

Creek and Ricky Brown finished second in the over-40 male Tandem Relay and Robert Klingersmith and Jesse Walker of the Greensboro Fire Department teamed up to grab second in the over-50 male Tandem Relay. Kelvin Astrop, Ricky Brown, and Duane Creek also finished with individual qualification times fast enough to compete for the individual finals.

The highlight of the competition was when Winston-Salem team members Duane Creek, Ricky Brown, Kelvin Astrop, John Pennington and Robert Klingersmith went head-to-head against team Dr. Pepper, the 2004 World Champions, and defeated them in the over-40 relay.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent these courageous firemen and congratulate them on their achievements.

OUT OF IRAQ CAUCUS

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to continue the debate on Iraq, the war in Iraq. I rise to continue this debate because those of us who are part of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and I am the Chair of that caucus, do not intend to have a debate organized for one day and have people going away saying, well, we took care of that.

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This debate must continue because the truth must be told.

Over the weekend, we received terrible news. Two of our soldiers, Private First Class Kristian Menchaca of Texas and Private First Class Thomas Tucker of Oregon were captured by insurgents, reportedly al Qaeda operatives in Iraq.

Today their bodies were found. Their bodies showed signs of torture, leading an Iraqi Defense Ministry official to say that they were "killed in a barbaric way." I extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of Private Menchaca and Private Tucker. Our thoughts and our prayers are with them and all those who have lost loved ones in this war.

Mr. Speaker, the President constantly tells us that "as Iraqis stand up, we will stand down." This is the President's way of describing in a rather vague and evasive manner our involvement in Iraq, our continued involvement in Iraq.

According to the Department of Defense, significant progress is being made in training Iraqis to assume security responsibilities in Iraq. The Defense Department trumpets the news that 250,000 Iraqi military are either fully trained or nearly fully trained to provide security throughout Iraq. Well, my question to the administration is: What are they doing? What are these trained Iraqi soldiers doing?

If they are so trained as the administration says they are, they should be

able to take over the responsibility of providing security to their fellow countrymen while allowing our men and women in uniform to return home.

But the sad fact is Iraqis are not assuming this role. Instead, our troops who are put in harm's way are the ones paying the price for this administration's mistaken and misguided war. They have been assuming this role and will continue to do so indefinitely until this President's irresponsible leadership is challenged and changed.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the administration constantly tells the American people that progress is being made on the war. For example, when the formation of the Iraqi Government was announced, President Bush said the Iraqis had reached a "turning point." At least five times since the beginning of the Iraq war, President Bush has declared that Iraq has reached a turning point. Yet after each milestone was achieved, violence in Iraq grew progressively worse, and more U.S. soldiers have died or been injured.

The most infamous turning point was on May 1, 2003, when President Bush rolled out and declared "Mission Accomplished" aboard the USS *Abraham Lincoln*. At that point, 139 U.S. servicemen and -women had died in Iraq. Today that number has grown to 2,502 U.S. servicemen and -women who have died in Iraq.

Furthermore, the violence against Iraqis has grown almost beyond comprehension. It is estimated that between 138 and 242 Iraqis have died so far this month alone. They die from car bombings, assassinations and other violent acts.

Today alone, news reports indicate that at least 11 Iraqis were killed in a string of bombings across Iraq. In short, the progress that the administration and its supporters cite in Iraq does not exist.

The administration went into war with rose-colored glasses on. They promised the American people that the war had been adequately justified, planned and could be an affordable undertaking.

Unfortunately, the facts on the ground show differently. The war has gone on for more than 3 years, and by the end of this year, the total cost of the war will be \$450 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to redeploy our troops from Iraq and end the war in Iraq. The best way to accomplish these goals is to pass the Murtha resolution, H.J. Res. 73, which would redeploy U.S. forces from Iraq. The resolution says no more U.S. troops sent to Iraq, and that the troops in Iraq will be redeployed as soon as possible, a judgment made by military officials on the ground.

Section 2 says that a group of marines will remain in the Middle East to respond to threats that destabilize our allies in the region or the national security of the United States.

I wish could go into it more, but I have run out of time.

HONORING THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a New Hampshire organization called There's No Place Like Home.

This group is a committee of volunteers who have made a commitment to helping those who are most in need, those who have lost their homes to a natural disaster. The mission of No Place Like Home is to raise funds and organize volunteers to build homes for families who lack the resources to rebuild after their home has been lost to a natural disaster.

There's No Place Like Home was founded in response to the tragic losses suffered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. The idea came from the building trades program at Somersworth High School, which takes on a building project each and every year. The students in this program were so moved by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, that they decided they would build a home to send from New Hampshire to a deserving family in the gulf coast as their project for this year.

After working hard all year, the students recently completed the first home, and it is on its way, as we speak, to Louisiana. Having been successful on this first project, the students are now going to build a second home to send to another family in our gulf coast.

In addition to the students that are building this home, there are several people whose involvement have made this project possible. They are: There's No Place Like Home team, consisting of the program development coordinator Paula Young, program director Pastor Bernie Quinn of the Rochester Grace Community Church, the construction coordinator Roy Darling, and the building trades instructor Brian Patterson.

These individuals are passionately committed to this cause. They have been working hard to raise funds, find deserving recipients of a home, and oversee the students and the construction. They have worked tirelessly to support this laudable project from its conception, and they deserve a world of thanks for their efforts.

I would also like to thank the members of the New Hampshire National Guard who are in charge of the important task of transporting the finished home to Louisiana, and the many businesses and sponsors in New Hampshire who have donated supplies, money and time to this organization.

I had the opportunity to twice visit with the students of Somersworth High School, the first time while they were building the home and just yesterday after it was completed. To see these students, fine young Americans hard at work using their skills to help families