

Mike Brady bravely served our country in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1967 as a Navy Machinist mate 3rd Class on the USS *Long Beach*. Upon his return to New York, he became an active member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Mike Brady displayed an overwhelming concern for children that showed through his many actions. He was a co-founder of the Smithtown Veterans Youth Program. This valuable program provides the youth of Smithtown and the surrounding communities a safe place to go every weeknight of their summer vacation to enjoy friendship and fun. This program has been used as a nationwide model by veteran's organizations in an effort to fight drugs and keep America's youth drug-free.

Mike also worked with children as a little league coach. His patience and commitment to children made a difference in the lives of so many. The ancient saying that "it takes a village to raise a child" was one that Mike understood and embraced.

Mike Brady is described by his family and friends as a simple, caring person, who constantly gave back to the community with his service and dedication to every person he met. These admirable characteristics led Mike Brady to be honored as a recipient of the Chapel of Four Chaplains Humanitarian Award. He joins recipients such as Bob Hope and Ronald Reagan who received the award with the purpose of recognizing the service that a veteran provides to their community above and beyond the call of duty.

Some people come into our lives and leave without a trace. Some stay for awhile and remain close to our hearts. And we are never, ever the same. Mike Brady has left his mark on the Smithtown Community and he will be missed.

HONORING RUSH ELEMENTARY ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 20, 2003

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to celebrate Rush Elementary School in Lubbock, Texas' 50th anniversary, which will occur on October 24th. Rush Elementary has played an integral role in developing and nurturing young students in West Texas for half a century. The faculty's contributions to the lives of young people have strengthened the foundation of the community and continue to be an invaluable resource.

The school strives to continue the spirit of community service that was characteristic of George A. Rush, the school's namesake. Mr. Rush was a pioneering citizen who helped lay the foundation on which Lubbock was built. Mr. Rush served on the first Lubbock City Council and originally owned the 9.5 acres of land where the school is now built. By emphasizing community outreach, the facility has fostered in its students a spirit of serving others with dedication. We have been especially fortunate in my home, that my wife, Dana, attended Rush. Senate Majority Leader BILL FRIST's wife Karyn, also benefited from attending Rush during her elementary years.

Rush Elementary School was founded in 1953 and it only consisted of four classrooms in two temporary buildings with combined grade levels. The existing building opened on December 19, 1957. Mrs. Maggie Hammer served as the head teacher of the four teacher staff. In 1959 twelve classrooms were added, followed by a new gymnasium and an air-conditioning system in 1989, as well as technical upgrades to support a new computer system. Rush currently enrolls 580 students.

Today, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rush Elementary School in Lubbock, Texas, I thank them for their service to the area. I am proud to join the citizens of Lubbock, and others who have benefited from the elementary school, in extending my deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their hard work. Our community would not be the same without the unparalleled contributions of the school and its dedicated faculty and staff.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE-
FENSE AND FOR THE RECON-
STRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AF-
GHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, tomorrow we will vote on spending 86.9 billion dollars of American taxpayers' hard-earned money on our ongoing military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This massive request for supplemental funds to pay for our activities in Iraq and Afghanistan brings home—to the pocketbooks of every American taxpayer—the cost of our involvement in these countries.

If this bill passes tomorrow, we will have spent a total of 175 billion dollars on Iraq and Afghanistan—38 billion dollars more than we are spending for Federal health, education and labor programs here at home. And 47 billion dollars more than we are spending for our veterans, housing, economic development, NASA, environmental protection and scientific research here at home.

I am not going to argue about our activities in Afghanistan—they are wholly appropriate and necessary in order to dismantle the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

However, Iraq is different.

We have gotten ourselves into a situation in Iraq that is both dangerous to our troops and critically important to our worldwide leadership duties and responsibilities. The situation is now so serious that, to me, it is less important that we arrived at this point by serious miscalculation, perhaps manipulation and half-truths, than to understand that "failure is not an option."

We have the most professional, most dedicated, best-trained and best-equipped military in the world. It is absolutely necessary that we

supply anything and everything to support and ensure the safety and success of our troops. They represent the best this country has to offer, and their sacrifices should never be taken lightly or for granted. As commander in chief, the president committed them to this war, and now we must provide them with all the resources and support they need. I support every penny of this request that supports our troops. And in addition to supporting them this week, we must also remember to fully support and fund the veterans programs that they will rely on in the future.

The Administration is asking us to support a request for reconstruction in Iraq of 18.6 billion dollars that, according to Ambassador L. Paul Bremer (administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority), is probably just the down payment. Bremer has indicated that reconstruction costs alone may top 60 to 70 billion dollars.

This bill would provide 5.7 billion dollars to rehabilitate Iraq's electric power infrastructure. In my district, which includes the city of El Paso, and in other districts on the U.S.-Mexican border, hundreds of thousands of our own citizens don't have electricity. Never mind that a failure in our own power grid caused a huge blackout in the Northeast recently, and that Hurricane Isabel left hundreds of thousands in the dark, while many of my colleagues were told by Federal disaster relief agencies that they don't have the funds to help.

Also included in this bill is 793 million dollars for health care programs and upgrades to hospitals and clinics. El Paso, a city of 700,000, is in desperate need of affordable health services and is in the midst of a health care crisis caused by severe budget cutbacks at the State and Federal levels.

This bill includes 4.3 billion dollars to expand access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation. Hundreds of thousands of people along our Nation's border don't have safe drinking water or sanitation services. In fact, nearly 5,000 households in the El Paso area lack complete plumbing.

This supplemental includes another 500 million dollars for transportation and telecommunications projects in Iraq. Meanwhile, more than 10,000 households in the El Paso area have no telephone service available for their use.

Mr. Speaker, there are those in the Administration who talk about our "responsibility" to provide these services to rebuild Iraq when we along the border are constantly told there is not enough money to assist in the development of these services here at home. What about the responsibility to our own citizens in our own country?

This Administration comes to us and the American people expecting to receive a blank check with no questions asked. It seems to think the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, can be used to ramrod anything and everything. It acts as though it is unpatriotic to ask for justification and accountability. Mr. Speaker, it is not unpatriotic to ask for justification and accountability for the taxpayers' money—it is one of the most patriotic actions a member of this body can take.

The request for funds to rebuild Iraq is bundled together in this bill with the money essential to support our troops. At the same time that their sons and daughters are being