

As we mourn, we remember that the way we bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice is by bending it together. In the days ahead, let us focus on what unites us and on our shared determination to see justice prevail.

Black lives matter. Law enforcement officers' lives matter. Justice matters. Life matters.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDEN PRAIRIE GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I did 1 year ago, to congratulate the Eden Prairie girls lacrosse team on their high school State championship.

The Eagles demonstrated incredible perseverance as they rallied from a five-goal deficit, scoring six of the next seven goals to tie the championship game at halftime. That run, coupled with a very impressive second half defensive display, lifted the Eagles to an 11-9 victory. Co-coaches Judy Baxter and Beth Patterson have every reason to be proud of their team's resilience throughout the season and the tournament.

It was the Eagles' strong leadership from their upperclassmen that actually made the team difficult to beat. Leading that offensive effort, senior forward Sara Woodring scored two goals and had five assists; and senior defender Payton Borg led the Eagles' defense, allowing only two goals in the second half.

Mr. Speaker, achieving a high school State championship title is an impressive accomplishment, but even more admirable is the Eagles' ability to maintain a commitment throughout the season to their schoolwork and other obligations outside of the classroom. The team's parents, teachers, and fellow Eagle students are very proud of their accomplishments.

Once again, congratulations to the Eden Prairie girls lacrosse team for their winning championship.

CHILCOT REPORT

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was impressed this week with the release of the long-awaited Chilcot report from the United Kingdom's inquiry into the Iraq war.

While the main conclusions of the report should be familiar to all of us—that the U.S. and Britain justified the invasion of Iraq with flawed and manipulated intelligence and that subsequent preparations for post-invasion Iraq were woefully inadequate and mismanaged—it is, nonetheless, an overdue public accountability of British

leadership and a detailed and searing rebuke that no member of the Bush administration has ever undergone.

During his news conference, Mr. Blair said: "I express more sorrow, regret, and apology than you can ever believe."

Mr. Speaker, what is the chance that we will ever hear those same remorseful and contemplative words from Mr. Bush? Mr. Cheney? Mr. Rumsfeld? It is virtually nonexistent.

God forgive us and them for our indifference. Iraq never will.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed this week with the release of the long-awaited Chilcot Report, the United Kingdom's inquiry into the Iraq War.

While the main conclusions of the report should be familiar to all of us by now—that the U.S. and Britain justified the invasion of Iraq on both flawed and manipulated intelligence and that subsequent preparations for post-invasion Iraq were woefully inadequate and mismanaged—it is nonetheless an overdue public accountability of British leadership, a detailed and searing rebuke that no member of the Bush administration has ever undergone.

The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was the worst foreign policy decision ever made by an American president, a decision that cost the U.S. trillions of dollars and that led to the deaths of over a million people, including 4,500 American servicemembers and scores of Iraqis.

Moreover, the ripple effect across the Middle East from that single event 13 years ago has been brutal and violent, spawning terrorist groups like ISIS and mirroring U.S. foreign policy in a region we continue to misunderstand.

For me, and for a number of others in this chamber who boldly spoke against the war before it even began, this report has enormous resonance.

And it was cathartic to watch former Prime Minister Tony Blair's news conference, where he appeared if not exactly repentant, at least deeply affected by the report's scathing criticism.

President Bush and the other architects of the war have never deigned to present themselves before the public to explain, much less atone for, their actions and decisions.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have been far more determined to waste this body's time and resources investigating Benghazi, Hillary Clinton's emails, or the IRS rather than the biggest foreign policy disaster of the last quarter century.

Indifference, Mr. Speaker. That's what the Iraq War has amounted to: a regrettable blip on an otherwise sterling American reputation abroad. That's what President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Rumsfeld, and the rest of the political elite who enabled their actions would have you believe.

But while they continue to enjoy their comfortable retirement, free of punishment or official censure, Iraq continues to burn.

Perhaps you think a Chilcot Report of our own would be futile, now that the American people popularly regard the Iraq War as a profound mistake.

But public censures have their uses, not the least being that they serve as a warning to those who would forget or ignore our past missteps. An American Chilcot Report would certainly check those voices now calling for increased military action in Iraq and Syria.

Over the past 5 days, during the final week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, over 320 people have been killed in Baghdad. This is just the latest of Iraq's horrors, Mr. Speaker, horrors that we wrought with our senseless and criminal invasion 13 years ago.

During his news conference, Mr. Blair said "I express more sorrow, regret and apology than you can ever believe."

Mr. Speaker, the chances of ever hearing the same remorseful and contemplative words from Bush, Cheney, or Rumsfeld are virtually non-existent. God forgive them and us for such indifference, for Iraq never will.

DEFENDING FREEDOMS PROJECT: RAIIF BADAWI

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, June 17 marks the fourth anniversary of the arrest of Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi. He is a prisoner of conscience who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for his writings.

These days, Raif is not doing well. Recently, he resorted to a hunger strike to protest his lack of access to medical care, which, thankfully, he is receiving now, but his family remains extremely concerned for his health.

During the holy month of Ramadan, King Salman pardoned many prisoners. His Majesty should also pardon Raif and Raif's former lawyer, Waleed Abulkhair, a human rights advocate who is serving a 15-year sentence for crimes such as a lack of respect for authorities and creating an NGO without permission.

It is ridiculous. I understand that Saudi Arabia is an ally, Mr. Speaker, but the United States must not be silent while these men sit in prison. Saudi Arabia will not achieve security or stability by repressing peaceful dissent.

□ 1230

HONOR, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a resident of Texas, representing parts of Houston, Texas, which includes the headquarters of the Houston Police Department, the Nation's heart is heavy and saddened.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Dallas and to the families who have lost their fallen heroes.

We respect all of those who are on the front line of allowing the American people to protest. We understand the young people, who are many colors and backgrounds, who felt compelled to protest the loss of life of two individuals. The law enforcement officers respected that, too. They understood the pain of Mr. Castile and Mr. Sterling's deaths.