

detained Iraqi officials that would identify individuals currently in the United States and abroad who are linked to terrorist organizations.

The use of force against Iraq will directly advance the war on terror, and will be consistent with continuing efforts against international terrorists residing and operating elsewhere in the world. The U.S. armed forces remain engaged in key areas around the world in the prosecution of the war on terrorism. The necessary preparations for and conduct of military operations in Iraq have not diminished the resolve, capability, or activities of the United States to pursue international terrorists to protect our homeland. Nor with the use of military force against Iraq distract civilian departments and agencies of the United States Government from continuing aggressive efforts in combating terrorism, or divert resources from the overall world-wide counter-terrorism effort. Current counter-terrorism investigations and activities will continue during any military conflict, and winning the war on terrorism will remain the top priority for our Government.

Indeed, the United States has made significant progress on other fronts in the war on terror even while Iraq and its threat to the United States and other countries have been a focus of concern. Since November 2002, when deployments of forces to the Gulf were substantially increased, the United States, in cooperation with our allies, has arrested or captured several terrorists and frustrated several terrorist plots. For example, on March 1, 2003, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed was captured in Rawalpindi, Pakistan by Pakistani authorities, with U.S. cooperation. The capture of Sheikh Mohammed, the al Qaeda "mastermind" of the September 11th attacks and Osama Bin Laden's senior terrorist attack planner, is a severe blow to al Qaeda that will destabilize the terrorist network worldwide. This and other successes make clear that the United States Government remains focused on the war on terror, and that use of force in Iraq is fully consistent with continuing to take necessary actions against terrorists and terrorist organizations.

5. CONCLUSION

In the circumstances described above, the President of the United States has the authority—indeed, given the dangers involved, the duty—to use force against Iraq to protect the security of the American people and to compel compliance with UNSC resolutions.

The President has full authority to use the armed forces in Iraq under the U.S. Constitution, including his authority as Commander in Chief of the U.S. armed forces. This authority is supported by explicit statutory authorizations contained in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243).

In addition, U.S. action is consistent with the UN Charter. The UNSC, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, provided that member states, including the United States, have the right to use force in Iraq to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Council authorized the use of force in UNSCR 678 with respect to Iraq in 1990. This resolution—on which the United States has relied continuously and with the full knowledge of the UNSC to use force in 1993, 1996, and 1998 and to enforce the no-fly zones—remains in effect today. In UNSCR 1441, the UNSC unanimously decided again that Iraq has been and remains in material breach of its obligations under relevant resolutions and would face serious consequences if it failed immediately to disarm. And, of

course, based on existing facts, including the nature and type of the threat posed by Iraq, the United States may always proceed in the exercise of its inherent right of self defense, recognized in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Accordingly, the United States has clear authority to use military force against Iraq to assure its national security and to compel Iraq's compliance with applicable UNSC resolutions.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The Chair will now entertain 10 one-minute addresses to the House from each side of the Chamber.

SUPPORT OUR PRESIDENT AND OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all eyes are on Iraq. Saddam has failed to provide credible evidence to back his bogus claims that he completely disarmed.

Saddam will not tell us about his 26,000 liters of anthrax; 38,000 liters of dangerous toxins; or 500 tons of sarin gas, mustard gas and VX nerve agents. Enough to kill millions of people.

Saddam repeatedly declares he does not have any chemical or biological weapons. Yet he just released them to his men for use against our troops. And he has not disclosed his mobile biological weapons labs or more than 30,000 munitions, including missiles capable of delivering chemical agents.

President Bush said, "Responding to enemies only after they have struck first is not self-defense. It is suicide."

I urge America and this Congress to support our President and our troops. This war is for our freedom and the freedom of the world.

HONORING SUNIL AGHI

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor my good friend, Mr. Sunil Aghi, or Sunny, as he was known by most people.

I first met Sunny when I received a phone call one morning during my first campaign for Congress. Sunny introduced himself. He said that he was Indian; and since my campaign was a campaign of the people, he wanted to get his people, the Indian community, to come and help me win.

When he said Indian, I thought he meant headdress and Native American; but what he meant was the Indo-American community, those who were from India.

Sunny had such energy. He was a leading Indo-American in the political

arena. He was a one-man show, putting together fund-raisers, hosting dozens of Congresspeople and Senators, spreading the message of democracy. He believed in democracy and teaching many of us about India, the world's largest democracy.

Sunny passed away last week, survived by his wife, Dimple, and his three young children. And he was young. But as someone said, he managed to wrap many of us here in the Congress and at other State and local levels, people who represent people, he managed to wrap us as a sari does, in his Indian-ness. Thank you, Sunny, for your life and the life you gave to others.

PASS BANKRUPTCY REFORM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, our bankruptcy laws are in desperate need of reform. That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 975, the Bankruptcy Reform Bill, up for a vote today.

Last year we had some problems with a similar bill. An unrelated provision was inserted into that bill last year during the conference committee and that provision had nothing to do with protecting consumers or preventing bankruptcy abuse. Instead, it would have sent the right to peaceful protests into bankruptcy. Thanks to the efforts of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER), I am pleased that this year we have a clean bill to consider once again.

I commend the chairman for his tireless efforts to reform our bankruptcy laws, and I urge our colleagues to support this bill to reform the bankruptcy system.

UNDERSTANDING OUR RIGHTS

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to have the opportunity to lead this Congress this morning in the Pledge of Allegiance. And it is a great opportunity for me because as those of us who speak out against the war in Iraq, many times our support for the Nation and support for the Presidency and support for the military are called into question.

On Saturday I had the opportunity to participate in a peace rally at Public Square in the city of Cleveland, and I talked about patriotism and I talked about all those teachers in my high school and college years who said to me, understand the Bill of Rights. Understand you have the right to protest. Understand you have the right to assemble, and understand you have a right to free speech.

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My free speech allows me to say to the entire world, to the troops all over