

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO  
TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional endeavors and notable undertakings of an extraordinary professional membership organization in the State of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding association for its leadership in government and the legal community and for its enduring service to the people of our state. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA) has been on the front lines of progress since its inception and has proven to be a powerful force in transforming the legal landscape of our state. CTLA's statement of purpose merits mention. "The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association is comprised of Colorado trial lawyers who are committed to the protection and advancement of individuals rights and to the advancement of trial advocacy skills, high ethical standards and professionalism in the ongoing effort to preserve and improve the American system of jurisprudence." Within this unequivocal statement lies the touchstone that has guided CTLA's work with government and its immeasurable contribution to the legal profession in Colorado.

For the last half-century, CTLA and its members have been resolute in their commitment to protecting the health, safety and welfare of Colorado consumers. It has been active in educating the public concerning the efficacy of individual rights and the pivotal role of the trial lawyer in protecting those rights. CTLA has recognized, and continues to recognize, that it has a public trust of considerable magnitude. Through its legislative advocacy, CTLA has provided vital information and invaluable counsel to Members of the Colorado General Assembly and the United States Congress on issues that protect consumers and impact our civil justice system. Due in no small part to CTLA's advocacy, many detrimental legislative proposals have been defeated, particularly those that would have prevented or hindered access to the courts for redress of grievances.

Trial advocacy is facing considerable change, technological and otherwise. CTLA has given the legal profession inestimable service through its outstanding legal education programs by providing state-of-the-art instruction concerning law, ethics and professional conduct for members and non-members alike. CTLA has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to those in need. Countless members have provided pro-bono legal aid, including free legal assistance to the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11 through the Trial Lawyers Care Program. My membership in CTLA has had a profound impact on my career in the practice of law and public service.

Please join me in commending the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. It is leadership, advocacy and commitment of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION IS A  
NOBLE CAUSE THAT MUST NOT  
FAIL

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues the following column by the distinguished commentator Morton M. Kondracke in the November 6 edition of Roll Call. Mr. Kondracke has eloquently stated the stakes facing all of us in Iraq. His incisive and knowledgeable commentary should be read by all.

[From Roll Call, Nov. 6, 2003]

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION IS A NOBLE CAUSE  
THAT MUSTN'T FAIL

(By Morton M. Kondracke)

In January 1946, seven months after V-E Day, the eminent novelist John DosPassos wrote after a trip to Europe that U.S. servicemen were telling him, "We've lost the peace. We can't make it stick."

In an article in Life magazine, he wrote that "A tour of the beaten-up cities of Europe . . . is a mighty sobering experience. Europeans, friend and foe alike, look you accusingly in the face and tell how bitterly they are disappointed in you as an American."

"They cite the evolution of the word 'liberation.' Before the Normandy landings, it meant to be freed from the tyranny of the Nazis. Now it stands in the minds of the civilians for one thing: looting."

If this sounds familiar in the aftermath of the Iraq war, it goes on: "Instead of coming in with a bold plan of relief and reconstruction, we came in full of evasions and apologies. . . . We have swept away Hitlerism, but a great many Europeans feel that the cure has been worse than the disease."

It was another year after this article was written before Secretary of State George Marshall delivered his celebrated speech at Harvard University launching the Marshall Plan for European relief.

By contrast, Congress gave final approval this week, six months after the Iraq war, to the contemporary version of the Marshall Plan: the \$20 billion downpayment on Iraqi reconstruction. At that, reconstruction was already under way.

We succeeded grandly in Europe in one of the most generous and idealistic—and also pragmatic—undertakings in American history.

Prior to America's making the effort, DosPassos noted, Winston Churchill made a speech in which he warned Americans, "You must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes, if you are not to fall back into the rut of inertia, the confusion of aim and the craven fear of being great."

It's sad that we don't have a Churchill around to affirm the morality of what America is doing in Iraq: We have toppled a monstrous dictator and we are trying to rebuild his shattered country, turn it into a democracy and make it an example to a region that knows only authoritarianism and despotism.

It is a noble cause that President Bush has undertaken. His adversaries at home and abroad say that he got us into it by deception, but what could possibly have been his motive?

The "war for oil" charge is simply laughable. The "war for politics" charge—that it was done to help Republicans—is outrageous.

The "war for ideology" analysis makes more sense—i.e., that "neo-conservatives" in Bush's administration wanted to topple Sad-

dam Hussein from Day One. But why did they want to do so, if they didn't think he represented a menace to U.S. security?

Bush's Democratic foes are charging that Bush trumped up evidence of Hussein's possession of weapons of mass destruction. But the fact is that every intelligence service in the world believed he had them—how else could Bush have won a unanimous vote at the U.N. Security Council to give Hussein one final chance to account for them?

How and why the United States got into the war in the first place will be hashed out for the rest of this presidential campaign and beyond, but the important thing now is to win the peace.

Whatever their differences on whether the war should have been fought or how the peace is being won, even Bush's harshest foes ought to admit that what he's undertaking is an idealistic enterprise.

If Democrats are proud of America's intervention in Kosovo and remorseful of our failure to intervene to prevent genocide in Rwanda, how can they not support an effort to establish democracy in Iraq?

Moreover, what Bush is doing is not only Wilsonian, it's also pragmatic. In 1946, the danger was that if America failed in Europe, Russia would take over. In 2003, if the United States fails, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden succeed.

There's no question that the effort is going to be difficult—or even that Bush miscalculated the difficulties and didn't plan well enough for them.

But contrary to the charge that he "has no plan," he plainly does now. As stated by U.S. Iraq Administrator Paul Bremer, it is to (1) "establish a secure environment by taking direct action against terrorists . . . and restore urgent and essential services to the country, (2) expand international cooperation in the security and reconstruction and (3) accelerate the orderly transition to self-government by the Iraqis."

Can this be brought off? The jury is very much out. Our forces and Iraqis who side with us are under constant attack, at least in Sunni-dominated areas of the country. The international community—ever so solicitous of Iraqi citizens' welfare under economic sanctions—either wants us to fail or has been scared off by bombings.

The vast majority of Iraqis clearly want stability and self-rule. For our sake and for theirs, it's imperative that we stay the course and do this right—and not allow vicious killers to force us out too early.

It would be a catastrophe, both for the Iraqis who are working with us and for our standing in the world, if this effort were to fail. Fortunately, polls indicate that most Americans want to stay the course. It's time for Bush's critics to quit just carping and contribute constructive ideas on how to make this effort succeed. If it does, all of us will be very proud.

VETERAN'S DAY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 6, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Veterans' Day, it is fitting and proper that we honor an African-American sailor who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

I am planning to introduce legislation soon that calls for awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Dorie Miller posthumously for his heroic actions during World War Two.