

one will ever claim that these young men and Coach Williams failed to earn the title "champion."

The Terrapin team, led by senior guard Juan Dixon, who overcame incredible adversity in his life, losing his two parents when he was just a teen, Juan Dixon took their loyal fans through the peaks and valleys of competition, and we shared their deep disappointments, but yes, we shared their final joy, as well.

Juan's superb shooting and defense were as crucial to this team's success as was Steve Blake's ballhandling and passing ability, Lonnie Baxter's powerful inside game and rebounding, Chris Wilcox's fierce blocks, and Byron Mouton's energy, hustle, spark, and extraordinary defense.

It is a tribute to this team's depth that practically every member, every nonstarter, entered the game and we picked up points, be it Tahj Holden; Calvin McCall; Andre Collins; Drew Nicholas, an extraordinary young guard who would have started on any other team in the country; Ryan Randle; Earl Badu; and Mike Grinnon, 12 extraordinary young people. The Terrapins would actually increase their lead when those young people filled in for our starters.

This championship, of course, is the ultimate tribute to the architect of the men's basketball program, Gary Williams. There can be no doubt, Gary is one of the finest coaches in college athletics today, but that was true regardless of the outcome of last week's final championship game. Gary has been a winner wherever he has coached, amassing an extraordinary record of 481 career wins in 24 years. He was a winner at American University, Boston College, and Ohio State University before returning to his alma mater and becoming the champion.

Gary was not alone, of course. He was ably assisted by Dave Dickerson, Jimmy Pastos, Matt Kovarik, and director of basketball operations Troy Wainwright.

I must point out, Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Dr. Deborah Yow, the university's athletic director, one of two women in America who head up a major program. In her 8 years in that position, she has laid the groundwork not only for this national championship and an Orange Bowl appearance by the football team this year, but also for a national all-sports ranking in the top 15 percent of the NCAA Division One institutions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I know that all the Members of the House join me in congratulating the University of Maryland Terrapins for a championship hard won and well earned.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me observe that the University of Maryland now becomes one of five teams in history to have a team that won both the National Football Championship and the National Basketball Championship.

Gary Williams, Maryland Terrapins, thank you, thank you for a great year and for great examples.

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

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA SHOULD PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my congratulations to those of the distinguished gentleman from Maryland. I, too, was proud of those young men as very fine examples for the young people of America. Congratulations again for both of their success stories.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is an important time as we return back from the work recess that Members were just participating in. I believe it is an important time because we have many challenges before us besides the domestic economy. We have the issue of peace. I do believe that Americans want peace. I believe the world wants peace, and that peace we want to be found in the Mideast.

I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an editorial in the Houston Chronicle today, Tuesday, April 9. It reads: "Weapons Check. Measure of trust and hope in IRA announcement."

The first two paragraphs read, "While so much attention is focused on the near-war in the Mideast, one of the world's other long-running sectarian struggles got a bit of good news with the announcement on Monday of further weapon decommissioning by the Irish Republican Army.

"This week marks the fourth anniversary of the signing of the historic 'Good Friday Agreement,' through which the British government offered to trade a number of significant governance concessions in exchange for similar moves from the Irish Republican resistance, including the 'decommissioning,' or putting out of commission, of illegal explosives and other weapons."

While the op ed goes on to raise concerns on whether or not they are making sure that all the Ts are crossed and the Is are dotted, it did end with the emphasis that we must have trust and we must have hope.

I cite this opinion because I want to discuss this evening the value of diplo-

macy and the value of negotiations. I believe the tragedy which faces us in the Mideast has come about for a number of reasons, and I am sure that policymakers proficient in foreign policy issues as it relates to the Mideast over a long period of years will have many, many analyses on the Mideast crisis. But I certainly would point to one that I believe and hope we can turn around, and that is the lack of engagement.

