

to hold a single hearing on the release of these detainees.

In fact, the majority included a provision in FY2009 spending bills explicitly prohibiting the disclosure of any information to the American people.

If the American people knew who these detainees were, the acts of terror they have committed, or to which countries they were going to be released, they would never stand for it.

This is a dangerous precedent. Given that more than 74 former Guantanamo detainees have returned to active terrorism, there is real concern about the potential for these remaining detainees to return to a life of terror.

The American people deserve the facts. I encourage the public to visit the New York Times "Guantanamo Docket" Web site to review what scant information about these detainees was released by the previous administration.

I believe they will find these summaries deeply troubling.

This Congress has a responsibility and an obligation to the American people to hold hearings, request information, and work with the administration to have an open dialogue over transfer and release policies.

This has not happened. And 10 months after the administration issued an executive order to close Guantanamo, we have no more information about this than we did when the President took office.

Of the many unstable countries to which detainees may be sent, I am most concerned about the impending release of 26 detainees to Yemen—a growing haven for al Qaeda in the Persian Gulf.

It is my understanding that the administration is also preparing to release several other detainees to another country that anyone with a basic understanding of world affairs would agree is unacceptable. Unfortunately, this information has been classified.

Yemen is undoubtedly one of the most unstable countries in the world today—and the country where al Qaeda has reconstituted its operations over the last year.

The director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Michael Leiter, stated in an October Voice of America interview, "In Yemen, we have witnessed the reemergence of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and the possibility that that will become the base of operations for al-Qaida."

A number of former Guantanamo Bay detainees have returned to Yemen to launch terrorist attacks, including one just 2 months ago.

On October 13, Saudi police prevented an imminent suicide bomb attack as two al Qaeda terrorists slipped across the border from Yemen.

One of the would-be suicide bombers, Yousef Mohammed al Shihri, was a former Guantanamo detainee released in 2007 to Saudi Arabia. He quickly left Saudi Arabia for dangerously unstable Yemen where he rejoined al Qaeda.

In September 2008, another former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Said Ali al Shihri, helped orchestrate the terrorist attack on the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, killing 10 guards and civilians.

Since that time, al Qaeda's posture in Yemen has grown stronger with the merger of the Saudi and Yemeni arms of al Qaeda into one group—al Qaeda in the Arabian Penin-

sula—with Yemen as its base for training and operations.

Yemen is also now home to radical cleric Anwar al-Aulaqi, who influenced alleged Fort Hood gunman Major Nidal M. Hasan and who U.S. intelligence believes to be a critical link in al Qaeda's efforts to radicalize Americans and Europeans.

I have repeatedly urged the President to halt the release of detainees to dangerously unstable countries. The consequences of such releases could cost American lives.

I implore this Congress to get serious about its oversight responsibility. The American people deserve better.

HONORING KEN DIEHL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Diehl for his tremendous contributions to promoting housing and development in the Central Valley. Mr. Diehl is being honored at The Greater Yosemite Council Boy Scouts of America's annual distinguished citizens dinner on October 28, 2009 in Modesto, California.

Ken Diehl was born and raised in Beaver, Iowa. He attended Iowa Wesleyan College, where he excelled in athletics, lettering in basketball and baseball. He was also involved with the Blue Key (an honorary fraternity) the letter club and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. During college, he served in the United States Army and served overseas with the 100th Infantry Division. He spent over a year in combat, where he commanded a light machine gun section. For his efforts and achievements he was awarded the Bronze Star.

After World War II ended, Mr. Diehl made his way to California and settled in Patterson. He married Dorothy Sutherland and they had three children. Although he spent a great amount of time with his family, he was also very involved with professional and community organizations. Mr. Diehl served as the president of The Life Underwriter Association of Central California, chairman of the Heart Association for the Life Underwriters, member of the board of director of Toastmaster International. His mid-life career change to real estate offered him new opportunities to get involved. In his new position, Mr. Diehl was a developer and a builder for his own account; quickly realizing that a real estate investor was more profitable than a real estate agent. With the knowledge he acquired in the profession, he wrote a book, "Affordable Housing".

Mr. Diehl created The Diehl Company; over the years the company bought and sold hundreds of properties, built apartments, strip centers and several sub-divisions. He became very involved with the local Board of Realtors, chaired many committees and served as board president. He was a regional vice president for California Association of Realtors, CAR, where he represented seven local boards. He chaired various committees for CAR including; the Legislative Committee, the Board Presidents Committee, the Policy Committee, and the Regional Vice Presidents Committee. For his service, Mr. Diehl was awarded the Director for Life designation, a

prestigious award that is given to only three realtors out of one hundred and fifty thousand.

He also served as the director of the million member National Association of Realtors, representing California for 6 years. He was a chairman of the Federally Assisted Code Enforcement program. With this program he and a group of others were able to save hundreds of homes that were on the verge of being deemed uninhabitable, and made them livable in the City of Modesto and the surrounding areas. Mr. Diehl spent many years as a director of the Community Housing Shelter Service. His primary focus while in the real estate industry was permanent housing for low to moderate income families.

Mr. Diehl is a 58 year member of the Elks Club number 1282 in Modesto. He chaired the United Way for Modesto, served as the director of the California Apartment Association, president of the Apartment Association of Central California and chaired many committees of the Sportsman of Stanislaus. Mr. Diehl served a 3 year term as president of the Yosemite Council of Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ken Diehl for the impact that he has made on the real estate industry in the Central Valley and the State of California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MARINE SGT. JAY M. HOSKINS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins of Paris, TX, who died August 6, 2009 at the age of 24 in Farah Province, Afghanistan, due to complications from wounds received when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Born January 26, 1985 in Paris, Texas to Michelle Sparks-Hoskins and Danny Hoskins, Jay Hoskins attended Aaron Parker Elementary, graduating from North Lamar High School in 2003. Throughout his youth, Sergeant Hoskins was active in baseball and football, and was an active member at Gospel Lighthouse in Powderly, Texas.

Following his graduation from North Lamar High School, Mr. Hoskins joined the United States Marine Corps, graduating from boot camp in San Diego, CA, as a Private 1st Class. In 2004, Sgt. Hoskins was deployed to Iraq where he fought in the Battle of Fallujah with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. In 2005, he served seven months in the Tora Bora area in the Afghanistan mountains, for which he received the first of his Afghanistan Campaign medals. From 2005 to 2008, Sgt. Hoskins served as a member of a training cadre in infantry tactics for Marine Officers at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA, where he was able to employ his background as a martial arts black belt instructor. In 2009, Sgt. Hoskins was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment III Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, HI. He was deployed to Afghanistan in May, along with 1,000 other Marines to Helmand and Farah Provinces.