

other nation is by forces of terrorism begrudging its very survival even prior to its 1948 rebirth and ever since.

Israel is a remnant of and collective address of a historical people suffering untold persecution as a powerless minority, which culminated in the consuming Holocaust's vast tragedy. It sought security through the normalcy of returning to its geographic and religious roots reflected in the unique Biblical heritage, only to be rejected by a hostile neighborhood alien to both its Jewish message and Western mindset.

Miraculously returning to the soil from which it was driven by the power of the Roman sword, Israel proved the superior quality of the soul. Taking into long exile and dispersion the cherished memory of Zion and Jerusalem, it faithfully incorporated it into its spiritual life enabling an unparalleled homecoming. The national revival and cultural renewal in a vibrant democratic context was accompanied by giant strides, turning a country poor in natural resources and devastated by past trouble into an oasis of a highly developed technological society in a sea of Arab feudalism and neglect. All that while defending against a relentless enemy and absorbing millions of displaced Jewish refugees, unlike the refusal of its neighbors to welcome as equals the Palestinians in their midst.

Its tenacious will to live at last convinced Egypt, the leading Arab country, and Jordan, of the futility of fighting Israel as well as the wisdom of making peace with it, providing instead for their internal front begging transformation. Of course, the rewards of the Israeli willing evacuation of the Sinai and its oil fields along with American support packages were added incentives. While Syria, a terrorist state, is still holding out, Chairman Arafat of the Palestinian Authority tragically proved that he lacks the conviction and courage of martyred President Sadat and Prime Minister Rabin, and the late Prime Minister Begin and King Hussein. In a moment of truth on July 2000 at Camp David Arafat dashed the dreams of so many, turning his back to most forthcoming Prime Minister Barak with President Clinton's risked prestige, converting vision into violence with suicide-homicide bombings lowering inhumanity's bar.

First Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen will hopefully demonstrate to rightfully and responsibly expecting Prime Minister Sharon an abandonment of terrorism's path, with commitment to peaceful co-existence at Israel's side benefiting both long-suffering peoples. However, Israel should never compromise on its security and survival. The unimaginable evil events of September 11, 2001 have highlighted the direct dangers also to America and world stability by the forces of militant Islam. The war in Iraq under President George W. Bush's decisive leadership of a man carrying the burden of a wounded nation, toppled Saddam Hussein's terror-filled regime with freedom's hammer hand-delivered by Lady Liberty's daring children. Consequently, the new vistas have the great potential to infuse the Middle East with essential democratic spirit, providing renewed promise to that critical region that is the cradle of the three great monotheistic religions, to once again bless humanity rather than dooming it. The unshakable bond between the United States and Israel, both victims of terrorism, born of common vision, values and valor for shalom's yet enduring victory, remains a reassuring beacon of light in history's darkness.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, is son of Polish Holocaust survivors.

MILITARY IN-STATE TUITION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Military In-State Tuition Act of 2003.

Currently, there is a patchwork of state laws regarding residency requirements for in-state tuition rates for military personnel and their families. When service members are given transfer orders that relocate them to a different state, college students in the family must often face tough choices regarding tuition costs at the college or university in their home state.

There are three residency requirement issues that have been identified by military leaders in my state. First, it is difficult for some families to maintain their eligibility for in-state tuition within their state of legal residence, if they have been assigned outside of that state. For example, a military family may be stationed in another country or state while maintaining residency in the member's home state. Upon return to their state of residence, they find they are not eligible for in-state tuition. My legislation would ensure that soldiers and their families are always eligible for in-state tuition rates in their state of legal residence.

Second, some dependents of military personnel have trouble maintaining in-state tuition at their current college or university, if their sponsoring active-duty parent is transferred out of state. My legislation would address this concern by ensuring that students receive in-state tuition even if the military parent or guardian is reassigned out of state.