On the floor of the House on February, 2001, I spoke to this issue. It was shortly after the unfortunate lack of agreement on the agreement that had been negotiated by the past administration, a very effective agreement that Prime Minister Barak and we would have hoped that President Arafat would have considered as one of the best opportunities for trust and hope.

It was not consummated, but in the lack of consummating that peace treaty, I believe this administration made an egregious error. Upon coming into office, their quick response was, let them handle it; let them solve it.

We see now some 12, 13 months later that, tragically, that did not work. We have seen the loss of lives of women and men and children, of Israelis and Palestinians. Any of us who care for human life and love people are tragically, tragically upset that we have lost so many lives over the period of time.

Advocates for the survival and existence of Israel, our friend and ally, recognize that no loss of life, no matter who it is, should be accepted, the loss of life of those who lived in the Palestinian areas or in Israel.

We recognize that we who are Americans have both benefit and burden. When I speak to my constituents, I explain to them the importance of foreign policy and the appropriation of the small percentage that we utilize to engage in diplomacy and friendship around the world. And most of them, people of good will, people who are willing to think outside of the box, understand that we who have the benefit of living in this country also have the burden of engagement; no, I did not say sending troops everywhere around the world, but diplomacy. Diplomacy works.

Tragically, as I attended a Passover seder this past Passover holiday with my friends, a very blessed time, we were facing tragedies of suicide bombers in Israel. We cannot tolerate that, as we cannot tolerate the continued warring that is going on, and the loss of life.

Today it is reported that 13 Israeli soldiers were killed, again by a suicide bomber. None of this brings about peace. I am reminded by the words of President Lyndon Baines Johnson 40 years ago who said that the guns and bombs, the rockets and warships, all are symbols of human failure. That means it is most important that this administration turns around and begins to look long-term at engagement.

The sending of Secretary Powell is a good step, but it cannot be a short-lived step or a 24-hour step. We have to engage the brilliance of our diplomacy and make it work. I believe if we sit down at the table of reconciliation, recognizing that this has turned into a crisis, it has been a festering sore from lack of attention for over a year because somebody else had the policies.

I want peace. I want to be one that promotes love and affection, and I am not someone, Mr. Speaker, as I close, I am not someone that misreads the tea leaves. I know what we are dealing with in the Mideast, but I have hope and I believe we can have trust. I believe through engagement and diplomacy we can bring a stability to that area.

I ask the administration and the Congress, I ask Americans, to really get behind the idea of peace in the Mideast.

SENSIBLE ENERGY POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am a little surprised by some of the comments of the previous speaker. Who does not want peace? But this speaker criticizes the administration because they have not engaged in diplomacy? I wonder what the speaker would recommend after September 11. Should the United States of America have called bin Laden and said, "Let us engage in diplomacy?"

I would say, with all due respect to the previous speaker, take a look at the history of dealing with Yasser Arafat. Take a look at how many administrations have tried to engage, have come up with different types of agreements. The only common denominator we see throughout that history of engagement is Yasser Arafat. Take a look at every administration.

I am amazed that one would have the gumption, I guess we would say, to stand up here and criticize this administration because they are not engaging in "diplomacy."

Some Members of Congress, some of us sometimes, and I refer to all of us as Members of Congress, since when do we know all of what is going on in the Middle East? Maybe before we are so critical of the administration in the height of a crisis in the Middle East, maybe we ought to learn a little bit about what goes on behind closed doors, what are those negotiations that are taking place.

What do we expect Israel to do? What we would do if suicide bombers kept coming into our shopping malls or came over on Passover? That bomb, that suicide bomber on Passover would be like coming into America on Christmas Eve and blowing up Santa Claus.

What do we think the response of that country is going to be?

Every nation in this world has an inherent, an inherent right, in fact, an inherent obligation to protect their population, to protect their people.

What do we think the United States of America, and I refer to the previous speaker, what do we think the United States of America would do if somebody started walking into our shopping malls with suicide bombers? Do we think we would engage in a diplomatic fashion with the aggressors? No, we would not engage with them, any more than we would engage in diplomatic discussions with bin Laden.

