

LET PRIVATEERS TROLL FOR BIN LADEN

(by Larry J. Sechrest)

In the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks, a group of American businessmen has decided to enlist the profit motive to bring the perpetrators to justice. Headed by Edward Lozzi of Beverly Hills, California, the group intends to offer a bounty of \$1 billion—that's billion with a "b"—to any private citizens who will capture Osama bin Laden and his associates, dead or alive.

Paying private citizens to achieve military objectives seems novel but is hardly untried. Recall Ross Perot's successful use of private forces to retrieve his employees from the clutches of fundamentalist Muslims in Iran in 1979.

We are all familiar with bail bondsmen, who employ bounty hunters to catch bail-jumping fugitives. Less familiar are two U.S. companies, Military Professional Resources Inc. and Vinnell Corporation, which provide military services to governments and other organizations worldwide.

Historically, private citizens arming private ships, appropriately called "privateers," played an important role in the American Revolution. Eight hundred privateers aided the seceding colonists' cause, while the British employed 700, despite having a huge government navy.

During the War of 1812, 526 American vessels were commissioned as privateers. This was not piracy, because the privateers were licensed by their own governments and the ships were bonded to ensure that their captains followed the accepted laws of the sea, including the humane treatment of those who were taken prisoner. Congress granted privateers "letters of marque and reprisal," under the authority of Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Originally, privateering was a method of restitution for merchants or shipowners who had been wronged by a citizen of a foreign country. Privateers captured the ships flying the flag of the wrongdoers' nation and sailed them to a friendly port, where a neutral admiralty court decided whether the seizure was just. Wrongful seizures resulted in the forfeiture of the privateers' bond to the owners of the seized ship.

If the seizure was, just, the ship and cargo were sold at auction, with the bulk of the proceeds going to the privateer's owners and crew. The crews were volunteers who shared in the profits, and the investors viewed the venture as remunerative—albeit risky.

Privateering soon evolved into a potent means of warfare. Self-interest encouraged privateers to capture as many enemy ships as possible, and to do it quickly. Were privateers successful in inflicting serious losses on the enemy? Emphatically, yes. Between 1793 and 1797, the British lost 2,266 vessels, the majority taken by French privateers.

During the War of the League of Augsburg (1689–1697) French privateers captured 3,384 English or Dutch merchant ships and 162 warships, and during the War of 1812, 1,750 British ships were subdued or destroyed by American privateers. Those American privateers struck so much fear in Britain that Lloyd's of London ceased offering maritime insurance except at ruinously high premiums. No wonder Thomas Jefferson said, "Every possible encouragement should be given to privateering in time of war."

If privateering was so successful, why has it disappeared? Precisely because it worked so well. Government naval officers resented the competitive advantage privateers possessed, and powerful nations with large government navies did not want to be challenged on the seas by smaller nations that opted for the less-costly alternative—private ships of war.

In sum, the armed forces of the U.S. government are not the only option for President Bush to defeat bin Laden, his al Qaeda network, and "every terrorist group with a global reach." The U.S. military is not necessarily even the best option.

Let's bring back the spirit of the privateers. By letting profits and justice once more go hand-in-hand, victims and their champions can have an abundance of both, rather than a paucity of either.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF NANCY FORD

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Nancy Ford, a Tampa businesswoman whose legacy in promoting women's rights, supporting the arts and bringing our Tampa Bay community together will not soon be forgotten by the countless friends, family and admirers she has left behind.

Nancy's contributions to Tampa Bay women are immeasurable. After breaking through the glass ceiling herself, Nancy helped pave the way for other women. She helped start the Tower Club, Tampa's first private business group to admit women, and she founded the Athena Society and the Florida Women's Network—professional women's networking and leadership organizations.

Nancy's accomplishments do not end there. As Chairwoman of the Florida Gulf Symphony's board of directors, member of the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and head of the committee that negotiated a merger of the Tampa Philharmonic and the St. Petersburg Symphony, Nancy Ford played a pivotal role in shaping the development of Tampa's art society.

Nancy's devotion to her causes has left an indelible mark on Tampa Bay. Through her countless volunteer hours for local charities, her work with University of South Florida's Medical Center and her role as co-founder of the Children's Cancer Center, Nancy made a difference in our community. Nancy Ford's vision and wisdom inspire us not just to do great things but also to develop lasting institutions that will carry on her ideas and work for generations to come.

On behalf of the people of Tampa Bay, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathies to Nancy's family.

TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO FERRER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader and political figure. Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer has dedicated his life to serving the community and has been recognized nationally for revitalizing the Bronx.

I have known Mr. Ferrer, or Freddy as I know him, for 30 years and have been continuously impressed by his vigor and political expertise. Freddy was elected to his first term

as borough president in 1987 with an overwhelming 87 percent of the public vote. To illustrate Freddy's outstanding leadership and how much Bronxites trust him, ten years and three terms later, he was reelected yet again with 87 percent of the public vote.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work with Freddy Ferrer throughout the years to continue and intensify the restoration of the Bronx. From the moment he took office, Freddy began implementing a new, higher set of standards by which to run the borough. These changes, such as his strict code of ethics for his staff, have made it easier to make necessary changes throughout the Bronx.

Among Freddy's long list of accomplishments, he led the Bronx to winning the prestigious National Civic League's All-American City Award in 1997 and the Crown Community Award presented by American City and County magazine in 1999. The New York State Department of Health statistics show that between 1995 and 1999, 4,110 fewer individuals were unemployed. During that period, the number of AIDS cases in the Bronx dropped by nearly 50%, and homicides decreased by roughly 23 percent. Since 1990, the Bronx has received 2.5 billion dollars worth of new construction. From new businesses to new housing developments, Bronx residents have been able to witness their community grow before their very eyes. Freddy orchestrated the nation's most comprehensive housing revival when nearly 64,000 new and rehabilitated residences became available in the Bronx. This surge of structural progress and the resurgence of local businesses have been pivotal in rejuvenating the spirit of the Bronx. Along with the legendary Yankee Stadium, which Freddy and myself strove to keep in the Bronx, our borough president has become an undeniable part of Bronx history.

Mr. Speaker, Freddy's roots are in the Bronx and he has not strayed from the borough. He was born there, attended primary and secondary school there, and attended the New York University at its Bronx campus. He and his distinguished wife, Aramina, raised their daughter, Carlina, in the Bronx as well. This fall, Freddy ran for New York City mayor, and in doing so, brought a new vision for all of our communities. Freddy's entire campaign, especially when he eloquently expressed his visions for the city in debates and speeches, made us all very proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fernando Ferrer for over 20 years of remarkable and innovative service to the people of the Bronx.

H.R. 3280, TO LOWER THE TIME OF CONTINUOUS ACTIVE DUTY REQUIRED TO RECEIVE LEVEL I BASIC ALLOWANCE OF HOUSING

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, over 57,000 members of the Reserves and National Guard have been called to active duty. Each week the military calls up more soldiers to help in our struggle against terrorism. They leave their civilian jobs and families to help defend our country.