

There is very little good news coming out of Iraq today. Increasingly vicious sectarian violence continues to propel Iraq toward civil war. The U.S. announcement this week to send additional U.S. troops and military police back into Baghdad reverses last month's decision to have Iraqi forces take the lead in Baghdad . . . and represents a dramatic set back for the U.S. and the Iraqi Government. The Iraqi Government has limited ability to enforce the rule of law in Iraq, especially in Baghdad. Green Zone politics appear to have little bearing or relation to the realities of the rest of Iraq.

The Iraqis will continue to face difficult choices over the future of their country. The day-to-day responsibilities of governing and security will soon have to be assumed by Iraqis. As I said in November, this is not about setting a timeline. This is about understanding the implications of the forces of reality. This reality is being determined by Iraqis—not Americans. America is bogged down in Iraq and this is limiting our diplomatic and military options. The longer America remains in Iraq in its current capacity, the deeper the damage to our force structure—particularly the U.S. Army. And it will continue to place more limitations on an already dangerously over-extended force structure that will further limit our options and public support.

The Cold War, while dangerous, created a fairly stable and mostly predictable world order. That is no longer the case today. The challenges of the 21st century will be more complex and represent a world of greater degrees of nuance, uncertainty and uncontrollables than those of the last 60 years. America's policy choices will be more complicated than ever before.

We must be clear in our principles and interests, with friends and foes alike. But framing the world in "absolutes" constrains our ability to build coalitions and alliances, alienates our friends and partners, and results in our own isolation. No country will view its interests as coinciding exactly with ours; nor will countries simply subsume their national interests to maintain relations with America. U.S. policies that are premised on such assumptions will be flawed, with little likelihood for success, and ultimately work against our national interests.

In pursuing our objectives, America must always be mindful of the risks of sudden change and the dangers of unintended consequences. Rarely will America succeed if its actions seek to impose its objectives on others, or achieve change and reform through power alone. America is always strongest when it acts in concert with friends and allies. This approach has enhanced our power and magnified our influence. The Middle East and other regions of the world have been left behind and not experienced the political and economic reform that many other regions have enjoyed in the last 60 years.

The Middle East crisis represents a moment of great danger, but it is also an opportunity. Crisis focuses the minds of leaders and the attention of nations. The Middle East need not be a region forever captive to the fire of war and historical hatred. It will and can avoid this fate if the United States pursues sustained and engaged leadership worthy of our history, purpose, and power. America cannot fix every problem in the world—nor should it try. But we must get the big issues and important relationships right and concentrate on those. We know that without engaged and active American leadership the world is more dangerous.

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union Address on January 6, 1945, he counseled the United States and the world to look beyond the immediate horror of war to the challenges and

opportunities that lay ahead. Roosevelt understood the requirements of U.S. leadership and the essence of alliances and partnerships. He said:

"We must not let those differences divide us and blind us to our more important common and continuing interests in winning the war and building the peace. International cooperation on which enduring peace must be based is not a one-way street. Nations like individuals do not always see alike or think alike, and international cooperation and progress are not helped by any nation assuming that it has a monopoly of wisdom or of virtue."

Over the last 60 years since Roosevelt's remarks, the United States has been a force for peace and prosperity in the world. Decades of investment in geopolitical security, economic stability, political freedom, innovation and productivity have resulted in a 21st century of both cooperation and competition. This is a defining time for 21st Century American leadership. With enlightened American leadership this century offers the world the prospects of unprecedented global peace, prosperity and security . . . if we are wise enough to sense the moment, engage the world and share a nobility of purpose with all mankind.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, recently the Senate approved the fiscal year 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I voted in favor of this measure.

The bill allocates a total of \$32.8 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security. This funding will increase the current number of detention beds and Border Patrol agents, and during floor consideration, the Senate supported additional funding for border infrastructure upgrades and port security.

While this funding will help secure our borders and protect our homeland, President Bush's continued insistence on maintaining tax breaks for the extremely wealthy has made it incredibly difficult to fund important first responder grant programs.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides critical funding to our local fire departments for training, equipment, and facility improvements. In his fiscal year 2007 budget request, President Bush recommended only \$293 million for this important program—a dramatic reduction from the previous fiscal year's funding level of \$545 million. If this request had been enacted, it would have undermined the efforts of local fire departments in meeting their training and equipment needs.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was pleased the committee provided \$680 million for firefighter assistance grants, of which \$127.5 million will be allocated for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters, SAFER, Act grant program. These grants help communities hire firefighters, and in turn, local governments are responsible for providing funds to match a portion of each grant. Regrettably, President

Bush requested no funding for this important program. As a result, the money appropriated by the Senate will go a long way toward helping our first responders.

Finally, first responders also rely upon the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. This program provides funding to State and local governments for all-hazards emergency management including natural disasters, accidents, or terrorist threats. Unfortunately, the President requested only \$170 million for this program in his fiscal year 2007 budget proposal—\$15 million less than what Congress appropriated the previous year. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, we restored this important funding and recommended \$205 million for this program.

In a post-September 11 world, we must make homeland security one of our top priorities. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue my efforts to ensure that our first responders have the resources and tools necessary to respond to threats against our homeland.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF GLORIA TOSI

● Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Gloria Cataneo Tosi, president of the American Maritime Congress, on her upcoming retirement. The American Maritime Congress is a research and educational organization in Washington, DC, whose membership comprises ship owners and operators having U.S.-flag vessels in both the domestic and international trades. All of the American Maritime Congress's member companies have labor agreements with the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.

Mrs. Tosi has been with the American Maritime Congress since 1981 and has served as its chief executive officer for the past 15 years. She is a well-known maritime advocate in the Washington, DC community, including the Propeller Club of the United States. In particular, she often plays a lead industry role on issues affecting the operation of, and cargo opportunities for, U.S.-flag shipping.

