, Joseph F. Hood, John L. Horton, Gordon M. Hughes; and

James M. Hunter, William F. Hunter, W.E. Jacobs, Robert Johnson, Emmett F. Jones, Gaston V. Jones, Dudley J. Kemper, Raymond Kleeman, William T. Knowles, Douglas E. Lane, Vernon Y. Leach, S.E. Lee, Elmer C. Lolley, C.W. Loyd, Hilton Lytle, Elzie R. Mains, Horace H. Maxwell, Harold L. McBeth, William McElroy, Dan B. McKay, James H. McQuiller, Jesse L. Means, Floyd S. Mercer, Anthony John Miciotto, Roy A. Miciotto; and

Ollie Mitchell, Charles B. Moore, Danny R. Moore, Howard E. Morris, Calvin E. Morrison, Miles G. Murphy, James M. Newsom, George G. Nolan, Charles F. North, Raymond