

justice is a model for all law enforcement officers.

Agent Larsen was a key figure in the prosecution of Robert Burke. Burke was convicted of supplying the handcuff key to Jeffery Erickson, who ultimately used it to escape confinement and murder Deputy U.S. Marshal Roy Frakes and Court Security Officer Harry Belloumini in 1992.

For the past ten years, Agent Larsen has worked tirelessly to uncover evidence for this case that may never have been found otherwise. Agent Larsen first located Mr. Burke in Ireland, and then helped facilitate his extradition back to the United States on charges of perjury. He then oversaw over 180 witness interviews, most of which were with inmates, being asked to recall conversations that had taken place over a decade ago. Having nothing to offer some of these witnesses for their testimony, Agent Larsen had to implore upon their sense of decency to bring some closure to the family and the United States Marshals Service.

Through perseverance, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to justice, Agent Larsen was a crucial factor in bringing an emotional case to a close.

Mr. Speaker, John Larsen's record of service and the fruits of his labor speak for themselves. Earning the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award from the U.S. Marshals is a well-deserved token of the respect that is due him for his efforts. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his commitment to excellence and his desire to see justice carried out.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY
BOUND TOGETHER

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the following article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Rabbi Zoberman's editorial appeared in the Suffolk News-Herald on March 18th.

DIVINITY, DIVERSITY, DIGNITY BOUND
TOGETHER

This is a time of decision beclouded by political partisanship and posturing at home and in the United Nations. Going to war for a democracy is not an easy undertaking as it would be for a dictatorship. The value of human life weighs heavily upon decision-makers in a nation such as ours whose guiding concern is the individual's welfare. That is contrary to a totalitarian regime where the individual is not an end in itself but a means to goals serving the interests of an autocratic ruler. There is thus a vast difference between the conduct of George W. Bush and that of Saddam Hussein, both representing diametrically opposing systems of government.

America is on the verge of confronting Iraq primarily for the sake of eliminating a growing danger to the world by a leader who proved that he would not hesitate to use mass destruction weapons even against his own people. Hussein has not given up his dream of gaining hegemony over a region rich in oil to be used for his own megaloma-

niac purposes as he seeks to establish a nuclear option. He has only become emboldened to get his way by his past defeat in the 1991 Gulf War and consequent limitations posed on Iraq by the United Nations. A wounded and humiliated lion is more dangerous than an uninjured one. History taught us that dictators do not willingly relinquish power.

No doubt, the evil of 9/11 created a greater urgency to respond to forces undermining the world's stability, propelled by the global terrorism of uncompromising militant Islam assailing the West and its values. It begrudges our superior standing and their own longstanding inadequacies. Its aim is tragically not dialogue but a deadly duel they are bound to lose. Al-Qaida, now on the run following their defeat in Afghanistan, was too successful for its own good. It will be relentlessly pursued. Imagine if Osama Bin Ladin invested his large finances in promoting cultural exchange between civilizations! Hussein contributes to terrorism in a variety of ways, including generous monetary rewards to Palestinian families of suicide-homicide bombers who have terrorized Israel, the West's frontier, for over two years, wrecking havoc that no nation would have tolerated so long. The last terrifying terror act in Haifa was in the neighborhood where I grew up and it was Bus #37 and the stop, which I used only a month ago. My sister, a "Real" school counselor, lost two young teenage students among the fifteen dead.

Another hopeful democracy in the making in the Middle East, the first Arab one, alongside Israel's inspiring example, would bode well for an essential transformation of a critical part of the world once blessing humanity with the vision of the sacredness of each human life and now breeding those who violate it in God's name. America standing up for itself would have a sobering effect on those who believe that it has grown too weak to be the world's leader. That is a dangerous scenario we cannot afford.

Power to defend what we rightfully cherish, touching upon our very security and basic way of life, is not to be snickered at. As son of Polish Holocaust survivors I know what the absence of power meant to the Jewish people in our darkest period. Let us take pride in our hard-earned power and in Hampton Roads' leading role in our nation's military mission for freedom's sake, pledging to support all our heroic servicemen and women as well as their families awaiting their safe return. Eleven members of my own over 300 family unit synagogue are in the Persian Gulf arena. At this trying juncture for humanity, America is called upon once more to assert that divinity, diversity and dignity are bound together.

Mr. Speaker, I comment Rabbi Zoberman for his timely and thoughtful statement. As we appear on the verge of war with Iraq, Rabbi Zoberman's words serve as a strong reminder of the differences between the United States and the evil Iraqi regime.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S
HOMELAND

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of the morning, our men and women in uniform began a campaign to defend America's homeland and lib-

erate a population that has been under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. While thousands of miles away, this nation stands behind these heroes and prays for their safety as they risk their lives in order to protect our freedom and security.

As the great battles of the past have clearly indicated, America's armed forces are the world's strongest, most advanced and will always succeed. While America may be in the early days of this conflict, it is certain that our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen will ultimately prevail and decades of oppression will be lifted from the Iraqi people.

The days ahead represent a struggle to prevent Saddam Hussein's terror from reaching our borders in the future. While the work our soldiers are doing now is in an arena far away, it is a direct accomplishment for the security and safety of America's homeland.

The young men and women in uniform are nothing short of heroic and their country stands proud of the missions they are leading abroad—both military and humanitarian. I would also like to commend their families for the sacrifices they have made for America. These days may be difficult, but the results of their work will forever be remembered and America will prevail.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our nation, along with a coalition of more than thirty supporting nations, entered into military conflict with the nation of Iraq. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the commitment and resolve of our American men and women in service and their families. I join today with all of my colleagues in offering the unyielding support for all of our troops in the United States Armed Forces and their families.

Joining the thousands of troops from around the world in Iraq are many brave and courageous reservists and enlistees from the Central Valley. I join today with all those who have family members and friends in the region as we hope and pray for their safe and speedy return.

There is no question that Saddam Hussein is destabilizing the region, that he is willing to use deadly force against his own people, and that he is a threat to U.S. security. Yet, regardless of how each of us feels today about entering into this conflict, we must stand resolute behind our Commander in Chief and behind our men and women in uniform. Our hearts and thoughts are with those who will be putting their lives on the line for the sake of freedom in the days ahead.

TUNISIA 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great ally of the United States.