

there are parallels between Bashar Assad and Kim Jong Il—they both maintain family dictatorships with the support of a key system of internal controls. After 35 years of defying the United States, there is no reason to believe our diplomats are more clever than their ruthlessly survivor-oriented systems. Negotiating with them is an invitation to be taken to the cleaners and to extend the power and prestige and influence of our mortal enemies in the region. Recent talk of reaching out to Syria has been met by the assassination of a Lebanese minister and the intensifying of the Hezbollah blackmail tactics in Lebanon. Weakness from America leads to greater aggression from our enemies. The Baker-Hamilton commission should focus on how to contain or defeat Syria not on how to rely on them for help.

(11) Does the commission recognize the importance of working with the Democratic majorities on a strategy for victory?

The Democratic victory in the 2006 election should not be used as an excuse to do the wrong thing. The Democrats are now confronting the responsibility and burden of power. Given the right information about Iran, Syria, and Iraq there is every reason to believe a bipartisan majority can be formed in both the House and Senate for a rational strategy for victory. Opposition to continuing the failed second campaign should not be translated into opposition to an American victory. The Bush administration should reach out to moderate Democrats and forge a bipartisan agenda for victory and by March 2007 pass a bipartisan resolution for victory in Iraq and for stopping Iranian efforts to get nuclear weapons. That will then set the basis for appropriations to continue the effort. The passage of a solid bipartisan bill in March would send a signal to the world that Americans are overwhelmingly in favor of defeating terrorism and defending America. That will dramatically lower the morale and confidence of our enemies.

These 11 steps would be a powerful basis on which to move forward in Iraq and in the world. What's more, they reflect the spirit of General Washington when he chose "victory or death" as the motto of the campaign which led to the founding of America despite overwhelming odds.

STEVEN JACKSON, GOOD  
SAMARITAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, every day we hear of rising crime rates and countless acts of criminal activity. The question is often asked—Is there any good left in the world? On December 5, 2006, in the city of Humble, Texas, a man by the name of Steven Jackson showed us all that goodwill still exists.

On the evening of December 5, an evildoer, without regard for human life, went into a Humble gas station with a gun. This man robbed the attendant at gun point, took a few hundred dollars, and forced her to wait in the back room until he escaped.

After the robber left the gas station, the attendant went outside and saw him walking across the street to his getaway car. Upon this discovery, she started screaming that the man had robbed her and was getting away, which caught the attention of Steven Jackson.

Steven Jackson, a volunteer firefighter with the Kingwood and Porter volunteer fire depart-

ments, had been filling up his car that evening—a routine action we all do. On this evening, while doing an ordinary task, Steven decided to do something extraordinary. As the attendant pleaded for help, Steven got into his car and began following the robber while calling 911.

According to the Humble Police Department, it appears that the criminal knew Steven was following him. At some point, a few miles from the gas station, the robber stopped his car, approached Steven's car, and shot him twice in the torso.

As Steven's car left the road, he was able to tell the 911 dispatcher that he had been shot. Unfortunately, those words were the last this world would ever hear from Steven Jackson—his life cut short for a few hundred dollars.

The fine officers of the Humble Police Department are currently investigating this case. The outlaw who took Steven's life is still at large. It is my hope that he is brought to a swift and fitting justice.

That's Just the Way It Is.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD HURVERS  
AND THE 194TH LIGHT TANK  
BATTALION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and determination of Minnesota men who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines during World War II. In particular, I want to note the contributions of the 194th Light Tank Battalion.

On Easter Monday, 1941, 83 St. Paulites reported for induction into the U.S. Army, joining 163 men from Hennepin County. Seventy-seven of these men joined the 194th stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. They were trained and deployed to the Philippine Islands.

At 12:30 p.m. on December 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Philippine Islands were attacked by Japanese planes, placing U.S. Armed Forces on wartime status. The air strikes destroyed U.S. airplanes stationed at Clark Field, leaving U.S. forces and Philippine Scouts trapped and with few supplies. Despite these great hardships, the 194th Light Tank Battalion fought on bravely for the next four months, delaying the Japanese offensive. Ultimately, U.S. forces were forced to evacuate to the Bataan Peninsula after relentless attacks by Japanese forces. April 9, 1942 marked the beginning of the notorious Bataan Death March.

Following heavy land attacks and after withstanding hundreds of raids from the air by Japanese forces, the Fall of Corregidor, forced American forces to surrender on May 6, 1942. Courageous American forces held out in spite of supply shortages, hunger, disease, and exhaustion. In the days that followed, many Minnesota military personnel from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Corps, and the Nurse Corps were added to the rolls of prisoners of war. More than 75 percent of the men who were in service December 8, 1941 perished.

Those who survived faced 3½ years of imprisonment until they were liberated in August and September, 1945.

Many veterans of the Philippine Campaign, the Bataan Death March and Japanese Prisoners of War are known only to history, their individual identities lost in the aftermath of war, but I want to recognize Harold Hurvers of St. Paul, the last survivor of the draftees. Through his stories of this horrific ordeal, Americans can learn volumes about the great sacrifices made by our veterans. All Minnesotans, indeed, all Americans owe Mr. Hurvers and all veterans a debt of gratitude for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Hurvers and the Minnesota Draftees of the 194th Light Tank Battalion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 525, Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act, had I been present, I would have voted "Yea."

HONORING WOMEN'S FEDERATION  
FOR WORLD PEACE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and applaud the Women's Federation for World Peace, USA for their commitment to women and world peace. This extraordinary organization provides women with the opportunities to create peace around the world. Their remarkable work highlights and enhances the role of women in establishing a world without terror and violence.

In these troubling times, the cries for peace on Earth are needed more than ever. Women's Federation for World Peace continues their fight by bringing women from all walks of life together to conquer a common goal. Their outstanding dedication and strong will to the enhancement of the world's women and peace will no doubt serve as a valuable component throughout the world.

As women we must be persistent, vigilant, and a strong force to help rid the world of violence. Although change will not come from one group, gender, or political party, but from all who are interested in helping to create a better world. An organization as the Women's Federation of World Peace is just one illustration in helping to create a better world for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank the Women's Federation for World Peace for their dedication and commitment they have put forth. I truly admire this organization for improving the world's women and peace throughout the world.