

Guatemala decided last week to overturn the conviction of Colonel Juan Valencia Osorio, the man convicted by a lower court of being the "intellectual author" of the murder of Myrna Mack, a well-known Guatemalan anthropologist. Before her murder on September 11, 1990, Myrna Mack had been conducting research on the massive displacement and destruction of rural indigenous communities which resulted from the Guatemalan military's counterinsurgency tactics and "scorched earth" policies that they employed during that country's 36-year-old civil war.

The appellate court also upheld the acquittals of General Augusto Godoy Gaitán and Colonel Juan Guillermo Oliva Carrera, who were accused of having masterminded, along with Colonel Valencia, the assassination of Myrna Mack. Thus, as a result of the appellate court's decision, the intellectual authors of Myrna Mack's murder remain at large thirteen years after the killing, and justice continues to be denied to her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of special concern because of the fact that the officers who were just acquitted were members of the Presidential Security Guard (Estado Mayor Presidencial—EMP), a unit originally created to provide security for Guatemala's president, vice-president, and their respective families. Since its establishment, however, the EMP has been repeatedly implicated in some of Guatemala's most high-profile human rights abuses, including the 1998 murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi. It is important to note that General Godoy and Colonels Oliva and Valencia served as high-ranking officials in the EMP at the time of Bishop Gerardi's assassination.

It is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that Guatemalan authorities will vigorously pursue justice in Myrna Mack's case, wherever it may lead, and I applaud key U.S. officials for continuing to urge strongly that the Guatemalan government strengthen the rule of law in that country and strip high-ranking military officers of the impunity that they apparently now enjoy.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor President Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan as he celebrates three years in office.

For more than fifty years the United States and Taiwan have had a valued cross-pacific relationship. One million Americans of Taiwanese descent live in the United States and twenty nine thousand Taiwanese students attend American universities.

Taiwan and the US share close economic ties. In the last half century, Taiwan has grown to become our seventh largest trading partner.

Taiwan, however, is more than an economic ally. It has offered unwavering support in our efforts to confront terrorism. Taiwan's democratic success is also clear. It heeds its people's choice and turns over power after elections. It allows and encourages its people to participate in deliberations on their country's future.

In the wake of the SARS outbreak, it is imperative that Taiwan's twenty three million

people are allowed to participate in the World Health Organization's efforts to counteract this contagion. This can be achieved by granting Taiwan observer status in the WHO.

Taiwan and President Chen have been great allies and friends to the American people. I congratulate the people of Taiwan and President Chen on their many achievements.

MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE
MATTER OF A CO-SPONSORSHIP

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct a mistake for the record regarding a Member listed as an original co-sponsor on my bill, H.R. 1904. The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. SCOTT, was mistakenly added as an original co-sponsor to my bill, although he did not ask to be a co-sponsor of this bill. Yesterday, I made a unanimous consent requested to remove him as a co-sponsor, but the request could not be granted because the report on H.R. 1904 had already been filed. I thank Mr. SCOTT for his understanding in this matter.

RUNAWAY, HOMELESS, AND MISSING
CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 1925, the Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Protection Act. This measure reauthorizes both the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program and the Missing Children's Assistance Act. This bill will also increase the funding levels for these programs through 2008.

In addition, this bill increases the funding level for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This bill will double the funding level from \$10 million to \$20 million over the next four years.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I along with my colleague from Texas, Mr. LAMPSON and other Members, founded the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. The Caucus was created to build awareness around the issue of missing and exploited children for the purpose of finding children who are currently missing and to prevent future abductions.

I applaud the efforts of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and of the Caucus under the chairmanship of Representative NICK LAMPSON. I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LARRY COMBEST

SPEECH OF

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Congressman LARRY COMBEST for his

service to this chamber and to the people of Texas. The 19th Congressional District of Texas has been diligently represented by Congressman COMBEST for over eighteen years since his initial election to Congress in 1984. LARRY's greatest accomplishments came during his reign as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Under the leadership of Chairman COMBEST, the Agriculture Committee completed years of work in passing the Farm Bill that President George W. Bush signed into law last year.

Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, LARRY was no stranger to Capitol Hill. He served as a legislative assistant to Senator John Tower of Texas from 1971 to 1978.

