As a boy, Mr. Kinsey grew up on a large farm where he shared responsibilities with his older siblings. Mr. Kinsey's values of fairness, compassion, and personal integrity were learned from his father and mother. He closely observed and admired his beloved father's fair treatment of people regardless of race and stature. He also admired his mother for her kindness and compassion towards others. This strong foundation would become the basis for Mr. Kinsey's personal and professional values.

While attending Florida A&M, he met and married his wife of 63 years. With their children they were loving and unfailing in their devotion. Mr. Kinsey believed that the best way to love his children was to love their mother. He encouraged independence of action and attitude while loyally supporting them and allowing them to develop in directions of their own choosing.

At the same time, he set well-defined limits that were firm and consistent. Mr. Kinsey's focus on the individual development and welfare of each child was transferred to his professional life in a long distinguished career as an educator. In 1941, he began his career as a social studies and history teacher at his high school alma mater. By 1943, he became assistant principal and also served as school treasurer, junior class sponsor, and athletic director.

In September of 1950, at the birth of his sixth child, Mr. Kinsey became principal of Palmview Elementary School, formerly an industrial high school. And by 1953, he had earned his masters degree in education and supervision from Florida A&M college. He also attended Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri, during his summer vacations and completed his legal education.

Although Mr. Kinsey decided to become an educator partly because of the financial demands of a growing family, he never regretted that decision; and that decision was a fortunate one for the thousands of children who passed through Palmview's doors during Mr. Kinsey's long tenure as a principal.

As a leader, he focused on two rudiments of education, one, critical thinking through the development of reading and writing skills, and quantitative reasoning. His emphasis on these educational basics may explain why Palmview Elementary School, an institution located in an inner-city community with an 86 percent African American student population, was so hotly pursued by suburban parents during the early turbulent days of integration in the South.

Palmview, an educational oasis, was distinguished from other schools by its clean, safe environment, intensive extra-curricular activities in art and music and computers in the classrooms.

With a calm, careful demeanor, Mr. Kinsey led the way academically, not only for African American children but also for all children in West Palm Beach County.

His impact on his community also influenced many others beyond the children who became part of the Palmview family. His work as a community organizer and leader began in the early 1940s. U.B., along with other African American educators, employed Thurgood Marshall and he was successful in bringing integration of the teachers and giving them the back pay they deserved.

His contributions are countless to education and he serves as a role model for others and leaves a very rich legacy.

POSITIVE IRAQ WAR EFFORTS

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, so often when we hear of events in the Middle East the reports are negative, sometimes even the discussion on the floor reflects a great deal of negativism.

□ 1830

Recently, I led a delegation to Jordan and Iraq and later to Germany. Matter of fact, we just returned yesterday. And I thought I would report on what I saw there because so often soldiers say we really wish you would go back and tell the American people the war we are fighting and not the one that they see on television or in the newspapers.

So, on previous trips, I had been amazed at how positive the morale was. Everyplace that I went, soldiers seemed to be rather upbeat, pulled together, seemed to have a sense of mission.

As we flew into the Al Asad, which is a somewhat remote base about 90 miles west of Baghdad out in the desert, extreme cold, no vegetation, no trees, no grass, as we landed there in the dust and the sand, I thought, this is the place where we are going to see some people who are really pretty negative about what is going on, and I was really surprised.

There were 180 Nebraskans from my home State there. That is why I went there. They had not had a CODEL there for at least 9 months, maybe never there. And again I saw the same thing, a sense of accomplishment, a real sense of pride in what they were doing. I pressed them, and I talked to them, and I still got no negative comments and no major complaints.

We went on down to Baghdad, and we talked to General Petraeus, who is in charge of training the Iraqi soldiers, and General Casey, who is in charge of the overall command there. General Casey made the point that the infrastructure still needs improving. Obviously, the electricity is better, but it is still not working all the time. Sewage at times is not what it should be; and, at times, their oil pipelines are getting blown up. But, again, there is general improvement, but they both said the January 30 elections were truly a watershed event. Since that time, there has been a definite qualitative shift in what is happening in Iraq.

I thought I would just point out some of the things that we were told and some of the things that we observed.

General Casey said, and General Petraeus as well, that by the end of the year Iraqi troops should be out in front in all concentrations in Iraq. They would have, in many cases, U.S. backup, but there are right now several areas of Iraq that are totally controlled, with no U.S. backup, by Iraqi forces. So the training of the Iraqis has been excellent.

The Iraqi intelligence is improving. Many Iraqis are now coming forward with information regarding insurgents that were not coming forward before. The attacks have been reduced, and the Iraqis are certainly much more confident of their future.

Apparently, many of the Sunnis are regretting not having participated in the elections, and at this point they are beginning to volunteer for the army, for the police, which was something that was unheard of a few months ago, and the Sunnis are pressing to get a place at the table in the new government.

There is no shortage of Iraqi recruits apparent at the present time. There are roughly 100 battalions of army Iraqis, 152,000 total have been trained and equipped, 85,000 police, 67,000 members of the army. The Iraqis have been provided with up-armored vehicles, body armor, about 130,000 sets. So they are well over halfway to their goal of 270,000 Iraqi soldiers trained.

Also, the Iraqis are performing much better, whether they are policemen or soldiers. The recent instigation or uprising in downtown Baghdad by al Sadr, where we have several thousands of his supporters demonstrating, it was well-orchestrated, but the thing that we did not hear was that whole situation was controlled by Iraqi police, with no U.S. backup, and so we find that they are much in control of the situation.

We also had a chance to talk to Mr. al Jafari, the prime minister. When we asked him what he wanted to say to the American people, he had just been installed as prime minister the day before we saw him, he said, the thing I would like to say is we owe a debt of gratitude to the United States and particularly for the loss of soldiers. He said, when you sent your soldiers over here and the sacrifices they made, it is something we can never forget, and that we will always be grateful for.

