

suspects on its terrorist watch list attempt to buy guns, but regulations prohibit those officials from obtaining details if the transaction occurs." The article states that 13 alleged terrorists have been allowed to buy guns.

A follow-up Post article from November 22 reports that the Justice Department has ordered the FBI to increase scrutiny of suspected terrorists who attempt to buy guns, but gives the FBI only three days to run additional checks on prospective gun buyers listed on the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizations File."

We are fighting a war on terrorism—and as chairman of the CJS subcommittee I have offered unwavering support to the Justice Department and the nation's federal law enforcement 4 activities—yet terrorist manuals recovered by law enforcement contain guidance on how easy it is to buy guns in the United States. Even the Justice Department's website contains the al Qaeda training manual which includes the following: "The confrontation that we are calling for with the apostate regimes does not know Socratic debates . . . , Platonic ideals . . . , nor Aristotelian diplomacy. But it knows the dialogue of bullets, the ideals of assassination, bombing, and destruction, and the diplomacy of the cannon and machine-guns."

It continues with "Second Issue: The importance of establishing a tactical plan for the assassination operation that consists of the operational factors themselves (members, weapons, hiding places . . .) and factors of the operation (time, place). In this example, we shall explain in detail the part related to the security plan. The part related to operational tactics will be explained in the lesson on special operational tactics."

That's how the terrorists train and that scenario is one about which I have long been concerned. In September 1998 I saw the need to address the growing threat of terrorism in the world and authored legislation which created the National Commission on Terrorism chaired by Ambassador Paul Bremer, That was less than a month after two U.S. embassies in East Africa were bombed by terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden. I had raised with our colleagues then the concern that Sudan was harboring bin Laden. Quite frankly I have been frustrated in my attempts to get Congress and administrations past and present to be proactive in combating the terrorist threat.

Now comes this firearms regulation change which I believe could play into terrorists' hands. Obtaining weapons is a critical part of their plan. It is abundantly clear that we need to change some of our laws, but not in ways that make it easier for terrorists to buy weapons in the United States.

We all remember the terror of 9/11. Our nation and the world changed forever on that day when 3,000 died, including 30 from my congressional district. We all remember the terror that gripped the Washington area a year later when snipers killed 14 and wounded six others, including a young child. Shouldn't we be doing everything we can to assist law enforcement officers in rooting out terrorists, rather than tying their hands?

HONORING LTC ROBERT D. COULDRY FOR HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE 139TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize LTC Robert D. Couldry of the 139th Airlift Wing stationed at Rosecrans Memorial Airport, St. Joseph, Missouri. Lieutenant Colonel Couldry has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 36-year commitment to the Missouri Air National Guard and to the citizens of Missouri.

Lieutenant Colonel Couldry enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard in 1967 and was commissioned in 1979. His dedication to service became evident early on in his career. Lieutenant Colonel Couldry's contributions to the 139th Aerial Port Squadron have spanned over 25 years, where he led the formation of the Aerial Port Standardization and Evaluation Quality Control program.

In his position as the 139th Airlift Wing Inspector General officer, Lieutenant Colonel Couldry developed the first 139th Airlift Wing Inspector General Program and associated Wing Inspector General Operating Instructions. His diverse background and knowledge helped make this program successful and improved operation through staff education.

In addition to his service in the Missouri Air National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel Couldry also served his state as the superintendent of schools for Mid-Buchanan School District.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of LTC Robert D. Couldry, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3541, THE IMPLEMENTS OF TORTURE EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 2004

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I introduced the Implements of Torture Export Control Act of 2004, a bill to make it impossible for those who torture people abroad to misuse U.S. produced equipment for that purpose. This measure is similar to an amendment that was adopted on a bipartisan basis in the Committee on International Relations in the 107th Congress as part of legislation to reform the U.S. export control system.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 3541 out of concern that the U.S. and other Western nations are exporting crime control and torture equipment to human rights abuses around the world. This bill would write into law a standard that should be an axiom of U.S. human rights foreign policy: the United States, while it seeks to improve respect for the basic human rights of person throughout the world, ought not to

sell to torturers implements that make it easier for them to inflict pain and suffering on their helpless victims.