While many people think of the U.S. maritime industry as only a commercial interest, it is actually a vital element of our Nation's defense. The Department of Defense could not execute its military strategies and deploy its forces worldwide without the help of U.S. shipyards, ports, shipping lines, and maritime workers. As president of the American Maritime Congress, Mrs. Tosi worked closely with the National Defense Transportation Association to ensure the maritime industry remained aligned with the Department of Defense's requirements.

Mrs. Tosi is a native of Baltimore, MD, whose family was active in the maritime industry. She came to Washington, DC, in 1969 to join the staff of

Helen Delich Bentley, who had been named by President Nixon to chair the Federal Maritime Commission. I served with Helen in the House of Representatives and know her to be an ardent supporter of the U.S. Merchant Marine and the Port of Baltimore. Mrs. Tosi remained at the Federal Maritime Commission for nearly 6 years, which means she gained invaluable experience and insight into the maritime industry at the national level. Upon leaving the Federal Maritime Commission, Mrs. Tosi was employed by the International Longshoremen's Association as the union's director of governmental affairs from 1976-1981. In 1981, she joined her current organization as its legislative and corporate affairs director. In time, her expertise and leadership qualities were recognized and she was selected to be the organization's president. This marks her 25th year with the American Maritime Congress.

I have known Gloria for many years. There has not been a significant piece of maritime legislation that has been considered by the Congress during the past dozen or so years that has not benefitted from her counsel. From the Maritime Security Act of 1995, to the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998, to the Maritime Security Act of 2003, and including many provisions included in other laws, she helped ensure that the U.S. maritime industry's concerns were addressed. Equally important, she ensured that the industry's concerns were understood when legislation was proposed that would have had a negative impact on the industry.

Gloria is trusted as an honest voice for all of America's maritime world. She has devoted her professional life to enhancing the American fleet, improving its business opportunities, and establishing a better regulatory regime under which to operate the fleet. She may be retiring, but I expect she will be called on from time to time to offer her expertise as the need arises. In the meantime, she will have more time to spend with her husband Jeff.

Mr. President, I congratulate Gloria for her exemplary career and salute her contributions to the maritime industry. She is to be commended for the productive use of her insights and talents and appreciated for her years of service to the U.S. maritime industry.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRANDIN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. On July 14-16, the residents of Grandin gathered to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Grandin, set in the fertile Red River Valley, is a thriving community in southeastern North Dakota. Grandin was also home to American painter and artist, Clyfford Still. Still, who used rich, vibrant colors and imagery, is just one of the many great talents that

the small communities of rural America have produced to enrich our culture.

The citizens of Grandin take pride in their quiet and comfortable community that still welcomes guests with a friendly smile and wave. Grandin had an exciting anniversary that included an all-school reunion, parade, tractor pull, dinner, and street dance.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join in me congratulating Grandin, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Grandin and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Grandin that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Grandin has a proud past and a bright future.●

REMEMBERING BILL HANCOCK

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory and work of Mr. Bill Hancock, a constituent of mine who led a most selfless and compassionate life. Several weeks ago, Bill lost his long struggle with AIDS. The story of his life demonstrates just how much progress we have made in our efforts to stem the tide of this disease, and how much work remains to be done before we find a cure.

Bill led a very rich and full life—one that should fill his family and friends with a sense of overwhelming pride. While he accomplished much, I am most moved by his tireless work to improve the lives of those who suffered from the very illness he had. Many of us might have given up if we found ourselves in Bill's position—choosing to allow a set of unfortunate circumstances to stagnate our lives. Instead, Bill fully realized his life's purpose through his sincere dedication to supporting and advancing the needs of the HIV/AIDS community.

Since the early days of the AIDS epidemic, Bill was involved in building the grassroots momentum needed to generate a national response to the public health crisis that was emerging in many of America's cities. His own health problems led him to Our House of Portland for hospice care and with the support he received there, he was able to begin to manage the symptoms of his illness. Amazingly, he was the very first resident of Our House to leave alive. I believe this is a clear testament to the tenacity of Bill's character.

Shortly after leaving Our House, Bill returned—not as a patient but as a member of its fundraising board and as a personal care assistant. His compassion prompted him to reciprocate the care he was provided by becoming a caregiver himself. His involvement in HIV/AIDS advocacy only grew from that point. He became the chair of the

Multnomah County Community Health Council and the Citizen's Advisory Board to the local health department. He also served on Multnomah County's Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee and the board of the Tri-County Safety Net Enterprise.

In addition to his service in local government, Bill represented the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS as public policy coordinator for the Cascade AIDS Project. Cascade AIDS is Oregon's leading provider of community-based medical and social services, offering access to health care, temporary housing, career assistance, and education and prevention programs. My staff had the pleasure of working closely with Bill to more effectively coordinate State and Federal resources aimed at supporting individuals with HIV/AIDS. He truly served the members of Oregon's HIV/AIDS community with dignity and compassion.

On marking the occasion of Bill Hancock's passing, I can't help but ask myself what more we as public servants can do to prevent the untimely death of individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The Federal Government has made great progress in the battle against this horrific epidemic, but there is much more we can do. It is essential that we move forward with reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act and appropriately funding the medical and social support programs that help individuals lead more full and productive lives. It would be a testament to Bill's life's work and dedication if we could do our part to help address the medical and social needs of the HIV/AIDS community. Bill never gave up, and neither should we.

In closing, I would like to offer my condolences to the family, friends, and fellow advocates whom Bill touched with his compassion and love of life. They have much to be proud of, and I hope their memories will be filled with the many great accomplishments he achieved as a dedicated community servant.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under authority of the order of the Senate of July 28, 2006, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 31, 2006, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4. An act to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5970. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000, to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by