

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 SPORTS-WRITER 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.

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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, Texas, I ask this great body to join me in sending our most heartfelt condolences to the family of Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez. May God watch over his parents, Rodrigo and Juana, and sister, Fatima, in this time of need.

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING MENTORING DURING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH OF JANUARY

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, between 1962 and 1998 I was involved with young people as a member of the coaching profession; and during that period of time, that 36-year stretch, I saw some alarming trends. The out-of-wedlock birth rate went from 5 percent to 33 percent; an increase in children living without both biological parents has increased to nearly 50 percent; the United States has become the most violent Nation for young people in the civilized world; it has the highest homicide and the highest suicide rate. Back in 1960, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine were practically unheard of and today, of course, we have a major epidemic.

So as far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, the greatest threat that we have to our Nation is what is happening to our young people.

I would like to suggest that the best available solution that I have been able to observe is mentoring. A mentor is, number one, someone who cares. Many children simply have no one in their lives, no adult who shows unconditional love and acceptance of them, and a mentor is somebody who does that.

Mentoring also provides affirmation. No one, whether you are 5 years old, 10 years old, or 60 years old, can function very well if there is not someone who occasionally says, we care about you, we approve of what you are doing, way to go. So a mentor is one who provides affirmation in a world where many young people get very little of it.

Then, thirdly, a mentor is one who provides a vision of what is possible. So