Mr. Speaker, in the right hands, crime control equipment can protect the innocent. In the wrong hands, it is used on the innocent. Amnesty International reports that governments that regularly use torture against detained persons frequently use crime control equipment from the U.S. and other Western suppliers as ready-made implements of torture. Existing export regulations require general licenses for the export of many types of crime control equipment, leaving whole categories of criminal equipment free to be exported without any specific review. It is true that most of this equipment, including electroshock discharge weapons, can be purchased domestically by private U.S. citizens for "self-defense" purposes. However, private U.S. citizens—as well as U.S. law enforcement officials—can be reliably prosecuted for any abuse of these implements as torture tools. Exports of these same items, however, to countries that use torture as part of official or condoned practice should be regulated because they may have unreliable or nonexistent systems of judicial accountability for torture abuse.

No U.S. exporter should ever want to sell its products to governments, or government-supported groups, that will use the labor of American workers to torture their citizens. But U.S. exporters do not have the resources to know the totality of the practices of their prospective customers. It is up to the U.S. Government to ensure that American products do not go to abusive governments.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3541 would do a number of things:

It would require that the Secretary of Commerce create a list of crime control and detection instruments and equipment especially susceptible to abuse as implements of torture.

It would require that an individual export license of all such items unless the export is to a major ally, and requires that applications are reviewed by human rights experts in the U.S. government.

It would prohibit export of all such items to any country if the government of such country has engaged in acts of torture until the Secretary of State has determined stopped such acts for the previous twelve months. To allow legitimate trade, however, such items could be exported to a particular end-user if the Secretary of State has determined that such end user has not engaged in acts of torture.

Perhaps most importantly, the bill completely prohibits the export of certain equipment that is particularly susceptible to abuse as equipment of torture, such as electroshock stun belts, leg irons and other restraints that have sharp or serrated edges, batons or clubs fitted with spikes and other items that are similarly susceptible to misuse.

Mr. Speaker, in 1979, the Congress recognized that crime control equipment required special review, but current law needs updating and reform. I urge all my colleagues to support this common-sense addition to the Export Administration Act, and ensure that American crime control products are not abused instead to torture the innocent.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA LORETTA
JONES ELAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Georgia Loretta Jones Elam, a resident of the Sixth Congressional District, and a longtime friend of mine and my family.

Born and raised in Hartsville, South Carolina, Mrs. Elam finished her elementary education in record time and entered my alma mater, South Carolina State College, now University, at the tender age of 14. After her dreams of becoming a Chemist were thwarted because of gender stereotypes of the 1920's, she entered the field of Home Economics. Upon graduating with her Bachelors degree, Mrs. Elam taught at South Carolina State College where most of her students were older than she. She went on to Columbia University in 1949 where she earned her Master's. Throughout her career, Mrs. Elam taught at seven institutions in the State of South Carolina. Most notably, she taught for 31 years at C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina. She also participated in workshops to further her education at University of Georgia, Winthrop College, and the University of South Carolina.

It was during her tenure at C.A. Johnson High School that Mrs. Elam started the first day care center in a public school in South Carolina. It was her innovative idea to give her Child Care and Development students the opportunity to have them care for real children instead of dolls that led her to start the day care center. Also while at C.A. Johnson, Mrs. Elam served as Head of the Home Economics Department, advisor to the New Homemakers of America—the predecessor of Future Homemakers of America—the cheerleads, the pep squad and the modern dance club.

Always a leader, be it in her professional life or that of her community, Mrs. Elam was given the Teacher of the Year award by the South Carolina Home Economics Association in 1975. She was also honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the Association of Vocational Home Economics Teachers in 1978. And, giving further credence to her merits as a leader, Mrs. Elam was named Boss of the Year in 1979 by the Midlands Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

While this lively 90-year-old worked in the field of Home Economics for over half a Century, her dedication goes far beyond the parameters of her job requirements. Mrs. Elam has been an ardent community leader and continues to be very active in her church, Bethel A.M.E. She has been involved in numerous political campaigns over the years, and never turns down an opportunity to volunteer with church programs that have anything to do with youth or her congregation. Mrs. Elam has served as Director of Christian Education, which meant leading vacation bible school for many years, and also served as leader of the scouting program, and sponsor of the Young People's Gospel choir which she founded. For many years, she presented "Golgatha," a religious pageant which she wrote and directed.

