

last week, held in leg irons where audiences are required to watch their sentencing as a lesson in obedience to the law and government; and after the show, prisoners are paraded off to a firing squad. It is frightening and medieval stuff.

China today executes more people than all other countries in the world combined, according to Amnesty International, some 20,000 executions over the last decade, an average of 40 people a week; and that is just what is public, Mr. Speaker. Not only are they engaged in the moral horror of widespread public summary executions, but also China is in the business of carefully executing persons and then quickly harvesting prisoners' organs for sale on the international market. We heard from State Department officials who even acknowledged this.

It is an extraordinary thing, to say the least. The practice of taking human organs from condemned prisoners is in itself condemned by every known standard of medical ethics in the civilized world, and it goes on with American and Western customers paying top dollar for those organs each and every day.

I call on the United States of America and our State Department, as I did in the congressional hearing, to act in a number of ways, to issue a warning through HHS and the CDC to American citizens who are traveling abroad to the Asian Pacific Rim of not only the dangers of obtaining a human organ, but of the profound immorality of doing so. It is imperative that the United States of America speak in moral terms of that which is immoral, and it is immoral to harvest organs from condemned prisoners.

I also challenge the administration to rethink this entire business of engagement and to do as Ronald Reagan did whenever his administration did visit the Evil Empire, the Soviet Union. They met with dissidents; they associated themselves with people who were advancing freedom. The Good Book tells us, I am a friend to those who fear you, and so the United States should be to the Chinese people, a friend to those who cherish liberty and cherish the sanctity of human life and condemn the outrage of mass executions and the harvesting of human organs.

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

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

HONORING GEORGE GARCIA

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor a dear friend from my

district, George Garcia, who died early this morning at the age of 51. He was a resident of El Sereno community of East Los Angeles in my district. He was born on May 6, 1952, in Los Angeles and grew up in the community of Chino, California.

At the age of 18, George Garcia answered our Nation's call to duty and voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army. He was signed to the 82nd Airborne Division, where he served with great honor during the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, George served as a "tunnel rat." I asked my colleagues what is a tunnel rat. Apparently these young men in that era courageously dug tunnels behind enemy lines in the Vietnam War.

Upon returning from Vietnam, George married his high school sweetheart, Roberta Melendez. Together, they raised three beautiful children who mourn his loss today, as well as myself and other people from our community. One of his children, George, Jr., is carrying on his father's commitment to defending our Nation as a member of the United States Navy.

Upon returning from Vietnam, George Garcia dedicated his life and career to helping fellow veterans. For the past 25 years, he worked as an employee of the Employment Development Department in California finding jobs for unemployed veterans.

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He founded the San Gabriel Valley East Los Angeles Veterans Employment Committee. He also fought vigorously to address the special needs of Latino veterans, including immigration, substance abuse and education training. George also formed coalitions among multi-ethnic groups and gave numerous hours to grassroots organizing to ensure a voice for his fellow veterans.

Most recently, George dedicated his time and expertise to military families who were waiting to hear about their loved ones who are currently serving in Iraq. He spent many, many years helping us each year provide gifts to poor children during Christmastime in the communities of East Los Angeles. Throughout his life, George Garcia gave unselfishly to his fellow veterans and their families. The imprint of his efforts can be felt throughout the Los Angeles community, and we all grieve for him today.

His commitment to serving his fellow veterans earned him in 2002 the honor of being named the State of California's Veteran of the Year by the Department for Veterans Outreach Programs in the State of California.

Whenever there was an event or a project to help veterans, George was there. I met him years ago as a State Senator in California. Every time I would ask him, what can we do to help the veterans, what can we do to help the homeless veterans, he was there giving his ideas, sharing with his heart and his compassion, tirelessly as a vol-

unteer, no pay, but out of the love of his heart.

I want to ask all my colleagues here to join me in honoring a true American hero. To him and his family, his son and to all those people and all those veterans, homeless veterans who met and touched him, he touched their hearts and he touches our hearts every day. We will remember you, George. We love you. God bless you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). 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.)

QUESTIONS CONCERNING IRAQI WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the White House has been backtracking on how it was that fraudulent intelligence information was included by the President in his January State of the Union address delivered in this Chamber. Specifically, the statement by President Bush was that Iraq had sought to buy processed uranium for weapons of mass destruction from Niger, Africa. That information was wrong. Indeed, the documents involved appear to contain forged signatures of leaders from those nations who are no longer in office. How could this kind of information be placed in a State of the Union address?

The current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. George Tenet, over the weekend has claimed publicly that he will take responsibility for this serious statement that misled Congress, misled the American people and indeed the people of the world about Iraq's intentions and capabilities relative to nuclear weaponry. The real question about this revelation is who exactly knew what and when did they know it? And who is responsible for these words being included in the President's State of the Union address, an address of such major proportion that preceded the invasion?

At the same time as I ponder these questions as I know the American people are, I am in receipt of a letter from an intelligence officer. I have read it and reread it and reread it again. In the letter and in my dealings with intelligence officers, I have been told that they are trained to triple-check, to verify significant intelligence information, triple-check. So when a statement is made in the State of the Union address of such consequence, I ask myself, was it triple-checked? Who really knew what and when did they know it? Surely someone, more than one person in that White House and other places checked and rechecked and then