

the Korean War. George Dunne began his public service career as a park supervisor at a Lake Michigan playground, and went on to a series of positions with the Chicago Park District.

He was elected to the Illinois House of Representative in 1955 and elevated to House Majority Leader in 1961. In 1962 he was elected to the Cook County Board and 7 years later he was elected to the position of President of the Board. George served in that position for 31 years, until his retirement in 1990.

In addition to his government service, George held responsible posts in the Cook County Democratic Party. He was Democratic committeeman of the 42nd Ward on Chicago's north side for more than 40 years, and as chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party for all but 5 years from 1976 to his retirement in 1990.

George Dunne was present at many of the great historical landmark events of his day. He was with Colonel Jacob Arvey at the 1984 Democratic Convention in Philadelphia for the nomination of Harry Truman.

20 years later he was with Mayor Richard J. Daley at the 1968 Democratic Convention for the nomination of Hubert Humphrey.

However, Mr. Speaker, for me those are not the events I remember. When I remember George Dunne, I remember 1983 when Harold Washington won the Democratic nomination for Mayor of Chicago. The Democratic Party began to split along racial lines, with some white Democrats turning to oppose the nominee of their own party.

George Dunne was one of those who resisted such splitting tactics and supported Harold Washington, including what was to become immortalized in one famous photograph, marching arm in arm with Washington at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

I remember the depth of the crisis at Cook County Hospital when George Dunne, became President of the Cook County Board. At one time Cook County Hospital had been a model for public health institutions. But by the early 1970s, many were calling for the closing of the hospital.

Today we would call it privatization of the hospital. Eventually, President Dunne put aside his political predictions and hired a radical young doctor, Dr. Quentin Young to lead the Department of Medicine, a move which today is generally created with saving the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we mortals should make final judgement on the life of other mortals, but when we reflect on the life of George Dunne, I hope that these qualities and actions are among those which are never forgotten.

Several of his proteges are integral parts of Illinois and Chicago politics, such as the Honorable Jesse White,

Secretary of State, the Honorable Burton Natus, Alderman and committeeman of the 42nd Ward, and the honorable Walter Burnett, alderman of the 27th Ward.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that they would join with me and countless others of saying thanks to his family for sharing with all of us a tremendous elected official, politician, but most of all a gentleman and a humanitarian.

HONORING CORPORAL ERIC R. LUEKEN

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to claim the time of Ms. FOXX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man, a Marine from my district who served with the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq.

Corporal Eric R. Lueken of Dubois, Indiana joined the Marines in 2003. He served in Afghanistan from November 2004 to June 2005. On March 11, 2006, he left for service in Iraq. Eric grew up on the family poultry farm, played basketball at Northeast Dubois High School, and joined the Marines because he wanted to do something he could be proud of.

Corporal Lueken's mother, Melinda Lueken, said he wanted to achieve something for himself and he did. He was just a country boy. He liked hunting and fishing. But he wanted to do something with his life and he did not want to always stick around here in the little town of Dubois.

Lueken's fiancée, Ericka Merkel, said, "Once he joined the Marine Corps, all of his needs, they were second. Everybody else's needs were first. He never put himself first." Even in Iraq he said, "I am praying for you." He was never praying for himself.

This Memorial Day, Mr. Speaker, adds special meaning for me. Corporal Lueken was killed on April 22, 2006 when his convoy was the target of an improvised explosive device in Iraq's Anbar Province.

Corporal Lueken was a field radio operator. He was only 23 years old. Mr. Speaker, I attended the memorial services for Corporal Lueken and witnessed an incredible outpouring of affection and gratitude from the people of Dubois County, Indiana, from the people who knew Eric best.

The Marine Honor Guard, Marine Corps Association, VFW, American Legion and other Armed Services members, current and past, traveled great distances to show their respect and support for his friends, his fiancée and his family.

Like so many young men and women who choose to serve our country, it is

clear to me, Corporal Eric Lueken embodied the very best of what makes this country great. Corporal Lueken's sacrifice, his commitment to his faith, his family, and his country was unwavering.

Semper Fidelis, always faithful, at home, in Afghanistan, and Iraq. Southern Indiana has lost a remarkable young man. My thoughts and prayers are with the Lueken family and with all of many men and women of the United States Armed Forces who defend liberty around the world.

DEMOCRATS PLAN FOR A WAY FORWARD IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, there have been too many dark days in Iraq of late, but today is not one of them. The removal of Abu Musab al Zarqawi is a welcome event.

Zarqawi was a blood thirsty thug and an indiscriminate killer of innocent men, women and children. All Americans join in congratulating the American military and the Iraqi people for their success in tracking, finding and eliminating the most vicious terrorist in Iraq.

It is too early to predict what the effect of the elimination of Zarqawi will have on the counterinsurgency effort that the Iraqi and coalition forces are engaged in.

On the one hand there is ample historical evidence that eliminating terrorist and insurgent leaders does not necessarily cripple their movements. New leaders rise up to take their places. In the Iraqi case, however, Zarqawi's form of jihad, which has resulted in the slaughter of so many innocent civilians has alienated most Iraqis and helped to foster reported back-channel negotiations between the U.S., the Iraqi Government and some of the insurgent groups over the past few months.

Whether the confluence of Zarqawi's death and the completion of the new Iraqi cabinet can accelerate the prospects for some kind of more open negotiations remains to be seen. Especially as the sectarian violence that Zarqawi sought has continued to grow in recent months.

Even as we celebrate Zarqawi's death and recall the horrors he perpetrated, the videotaped beheadings of helpless hostages, the mass casualty suicide bombings of Shiite mosques, and the horrific destruction of the UN headquarters, we cannot turn away from the grim reality, that the war the President declared over in the spring of 2003 has been bloodier, costlier, longer and more difficult than the administration anticipated or planned for.