In 1995, Rev. Ronnie Brailsford made her a Steward at Bethel A.M.E. Her actions of devo-

tion to others, particularly the young people in her community, should be an inspiration to us all.

Mrs. Elam is the widow of Leon M. Elam. She has one daughter, Loretta E. Taylor who is married to John B. Taylor of Wilmington, Delaware; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Elam also has two siblings, Elise Martin and Gottlieb Harvest, both of Columbia, South Carolina, where Mrs. Elam herself now resides.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Georgia Loretta Jones Elam for her selfless dedication to citizens, particularly young people, across the State of South Carolina. She is a pillar of the community, and I wish her good luck and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 22, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 670: "no" (on Table Motion to Reconsider H.R. 1).

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2297, as amended. This bill is a compromise agreement that was carefully negotiated between the House and Senate, and contains a number of important measures to assist this Nation's veterans and their families. I want to take a moment to recognize and thank Chairman CHRIS SMITH, Benefits Subcommittee Chairman HENRY BROWN and Benefits Ranking Democratic Member MICHAEL MICHAUD for working with me to successfully craft this bipartisan, bicameral benefits package. I appreciate your leadership, professionalism and all of your hard work in guiding this legislation through the process and into law.

I also would like to thank the staff members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs for their work in preparing this legislative package and for their work throughout the year—Patrick Ryan, Darryl Kehrer, Paige McManus, Devon Seibert and Kingston Smith of the majority staff and Jim Holley, Mary Ellen McCarthy, Geoffrey Colver and Leah Booth of my Democratic staff. Likewise, I would like to thank Chairman ARLEN SPECTER and Ranking Member BOB GRAHAM of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as the Senate staff who worked diligently on this conference agreement—Mary Schoelen, Ted Pusey, Jon Towers and Chris McNamee.

Mr. Speaker, last week on November 11th we celebrated and honored the sacrifices and

heroic deeds of our Nation's veterans with speeches and parades. Indeed, it is appropriate, necessary even, that we recognize and honor the many sacrifices of the brave men and women in uniform who have so gallantly served our nation. Mr. Speaker, speeches and parades are nice but they are not enough. Today, however, we match our complimentary words with actual deeds. We celebrate and honor those who have served the country and protected our freedoms by passing this legislative package, which truly honors their service and provides them and their families with important benefits that they most certainly have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that this legislative package contains a number of measures that I introduced or of which I am an original cosponsor. Additionally, I commend all the Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee on both sides of the aisle who have worked diligently this session to bring important measures forward. This compromise agreement contains many bills introduced by Committee members. Indeed, crafting and passing this benefits package has truly been a bipartisan effort.

I am pleased the provision to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits to children with spina bifida whose veteran parent was exposed to Agent Orange in Korea is drawn from my bill H.R. 533. During a hearing the Committee received moving testimony from Michael Ruzalski, a young man severely disabled by spina bifida. Michael's father John served in the region of Korea's Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) during the time that the Department of Defense acknowledges Agent Orange was used there. Congress has authorized benefits for children of veterans affected by such exposure in Vietnam. The children of veterans who served in the Korean DMZ are no less deserving. When military service results in harm to the children of our Nation's veterans, our country should assume the responsibility to compensate them for their disabilities.

A provision to remove unnecessary and arbitrary time barriers for certain former prisoners of war to qualify for service-connection of their disabilities on a presumptive basis is drawn from H.R. 1838, which I introduced. I believe that we should consider additional presumptive conditions for former prisoners of war and will continue to support legislation to accomplish that end. Nonetheless, we need to take action now to assure those prisoners of war who were interred in Iraq for less than 30 days, as well as those from earlier conflicts, that no durational requirement will be imposed for certain psychiatric and physical disabilities which may follow a brief period of internment.

The package includes a provision to permanently authorize the VA home loan program for members of the National Guard and Reserve. It also lowers their home loan fees. This provision is drawn from H.R. 1257, which I introduced with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Benefits, Mr. Michaud. Now more than ever, our Reserve and National Guard forces are an integral component of our national defense policy. Making this program permanent for members of the National Guard and Reserve is the right thing to do, it's also the right thing to do financially—as Reservists have an exemplary record of repayment on VA home loans.

I am also pleased that this package contains provisions that provide long overdue