We asked him if he would have an inclusive government, if he would include the Kurds and Sunnis and Shiites. He said he would, and that remains to be seen, because he is linked with a very conservative Islamic Shiite party that has some ties to Iran. So I guess the proof will be in the pudding,

and we will see what he does. He was very cordial, nice and intelligent; and, of course, they have a President at the present time, a Kurd named Talabani.

We also were heartened by the progress women had made in Iraq, because at the present time every third name on the ballot last January 30 was a female name. So we will have about 80 representatives of the 275 member delegates to the constitutional convention.

So, all in all, Mr. Speaker, we think things are better. They are not perfect, but it is heartening to see the progress that has been made.

GUN LIABILITY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I talked about no fly. In other words, terrorists in this country cannot get onto a plane, but they can certainly go into a gun store and be able to buy a gun. Today, I would like to talk about gun liability, which is going to be out on the floor in the next week or so.

The leadership of Congress is constantly preaching about personal responsibility: Individuals should accept the consequences of their actions. I agree with that. Unfortunately, this culture of responsibility does not extend to the gun industry and negligent gun sellers.

Both the Senate and the House have bills granting the gun industry unprecedented immunity from litigation and other legal actions, legal actions that many of us that have suffered from gun violence were able to take advantage of in the courts. Under this legislation, dealers and manufacturers of guns would receive immunity from any legal action.

Sellers and makers of nearly every other consumer product must face the consequences of their negligence and their misjudgments. Manufacturers and sellers of toy guns are more liable for their products than the makers and sellers of assault weapons and handguns.

The NRA has named this issue as their number one legislative priority this year. They said this will end frivolous lawsuits, but not a single suit against the gun industry has ever been deemed frivolous by a court of law.

This legislation is not about protecting an honest gun dealer who illegally sells a gun to someone who later commits a crime. This legislation protects cases of gross negligence which has led to the deaths of unsuspecting victims.

For example, I think the majority of us remember the incident here in the D.C. area. The owner of the Bull's Eye Shooter Supply Store in Washington State was sued because he could not account for 239 guns in his inventory. One of these guns was the Bushmaster used in the D.C. sniper cases. The D.C. sniper killers were allowed to get their hands on a gun because of this store's negligence, but this legislation would get Bull's Eye Shooter Supply off the hook from any legal action. By the way, the victims were able to sue Bull's Eye and win a court judgment.

Fortunately, there was a lawsuit against Bull's Eye and Bushmaster, and part of the settlement was Bushmaster agreeing to work with its dealer to promote safer sales practices to prevent incidents of negligence. That is one of the tools of being allowed to sue, to make manufacturers, to make people responsible for their products.

This legislation would have required the immediate dismissal of the lawsuit against Bull's Eye.

The gun industry must be subject to the same laws that govern every other American business. Courthouse doors must remain open to those injured or who have lost loved ones because of the gun industry's negligence.

This bill would allow gun dealers to knowingly sell large quantity of guns to a single customer intending to traffic the guns to criminals without any legal repercussions.

Stripping away the threat of legal action would seriously jeopardize any opportunity to make guns safer. Without the threat of lawsuits, the gun industry will not have any incentives to incorporate gun locks, safety triggers and smart gun technology into their products. Had this law been in place 40 years ago, the auto industry certainly would not have made the cars we are driving any safer than what we are in today.

Instead of giving the gun industry never-before levels of protection, I support giving the gun industry Federal research and development money. This money would be used to develop reasonable safety measures for their products.

But Congress has not been responding to the threat of gun violence. Let me speak in a language the Congress leadership understands, dollars and cents.

The secret that most people do not understand is the gun violence in this country is costing millions and billions of dollars. People do not understand that the Centers for Disease Control at one time was able to study the economical impact of gun violence in this country. By an act here in Congress we are not allowed to do that anymore, so that data does not come out.

Years ago, independent studies have shown gun violence costs our health care system over $100 billion every single year, $100 billion. The $100 billion a year cost includes premiums paid for private health insurance and tax dollars used to pay for Medicaid, Medicaid in our States that are having such a hard time, Medicaid that is going to be cut here in the House and the Senate. These costs often are not reimbursed and cost the States vital health care money.

Victims who survive suffer years of rehabilitation costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. My son was injured 11 years ago and is still going under physical therapy to be able to keep what he has.

The average cost of each firearm fatality, including medical care, police services and lost productivity is almost $1 million a year. This Nation has to start looking at the gun violence. We can do this without the right of gun owners being taken away. Wake up, America.

TRADE IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, first, let me express my appreciation to my friend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago to join with my colleagues, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) to meet with leaders in the European Union and the European Commission. One of the things that I found from meeting with them and from discussions that I had with our great ambassador to the European Union, Rockwell Schnabel, is that trade is obviously the wave of the future.

We have one of the most important trade relationships between the 25 member European Union and the United States of America on the face of the earth. In fact, trade between the EU and the United States is just short of $1 trillion a year. It is $966 billion, in fact, last year.

I think it is important for us to note that we have dealt with more than a few problems with the European Union. We have lots of great challenges, and I happen to believe that one of the best ways to deal with those challenges is for us to enhance that trade relationship.

We are in the midst of discussing the establishment of our first bilateral trade agreement in a long period of time as we in the not-too-distant future are going to be addressing the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which will include the Dominican Republic. As my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, we have put together a wide range of bilateral agreements over the past several years.

I today met with the ambassador from the United Arab Emirates, one of our great allies in the global war on terror, and we hope very much we are going to be able to put together a free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates.

I think it is also important for us to note that in dealing with the European