Once we knew that bin Laden was the person who was in charge, who coordinated, who ordered that devastating blow against our Nation on September 11, I did not hear one American, with the exception of maybe a couple of Congressmen, I did not hear one other American say, gosh, we ought to dial up Mr. bin Laden and we ought to sit down with him and have some diplomatic discussions with him.

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My gosh, Mr. bin Laden, look what you have done. You have killed 3,000 people in America. You have killed hundreds of people from 80 separate countries. You have killed men. You have killed women. You have killed children. You have killed mothers. You have killed fathers. You have killed sisters. You have killed brothers. But, Mr. bin Laden, let us sit down and have a diplomatic discussion with you, because if we do not sit down and have a diplomatic discussion with you, we must not be as the previous speaker said, "engaged," and that is upon the premise which the previous speaker criticizes this administration. Look, I think before one criticizes the President or before one criticizes Colin Powell or before one criticizes the efforts, one ought to know what is going on behind closed doors. What are the facts? What kind of contacts have they had? And regardless of where you stand on the issue, what country in the world can continue to sustain suicide bombers coming in with devastating blows against their innocent population? These are not military strikes. These bombers do not have enough guts to meet at the O.K. Corral and have a showdown on Main Street. Instead, they sneak in the back door of a department store and blow it to smithereens.

I heard on Public Radio the other day, Public Radio had this long discussion about a Palestinian woman who was pregnant and who was about to deliver, but she could not deliver because the Israel military had occupied the street and they could not get an ambulance to her so she had to deliver in her home. Not once during that discussion on Public Radio, not once did we hear any kind of discussion about that pregnant mother that was blown to smithereens by a suicide bomber, no chance

at all. We have got to be a little fair in our approach here.

I am amazed, to me, the more and more I hear the anti-Jewish rhetoric, the anti-Israel rhetoric, I would like to ask any of you who are perpetrators of that kind of comment, what would you do if somebody walked in one of your relative's house and blew it to smithereens? Do as the previous speaker said? Call them on the phone and say let us have some diplomatic engagement or be subject to criticism because you went over and you tried to eliminate the person who has done everything they can to destroy you.

I am no expert on the Middle East. I read about it every day. I spent time today flying on the plane, most of my time; my reading was on the Middle East. I grab all the information I can about the Middle East. But I am awful careful before I jump out and criticize the administration on their policy on the Middle East unless I think I have got a better answer. And, frankly, I do not know what the solution in the Middle East is. But I do not think the solution is to criticize our leaders because they have not sat down so-called sat down and had diplomatic engagement. Anybody that alleges that there has not been diplomatic engagement in the Middle East shows a very clear demonstration of a lack of knowledge of history. There has been time and time and time again of diplomatic engagement in the Middle East.

Of course, everybody wants to settle it peacefully. We would like to have settled issues peacefully prior to September 11. But sometimes the aggressor offers you no choice. Do you realistically think that on September 12 America thought that one of the options we had was to sit down with bin Laden and to have "diplomatic engagement" with this villain, with this man so full of hatred that he killed thousands of innocent people with one strike? And if he is alive, you can be sure he is not thinking about diplomatic engagement. He is not thinking about anything to further his religion. He is thinking about an evil strike, how else can he get back at the United States of America. Tell me what the mind was, what kind of sound minds of these suicide bombers or these perpetrators, for example, on September 11. They did not target one specific group. They did not care whether they were Muslims. They killed Muslims in those towers. There were people of the Islam faith that were killed. They killed people of 50 different nationalities from 80 different countries. They did not discriminate between men and women, between children and mothers and fathers and so on.

Sometimes I am surprised at the remarks, although having been here for a few years I am getting kind of used to it; but sometimes I am a little surprised at the remarks made on this House floor, and especially to have in my opinion to stand up here at the height, hours after they have just had