

States in Indonesia from 1982 to 1985, and again from 1990 to 1994. He also served in Burma from 1987–1990.

While operating in Indonesia, Col. Haseman provided the Department of Defense with substantial information regarding numerous human rights violations. This vital information greatly influenced the decision making process concerning the policy that was to be implemented towards that country. Col. Haseman also functioned to cultivate healthy relationships with allied nations and to improve their military defense capabilities.

Col. Haseman first joined the US Army in 1963 from the University of Missouri Reserve Officer Training Corps. Throughout his career, having made the seven Army values a part of his daily life, Col. Haseman served our country with dignity and honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to recognize Col. John Haseman, a native of Grand Junction, Colorado. The United States and the State of Colorado owe him our undying gratitude for his selfless service over the past 48 years. I thank him very much and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CORRESPONDENCE SUPPORTING
THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN
STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit correspondence regarding the Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group and provide the following examples of support for this important initiative from David Abshire, president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, and a moving letter from a constituent and mother whose children have served in the military in recent years.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2011.

Hon. FRANK WOLF,
*House of Representatives, Cannon House Office
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR FRANK: To say that the May 2, 2011 targeted elimination of Osama bin Laden by a team of U.S. Navy SEALs was welcome news would be the understatement of the 21st century. The death of a terrorist icon that had directed the murder of thousands of American, European, and Muslim civilians has also caused almost immediate speculation as to what his demise will mean for the international mission in Afghanistan.

Within hours of President Obama's announcement of bin Laden's death, pundits and politicians from both the Right and Left are calling for a speedier withdrawal in the wake of the al-Qaeda leader's demise. However, many are concerned that such a move would risk reversing the gains that have been made by our nearly ten-year military effort and could cause Afghanistan to once again remerge as a destabilizing pariah that violates human rights and threatens international security.

As the country becomes increasingly divided over the issue of our involvement in Afghanistan, many questions have been raised regarding our relationship with Pakistan. Despite spending billions in aid and security assistance, America's approval rating in Pakistan is a mere 17%. Furthermore the

discovery of Osama bin Laden in a compound located less than a mile from the Pakistan Military Academy has dramatically amplified concerns that elements of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence service may be maintaining links with al-Qaeda and other violent extremist organizations. While many understand that cutting off or reducing aid to Pakistan would be risky, the American public is unlikely to tolerate continued perceived double-dealing on the part of the Pakistani security services. New creative and independent thinking is needed to overcome the current deadlock.

As the country struggles to find the appropriate way forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I am heartened by your efforts to establish a bipartisan and independent Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group that will take a comprehensive look at America's current and future role in the region.

I had the privilege of helping organize the Iraq Study Group (ISG), which the proposed Af-Pak Study Group would be modeled after, and feel that a similar such effort would be of great help today.

Such a group can provide an effective unifying rallying point that will enable the country to come together in support of a comprehensive strategy that will guard our interests in the region and foster a more stable and secure world.

With warm regards,
Sincerely yours,

DAVID ABSHIRE.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: I have read your proposal for the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group with deep personal interest and approbation. I applaud its respectful, well-reasoned, bipartisan approach to rethinking the war in Afghanistan. The following are my personal thoughts regarding this war. Please accept them as the insights of an average American mother.

It has been troubling to me how distant this war is for so many Americans. Many are only vaguely aware of the events taking place, other than perhaps the recent increase in the number of casualties. Even gathering information of what is daily happening in Afghanistan hasn't been easy. I comb the internet daily searching many different online news sources in an attempt to be informed. Our country is at war and yet so often the top news items contain nothing regarding it. Often it is the local papers in towns with soldiers, sailors and marines serving in Afghanistan that contain the most news. Other times it is the news stations with an embedded reporter who will have a flurry of articles while the reporter is there but then nothing once they return.

The War on Terror is not just impersonal news but it is a war that strikes very close to home. My father has a dear friend whose son-in-law died in the Twin Towers. I have a friend who lost a son in Iraq during the battle for Fallujah. A student of mine lost her fiancée in the war. My children and son-in-law have served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and have buddies injured or killed in action.

One of my daughters is currently serving in Afghanistan in a Combat Support Hospital. She arrived in time to experience first hand the peak number of casualties in June and July. In a recent news interview her Commanding Officer said they are seeing an almost constant stream of casualties; something that none of them were prepared for, but will remember the horrors of the rest of their lives.

It has sometimes appeared that the efforts in Afghanistan have trudged along, with success measured in part by the areas in which we have gained some measure of control versus the price paid in human lives both civilian and military. The casualties suffered

aren't just numbers to me; each name, each face, represents a family who is paying the ultimate price, the loss of a son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother; a family that will never be the same. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the formation of an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group in the hope that it will help to turn the tide of this war and lessen the number of casualties as well.

I, too, have a deep respect and confidence in Gen. Petraus and would not want my comments to be construed as being critical of the leadership of our military. I have no formal training in political science or history so please accept these comments as simply the perspective of an American mother with children glad to serve our country.

God bless you and give you wisdom as you serve in the leadership of our country.

Sincerely,

PS It meant so much to see my sons receive a standing ovation when introduced during last weeks luncheon. It is these very Lance Corporals, Corporals and Sergeants who are almost daily listed among the casualties. My son, _____, remarked that listening to your speech "restored his faith in the republic". Thank you again for recognizing their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that on September 22, 2011, my vote was not recorded for rollcall vote No. 723.

I would like to state for the record that my vote should have been recorded as "nay" on rollcall vote No. 723, on providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS
CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, thirty-two percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are overweight. According to this study, sixteen percent of children and adolescents in the U.S. are obese, meaning they have a body mass index in the ninety-fifth percentile. In my home state of Missouri, almost thirty-four percent of children are obese and overweight. Sadly, the childhood obesity rate is growing, doubling over the last two decades, while the obesity rate for adolescents has nearly tripled over the last two decades.

These staggering increases in obesity are leading to a number of health problems among America's youth. Incidents of type two