

House for invasion carefully. Having served on the Hoover Commission investigating the intelligence activities of the United States with Gen. Mark Clark, I learned that Israel's intelligence, Mossad, is the best on the Middle East. As an island of democracy in a sea of hostility, Israel has to know what is going on in Baghdad. Israel has no time to call for a summit meeting or to go to the United Nations. Any real threat must be knocked out immediately.

This is why Israel knocked out Iraq's nuclear facility without warning in 1981. Days before we voted, President Bush said, "Facing clear evidence of peril, we cannot wait until the smoking gun is a mushroom cloud." When the commander-in-chief says this, he's got my vote.

I was sure Mossad had found nuclear weapons and we were knocking them out and eliminating Saddam.

Now we're waiting for Iraqis to do what we've never done—secure Iraq; secure the Syrian and Iranian borders immediately; and clean out the Sunni triangle. It would cause casualties but to fight a war you have to fight a war. Either get in or get out.

If we're not going to secure Iraq, then the next best thing is to get Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to ask us to leave.

Ernest F. Hollings, a Democrat, served as a U.S. senator for South Carolina from 1966 to 2003.

CONGRESSMAN MURTHA

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, one of the reasons I love and respect my wife Teresa Heinz Kerry so very much is because she has always maintained the strength of her convictions. She speaks her mind, and she speaks the truth. I am especially proud of her passionate defense of her fellow Pennsylvanian—the decorated veteran and respected military expert, Representative JACK MURTHA. In a recent essay, Teresa's powerful words spoke of JACK MURTHA's courage and integrity rose above the disparaging and unconscionable words of those who smeared him. As I read what she wrote, I realized why this issue had struck such a chord with her—and why she was able to speak with such incredible clarity—because, as someone who grew up under a dictatorship, Teresa believes deeply in the freedom of every American to speak their mind without fear of condemnation.

The characteristics we all admire in Representative MURTHA—honesty, compassion, strength and patriotism—are the characteristics that make Teresa such an incredible citizen. I am glad she spoke out, and for that reason, I ask that her words be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From CNHI News Service]

(By Teresa Heinz Kerry)

ASSAULT ON MURTHA SHOULD ALARM US ALL

"Because we in Congress are charged with sending our sons and daughters into battle, it is our responsibility, our obligation, to speak out for them. That's why I am speaking out."

U.S. Rep. John Murtha, Nov. 17, "War In Iraq."

U.S. Rep. John Murtha completely changed the public debate in our country by calling

for an immediate redeployment of our troops in Iraq. Whether you agree or disagree with his specific proposal is not the point—but his critics' words demand a response. Murtha speaks with special authority.

His national security credentials are impeccable. His patriotism is unwavering. His influence on national defense is unsurpassed. None in Congress spends as much time as Murtha with the wounded from the Iraq war. His voice on matters of national defense deserves—indeed, commands—great respect. This is why his political opponents think him so dangerous. The orchestrated assault on Murtha should alarm us all. Just when you thought the debate could sink no lower, the politicians committed to staying the course in Iraq turned the fire hoses of smear and intimidation on this icon of national security. Listen to what they said:

They said he had given aid and comfort to the enemy. They accused him of abandoning the troops. And one rookie representative, the most junior member in the House, so lost any decency or sense of decorum that she called Murtha a coward.

I think they smeared the wrong representative. Murtha's history is one of heroism and leadership. He served in the Marine Corps from 1952 to 1955. He served as a Marine Corps drill instructor and a reservist. He re-upped so he could serve in Vietnam. He was wounded twice while serving as a Marine intelligence officer, and then went back into the reserves from 1967 to 1990. He was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the Congress, where he has served with honor and distinction as a bipartisan advocate of national defense ever since.

How bipartisan? When President Reagan wanted to build the MX missile, Murtha broke with his party to fight for what Reagan called the "peacekeeper." Reagan sent him to El Salvador and the Philippines as an election observer and, as an official representative of the United States, to Pakistan to attend President Zia's funeral. When President George H.W. Bush said of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, "this will not stand," Murtha stood with him and voted to use military force to drive Iraq out.

His credentials on national defense are unimpeachable. He has been named Minuteman of the Year by the Reserve Officers Association of the United States. He has been honored by the Blinded American Veterans Foundation. He is a winner of the Henry M. Jackson Distinguished Service Award, and an honoree of the Association of the United States Army. When Murtha received the distinguished public service award from the American Legion, he was praised by the national commander as a veteran, supporter of a strong national defense and holder of an outstanding track record on veterans' issues.

That is Jack Murtha's history, and the summer soldiers and the sunshine patriots who attack him cannot rewrite it. That's why they resort instead to the most reprehensible type of personal attacks. We've seen this before. I know and love another Vietnam veteran who served our country with distinction and honor—who suffered the slings and arrows of distortions, half-truths and falsehoods.

Scoundrels who would stifle debate and smear dissenters weaken our democracy and diminish our Nation's ability to make decisions and change course when circumstances demand.

This war is hard—hard to win, hard to support, and for most, hard to figure out. We all want the best for our troops, our country, the Iraqi people and what is best for the Middle East. Much is at stake.

But if we want the best outcome, the best minds we have must be free to express their strongest beliefs and best advice. Murtha has

earned our respect. His right to speak out is an intrinsic component of our democracy. It should be honored—we should hold that right sacred—even if his words deviate from the party line, the president's talking points, or public opinion.

I think Murtha did our country an enormous public service for speaking out as he did, and I support for him for exercising his right. A courageous person is always to be admired.

HUGS NOT BULLETS CAMPAIGN

2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to commend an outstanding group of young people in Detroit, MI, for their efforts to reduce gun violence as part of the Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiatives Project. Their dedication to this admirable cause is certainly worthy of our recognition and appreciation.

The Youth Initiatives Project was created in 1999 to address growing community issues including violence and substance abuse in Detroit. For 6 years, students, community organizations, and local police have been involved in a coordinated effort to accomplish the goals of the project. Many of these goals are centered on the need to reduce gun violence.

Hundreds of Detroit teenagers have been involved in the Youth Initiatives Project through activities such as afterschool programs to reduce gun violence, gun buybacks, anti-violence rallies, and gun safety workshops. As part of these activities, the Youth Initiatives Project has been responsible in the last 3 years for handing out more than 5,000 free trigger locks to Detroit gun owners.

The Youth Initiatives Project's "Hugs Not Bullets" campaign for 2005 built upon their overall theme of reducing gun violence, while also putting a specific focus on the use of firearms during the celebration of the New Year's holiday. In addition to hosting a number of public forums and rallies, the Hugs Not Bullets campaign used several 4-foot by 8-foot cards to collect signatures of those who pledge not to engage in gun violence. To date, more than 3,000 Detroiters have signed these cards. These cards serve as a powerful symbol of the community's determination to fight gun violence.

For 2006, the Youth Initiatives Project plans to expand the Hugs Not Bullets campaign into a comprehensive grass roots and media campaign against gun violence. This year, more than 200 Youth Initiatives Project participants will reach out to their peers by visiting community centers, schools, and churches, as well as social clubs and events widely attended by other teenagers. In addition, the Hugs Not Bullets campaign will amplify its antigun violence message through public service announcements and appearances on local television and radio. This is an ambitious next step, which will build upon the previous success of the campaign.