

of September 1, 2002 to my colleagues, which I ask to have inserted into the RECORD.

"As I think about President Bush's plans to take out Saddam Hussein and rebuild Iraq into a democracy, one question gnaws at me: Is Iraq the way it is today because Saddam Hussein is the way he is? Or is Saddam Hussein the way he is because Iraq is the way it is?"

"I mean, is Iraq a totalitarian dictatorship under a cruel, iron-fisted man because the country is actually an Arab Yugoslavia—a highly tribalized, artificial state, drawn up by the British, consisting of Shiites in the south, Kurds in the north and Sunnis in the center—whose historical ethnic rivalries can be managed only by a Saddam-like figure?"

"Or, has Iraq, by now, congealed into a real nation? And once the cruel fist of Saddam is replaced by a more enlightened leadership, Iraq's talented, educated people will slowly produce a federal democracy."

"The answer is critical, because any U.S. invasion of Iraq will leave the U.S. responsible for nation-building there. Invade Iraq and we own Iraq. And once we own it, we will have to rebuild it, and since that is a huge task, we need to understand what kind of raw material we'll be working with."

"It is instructive in this regard to quickly review Iraq's history before Saddam. Romper Room it was not. It was a saga of intrigue, murder and endless coups involving the different ethnic and political factions that were thrown together inside Iraq's borders by the British. In July 1958, Iraq's King Faisal was gunned down in his courtyard by military plotters led by Brig. Abdel Karim Kassem and Col. Abdul Salam Arif. A few months later, Kassem ousted Arif for being too pro-Nasserite. Around the same time a young Saddam tried, but failed, to kill Kassem, who himself executed a slew of Iraqi Nasserites in Mosul in 1959."

"In 1963, Arif came back from exile and killed Kassem. A short time later Arif, and the Baath Party thugs around him, savagely slaughtered and tortured thousands of left-wingers and Communists all across Iraq. Arif ruled until 1966, when he was killed in a helicopter crash and was succeeded by his brother, who was toppled in 1968 by Saddam and his clan from the village of Tikrit. That's when Saddam first began sending away his opponents to a prison called Qasr al-Nahiyah—the Palace of the End. Since 1958, every one of these Sunni-dominated military regimes in Baghdad began with a honeymoon with the Kurds in northern Iraq and ended up fighting them."

"The point here is that we are talking about nation-building from scratch. Iraq has a lot of natural resources and a decently educated population, but it has none of the civil society or rule of law roots that enabled us to quickly build democracies out of the ruins of Germany and Japan after World War II. Iraq's last leader committed to the rule of law may have been Hammurabi—the King of Babylon in the 18th century B.C. So once Saddam is gone, there will be a power vacuum, revenge killings and ethnic pulling and tugging between Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites."

"This is not a reason for not taking Saddam out. It is a reason for preparing the U.S. public for a potentially long, costly nation-building operation and for enlisting as many allies as possible to share the burden. There is no avoiding nation-building in Iraq. Because to get at Iraq's weapons of mass destruction we'll need to break the regime open, like a walnut, and then rebuild it."

"What's worrying about the Bushies is that they seem much more adept at breaking things than building things. To do nation-building you need to be something of a naive optimist. I worry that the Bushies are way too cynical for nation-building."

"My most knowledgeable Iraqi friend tells me he is confident that the morning after any U.S. invasion, American troops would be welcomed by Iraqis, and the regime would fold quickly. It's the morning after the morning after that we have to be prepared for. In the best case, a 'nice' strongman will emerge from the Iraqi Army to preside over a gradual transition to democracy, with America receding into a supporting role. In the worst case, we crack Iraq open and it falls apart in our hands, with all its historical internal tensions—particularly between its long-ruling Sunni minority and its long-frustrated Shiite majority. In that case, George Bush will have to become Iraq's strongman—the iron fist that holds the country together, gradually redistributes the oil wealth and supervises a much longer transition to democracy."

"My Iraqi friend tells me that anyone who tells you he knows which scenario will unfold doesn't know Iraq."