Last, most active duty military members who are transferred out of state while enrolled in a state college or university do not qualify for in-state tuition in their new state of assignment until a lengthy residency requirement is met. My legislation would ensure that soldiers, who have been reassigned due to military orders, and their families are eligible immediately for in-state tuition.

Given the sacrifices that active-duty military personnel make for our country, I believe that it is only fair that if they and their families enroll at state colleges and universities, they should qualify for in-state tuition. These active duty members should not be penalized by having to pay higher tuition rates when they are reassigned to another military facility in a different state.

I hope my colleagues will join me by supporting and cosponsoring this legislation.

TIME MAGAZINE REPORTER JIM LACEY EMBEDDED WITH 101ST AIRBORNE

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I submit the attached report of Time Magazine correspondent Jim Lacey for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TIME MAGAZINE REPORTER JIM LACEY EMBEDDED WITH 101ST AIRBORNE

Since returning from Iraq a short time ago I have been answering a lot of questions

about the war from friends, family, and strangers. When they ask me how it was over there I find myself glossing over the fighting, the heat, the sandstorms, and the flies (these last could have taught the Iraqi army a thing or two about staying power). Instead, I talk about the soldiers I met, and how they reflected the best of America. A lot of people are going to tell the story of how this war was fought; I would rather say something about the men who won the war.

War came early for the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne when an otherwise quiet night in the Kuwaiti desert was shattered by thunderous close-quarters grenade blasts. Sgt. Hasan Akbar, a U.S. soldier, had thrown grenades into an officers' tent, killing two and wounding a dozen others. Adding to the immediate confusion was the piercing scream of SCUD alarms, which kicked in the second Akbar's grenade exploded. For a moment, it was a scene of near panic and total chaos.

Just minutes after the explosions, a perimeter was established around the area of the attack, medics were treating the wounded, and calls for evacuation vehicles and helicopters were already being sent out. Remarkably, the very people who should have been organizing all of this were the ones lying on the stretchers, seriously wounded. It fell to junior officers and untested sergeants to take charge and lead. Without hesitation everyone stepped up and unflinchingly did just that. I stood in amazement as two captains (Townlee Hendrick and Tony Jones) directed the evacuation of the wounded, established a hasty defense, and helped to organize a search for the culprit. They did all this despite bleeding heavily from their wounds. For over six hours, these two men ran things while refusing to be evacuated until they were sure all of the men in their command were safe.

Two days later Capt. Jones left the hospital and hitchhiked back to the unit: He had heard a rumor that it was about to move into Iraq and he wanted to be there. As Jones—dressed only in boots, a hospital gown, and a flak vest—limped toward headquarters, Col. Hodges, the 1st Brigade's commander, announced, "I see that Captain Jones has returned to us in full martial splendor." The colonel later said that he was tempted to send Jones to the unit surgeon for further evaluation, but that he didn't feel he had the right to tell another man not to fight: Hodges himself had elected to leave two grenade fragments in his arm so that he could return to his command as quickly as possible.

The war had not even begun and already I was aware that I had fallen in with a special breed of men. Over the next four weeks, nothing I saw would alter this impression. A military historian once told me that soldiers could forgive their officers any fault save cowardice. After the grenade attack I knew these men were not cowards, but I had yet to learn that the brigade's leaders had made a cult of bravery. A few examples will suffice.

While out on what he called "battlefield circulation," Col. Hodges was surveying suspected enemy positions with one of his battalion commanders (Lt. Col. Chris Hughes) when a soldier yelled "Incoming" to alert everyone that mortar shells were headed our way. A few soldiers moved closer to a wall, but Hodges and Hughes never budged and only briefly glanced up when the rounds hit a few hundred yards away. As Hodges completed his review and prepared to leave, another young soldier asked him when they would get to kill whoever was firing the mortar. Hodges smiled and said, "Don't be in a hurry to kill him. They might replace that guy with someone who can shoot."

The next day, a convoy Col. Hodges was traveling in was ambushed by several Iraqi