

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, big changes can come from small places. For President Eisenhower and every American born since his time, big change came from a dusty old church pew.

One early Sunday morning, Eisenhower ceremoniously went to Abraham Lincoln's former church, where a new preacher, an immigrant, would re-shape Ike's ideology.

That preacher described, in his Scottish accent, how he had no answer for his children when asked why God wasn't in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He eloquently assured his children God was what made America better than any other country. So eloquently that Ike would see the pledge changed in a matter of months.

While activist judges and militant atheists want you to believe that taking God out of school and government is the right thing to do, 91 percent of Americans disagree. They still believe "in one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We have proved that we will not bow to terrorists. But 91 percent of Americans also vow not to bow to extremist judges and a tiny atheist minority.

Americans overwhelmingly support "One Nation Under God" so much that they are giving their children's lives to save it.

That's just the way it is.

RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY ON MAHER ARAR

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Maher Arar, whose treatment at the hands of American officials is a stain upon our national conscience.

During a layover in New York's JFK airport in September 2002, Mr. Arar, who was born in Syria but who now holds Canadian citizenship, was seized by American officials. He was held without access to a lawyer for two weeks in the United States, then transferred briefly to Jordan, and finally to Syria. Mr. Arar was imprisoned in Syria for 10 months, most of the time in a dark underground dungeon the size of a closet. He was tortured both physically and psychologically, and forced to make false confessions, including that he had attended an al-Qaeda terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. Maher Arar was finally released a year after he was seized in New York, never having been charged with any crime.

When he was in American custody in New York, Maher Arar demanded to speak to a

lawyer. He was denied. He demanded to speak to a judge. He was denied. He asked the American officials not to send him to Syria, as he knew he would be tortured there. Of course, the Americans did not need to be told that Syria routinely tortures its prisoners, as the U.S. State Department lists Syria in its annual Human Rights report as a country that practices torture. Yet Maher Arar was sent to Syria for interrogation, where he was brutally tortured, just as the American officials involved in his rendition must have known he likely would be.

Maher Arar was the victim of the Bush administration's program of "extraordinary rendition," whereby prisoners in American custody are sent abroad for interrogation in other countries, sometimes to places such as Syria and Uzbekistan that are known to routinely practice torture. This is a disgusting practice that brings dishonor to the United States of America, and ultimately endangers our troops in the field by validating the use of torture all over the world. Extraordinary rendition is nothing more than the outsourcing of torture, and this program must come to an immediate halt. The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act, which I introduced in this House over a year and a half ago, would end the practice of extraordinary rendition. But the Republican leadership has refused to bring the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have many details on the case of Maher Arar, because the Bush administration has refused to divulge any information on its program of extraordinary rendition and the rubber-stamp Republican Congress have refused to conduct any meaningful oversight over this program. Now that the President has admitted that the CIA operated secret prisons all over the world, the Congress must step up to the plate and conduct true oversight on the President's program of extraordinary rendition.

This week, the official Canadian inquiry into the case of Maher Arar, which focused on the role that Canadian officials played in his rendition, released its report. The Arar Commission report clears Maher Arar of any wrongdoing, and concludes that he was indeed transferred to Syria by the United States, where he was tortured. American authorities were invited to testify before the Arar Commission, but refused.

Canada has now completed its investigation into the injustice done to Mr. Arar by Canadian officials, who without any evidence of wrongdoing told the U.S. he had connections with terrorist organizations. Mr. Speaker, now this Congress must initiate our own investigation into the role that U.S. officials played in this affair. We must know the truth of what happened to Maher Arar, why it happened, upon whose orders, and upon what justification.

That is why I have today introduced five separate Resolutions of Inquiry requesting copies of all documents in the possession of the United States Government that may relate, in any way, to Maher Arar. These five Resolu-

tions direct the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to provide Congress with all documents and records in their possession relating to Maher Arar. The same request is made of the President, in order to ensure that any documents in the possession of the White House or the Intelligence Community are also provided forthwith.

The Congress, and the American people, must learn the truth of what was done to Maher Arar. I urge my colleagues to support these Resolutions of Inquiry.

RECOGNIZING JASON ANDREW HEJL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Andrew Hejl, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jason has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jason has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jason held the principal leadership position of Venturing Crew President and has actively supported VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Andrew Hejl for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BALDWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional individuals at Baldwin School District, an institution which renders significant contributions to the educational development and social enrichment of youth.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, our community, and our Nation, and is enhanced by the contributions of those who serve as mentors and those who make mentoring programs safe and strong.

The Baldwin School District and its leadership have promoted and supported mentoring

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