**CONGRATULATING SOUTH LOUISIANA MUSICAL PIONEERS—
LUDERIN DARBONE, EDWIN DUHON AND THE HACKBERRY RAMBLERS**

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend 2002 National Heritage Fellow Awardees—and my constituents—Luderin Darbone and Edwin Duhon, founding members of the acclaimed South Louisiana musical group, The Hackberry Ramblers.

The prestigious National Heritage Fellow Award was created in 1982 by the National Endowment for the Arts. To date, the award has honored 272 traditional artists, of all varieties, from across the United States.

My home state of Louisiana has been home to fifteen fellows since 1982, and ten of those fellows have been natives of Louisiana's 7th Congressional District, which I proudly represent. The artists or groups nominated for this award have made a "significant contribution to the cultural heritage of the United States."

Luderin Darbone and Edwin Duhon of The Hackberry Ramblers were among this year's thirteen awardees, and indeed have made a significant contribution to the world of Cajun music.

Mr. Darbone and Mr. Duhon have been thrilling audiences as the lead members of The Hackberry Ramblers since 1933. They began playing at local parties and dances in South Louisiana, and their ensemble is still playing and touring today—nearly 70 years later.

Undoubtedly the oldest Cajun music group in existence, the Ramblers combine their Cajun French repertoire with rural string band, western swing, and popular ingredients to produce their unique sound. A number of musical 'firsts' are attributed to The Hackberry Ramblers including being among the first Cajun musicians to de-emphasize the accordion and feature the fiddle; the first to successfully blend the Cajun music sound with western swing, blues and a variety of other medleys; the first to record and tag the name "Jolie Blonde," the tune often called the

'Cajun National Anthem'; and they were the first musicians to bring electronic amplification to area dancehalls by running a sound system off the engine of Mr. Darbone's Model-A Ford.

Their 1997 album, "Deep Water," received a grammy nomination in the traditional folk category, and on December 4, 1999, Darbone and Duhon fulfilled a life-long dream of performing at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. This past spring and summer, The Ramblers toured festivals across Louisiana and even ventured on their first European tour!

Over the years, The Ramblers have been profiled on Entertainment Tonight, Music City Tonight, and NPR's Weekend Edition. They have garnered critical acclaim from the New York Times, Rolling Stone, and USA Today—and they have even been featured on MTV!

As one report put it—"They have seen the Depression, World War II, rock and roll, flower power, disco, the computer age, and 9/11—and they're still going strong."

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate South Louisiana's 2002 National Heritage Fellows Mr. Luderin Darbone and Mr. Edwin Duhon on their lifetime of achievement and I wish The Hackberry Ramblers many more years of good times and great music!

**HONORING LAURAN HOWARD AS
AN "ANGEL IN ADOPTION"**

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute Lauran Howard, who will be one of the 277 Angels in Adoption honored tonight at a banquet organized by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI).

CCAI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization raising awareness about the tens of thousands of foster children in this country and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe and loving homes; and eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic need of a family.

I was proud to nominate Lauran because her work has made a significant difference in the lives of children and adoptive families in our community. Since graduating from Marygrove College in Detroit, MI, Howard has been actively involved in ensuring that children are placed with loving families in a timely manner. After working with the Michigan Department of Social Services (now the Family Independence Agency) as a social worker, she began working as a caseworker for the Honorable James Lincoln at the Wayne County Juvenile Court. Later, as a shareholder in the firm of Kemp, Klein, Umphrey and Endelman in Troy, MI, she concentrated her practice in the adoption and family law areas. Lauran is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA), having practiced as counsel in hundreds of adoptions.

Since January 2, 2000, she has been a court administrator in adoptions and juvenile support for Oakland County, MI. In that position, Lauran attempts to ensure that adoptions are processed quickly and in accordance with the Michigan adoption code and court rules. Lauran's efforts have helped reduce the time that children spend in foster care and guarantee the system is used as a temporary answer instead of a permanent solution. The