

America, continues to openly act in ways that enable an Iranian takeover. Just the other day, the President met with the leader of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Abdul Aziz Hakim, in the White House. He is controlled and tied to the Iranians. This comes on the heels of the President's meeting and endorsement of al-Maliki.

Meeting with Iranian-controlled Iraqis, no matter what sect they belong to, confirms to many in the region that the President doesn't understand the current situation. Moderates told me the resistance in Iraq is based on the U.S. occupation and a power grab by the Iranian-controlled clerics. Blaming it all on Sunni-Shi'a tensions is not just incorrect, they say, it is exactly what Iran hopes for, because it leaves them hidden.

Here is another example. Moqtada al-Sadr, a Shi'a leader, left the coalition with the Iranian-controlled SCIRI and joined the Arab Sunnis. Al-Sadr strongly opposes the U.S. occupation of Iraq, and some see the meeting between the President and the Iranian leader of SCIRI as only deepening the passions against the United States. Friends of the United States in the region, and even foes, believe the same.

To many in the region, one only need look at history to understand. Arabs and Persians have fought for centuries before Islam even existed, and their enmity remains intense. Persians are the Iranians. Arabs are the ones in Iraq. Failure by the President to understand it is Persian versus Arab or Iran versus Iraq that is going on, has produced one disastrous decision after another. The solution, they believe, is obvious. Strategically, redeploy the U.S. troops out of Baghdad, out of the cities, and onto the Iranian border to stop the infiltration of Iranian agents into Iraq.

Some Arab leaders told me they estimate as many as 14,000 Persians, Iranians, have infiltrated to run death squads who are killing the Arab Sunnis and inciting a civil war as cover for the real war that is Iran versus Iraq.

Unless we change the course, unless we draw back our troops out to the borders in preparation for ultimately leaving the country, the day will come when the only banner proclaiming "mission accomplished" will be flown by Iran. We can't let that happen. We have to change the course. The President must see this is not a sectarian fight between Shi'a and Sunni, it is between Iraq and Iran. They fought for 8 years, just recently, and now they are doing it again, and we have allowed them, the Iranians, to have the goal of making it happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### HONORING VETERANS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REGULA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, to honor those who fought for us in World War II and those who lost their lives this day 65 years ago. Also I am honored to pay tribute to two extraordinary veterans from Winston-Salem, North Carolina who continue to work tirelessly for our country and its veterans.

These distinguished men have served our Nation with bravery and honor, and years after they have retired from active duty their commitment to community and other veterans remains an important part of their lives.

Sergeant George W. Carter served in the United States Army during the Korean War and earned the Silver Star for gallantry against an armed enemy. In addition to earning the Silver Star, Mr. Carter was awarded the Bronze Star with two V's, along with the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Occupation of Japan Medal, National Defense Service Medal and several other medals. After the war, Mr. Carter served 5 years in the Reserves and then returned to the trucking industry, from which he retired in 1994.

In 1999, Mr. Carter was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a security guard. At the age of 76, Mr. Carter retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, but did not retire from service to his country.

In 2003, Mr. Carter began volunteering at the Winston-Salem outpatient clinic 3 days a week. He often picks up Krispy Kreme donuts at 5:30 a.m. and arrives at the outpatient clinic at 6 a.m. to set up coffee tables, napkins and snacks before the first patients arrive.

Today, December 7, 2006, Mr. Carter at 79 years old is still serving his country. In the last 3 years, he has volunteered over 2,000 hours to serve, console and support veterans.

Another distinguished gentleman is Mr. Howard Petree, a World War II and Korean War veteran who also continues to serve his country and community with honor and dedication long after his active military service.

He served in the United States Army stateside in World War II after being drafted in 1943. In 1946, Mr. Petree served in the Army Field Artillery with a T-4 rank. He also served in the Korean War as a First Class Supply Sergeant. After being honorably discharged in 1952, Mr. Petree worked in a local municipality as a commercial water repairman for 32 years.

In 1997, Mr. Petree became one of the first volunteers at the Winston-Salem Outpatient Clinic. He volunteered from

6:45 a.m. until 12 noon 3 days a week until 2005. In 2005, he reduced his volunteer time to 2 days a week.

Mr. Petree also volunteers setting up coffee tables, napkins and snacks before the first patients arrive. He serves coffee, as well as answers questions for veterans and shares his experiences with them.

Today, Mr. Petree at 84 years old is still serving his country out of a selfless personal obligation to help others and to connect and assist other veterans. In the last 8 years, he has volunteered over 4,000 hours.

It is appropriate to honor these two gentlemen today. Years after their active military service, they continue to work with veterans and support those who have defended our country from tyranny and oppression, just as they themselves did. Although these men may no longer wear the uniform on active duty, their obligation and love of this country continues.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. George W. Carter and Mr. Howard Petree for their steadfast and faithful service to this Nation and their continued work with the very men and women who have made this the free country that it is today. The Winston-Salem Outpatient Clinic is lucky to have such fine men who are an inspiration to us all.

#### TURKEY MUST OPEN PORTS TO CYPRUS; EUROPEAN UNION MUST NOT ALLOW DEFIANCE TO CONTINUE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks the world will see how serious Turkey takes its accession talks with the European Union. We will also learn if the European Union is serious about ensuring Turkey complies with promises it made in order to begin those talks last year.

Last month, Turkey's accession talks took a turn for the worse when it broke a promise to begin trading with EU Member Cyprus. Back in July of 2005, Turkey agreed to open its ports and airports to 10 new European members, including Cyprus, as one of the conditions for beginning membership talks with the EU. Talks began later that year, but to date Turkey has refused to begin trading with Cyprus.

Turkey simply cannot be allowed to defy established European Union conditions without facing penalties. It must open its ports and airports to Cyprus ships and airplanes under the conditions it agreed to back in 2005. Cyprus is a Member of the European Union, and if Turkey is really interested in joining the Union, it cannot be unwilling to trade with one of the EU members.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the European Union has taken note of Turkey's