I've had the privilege of working alongside LARRY since I came to this body in 1997. I have come to know LARRY to be not only a hard-working colleague, but also a wonderful friend. He and his lovely wife Sharon will be greatly missed around these halls.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the very capable and intelligent staff of Congressman COMBEST. Among the staff, Congressman COMBEST's Senior Legislative Assistant, Taylor Bledsoe, will also shortly be leaving the Hill. Taylor has been a great asset to Congressman COMBEST, and is a good friend. I wish Taylor and his wife Jen all the best for their move back to the Lone Star State.

LARRY leaves behind Texas-sized shoes for his successor to fill. I wish LARRY and his family well. Thank you LARRY for your service to Texas and to the nation.

CELEBRATING THE 325TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the community of New Paltz in Ulster County, New York, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 325th Anniversary of the founding of New Paltz, as well as the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the College of New Paltz. I am delighted to recognize this community's rich historical heritage and continued vitality, as the Town of New Paltz and State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz mark these important milestones.

New Paltz was founded in 1678 by Huguenot families who were seeking refuge from severe religious persecution in France. The community was self-governed by the Duzine, referring to the twelve partners who acquired the royal land patent in 1677 on more than 33,000 acres purchased from local Native Americans. The Duzine decided local matters and consisted of one representative from each of the original families. That form of government continued well past the time of the American Revolution, by special action of the New York State Legislature. New Paltz was dominated for more than 150 years by the founding partners and their heirs, whose family names can still be found today in the area.

The lands encompassed in the original patent, stretching all the way from the

Shawangunk Mountains to the Hudson River, were augmented soon by additional patents to the south. These lands were eventually divided among the twelve partners, their relatives, and a few friends into large plots—part wilderness and part farm. The farms were grouped principally around the heights west and east of the Walkkill River.

The area's commercial center was located on the east shore of the Walkkill River, where the Huguenots built wooden homes and later, stone houses. These houses were located on what is now known as Huguenot Street, the oldest continuously inhabited street in America. Many of the seventeenth century stone buildings still stand today and have been preserved as a museum community. The Huguenot Street Historic District has also been designated a National Historical Landmark.

The population of New Paltz gradually increased and moved up from the Walkkill River to what is now Main Street and beyond. Areas that are now incorporated into the nearby towns of Lloyd, Shawangunk, Esopus and Gardiner split off from the Town of New Paltz between 1843 and 1853. The Village of New Paltz was incorporated within the town in 1887. For 200 years after its settlement, New Paltz remained a small, isolated farming community. Farming, particularly of apples, is still one of New Paltz's largest businesses.

New Paltz farmers looked early on to surrounding communities and even to New York City for markets. Establishment of the Walkkill Valley Railroad in 1870 gave a great boost to their commercial efforts. After fifty years or so, the automobile began to replace the train, and finally, in the early 1950's, the opening of the New York State Thruway with an exit for New Paltz made this community much more accessible, leading to substantial growth in the town and at the University.

Higher education has long been one of the main concerns of the community, especially since 1828 when the New Paltz Classical School was established and, shortly thereafter, became the New Paltz Academy. This Academy slowly metamorphosed into the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz, which continues to offer high quality education to thousands of undergraduate and graduate students each year. I would like to note I am a proud alumnus of SUNY New Paltz. I would also like to mention that SUNY's library is named after one of Ulster County's most famous residents, Sojourner Truth, the abolitionist and champion for women's suffrage, who lived in and around New Paltz for part of her life.

Over many generations, New Paltz's population has been enriched with a variety of races, faiths and ethnic backgrounds. New Paltz continues to uphold its long-held traditions of respect for diversity and civic involvement, while actively working to preserve its historic, cultural and scenic resources. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor New Paltz as this community prepares to celebrate the 325th Anniversary of its founding and the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the College of New Paltz.

ENHANCING COOPERATION AND SHARING OF RESOURCES BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DOD

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1911. This bill authorizes the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to investigate ways to share resources to improve benefits and services, including health care, to veterans, service members, military retirees and their families.

As many of you may have read in the National Journal article of February 15, 2003, the relationship between William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) and the VA outpatient clinic in my home district of El Paso, Texas is an excellent example of resource sharing. For years, a veteran in El Paso who needed specialized care had to be referred to the nearest full-service VA hospital, which happened to be a four hour drive away in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Today, a veteran can literally go next door to WBAMC. There, the VA is given access to expensive expertise and equipment, such as pathologists and MRI scans, and in return the VA reimburses the Army nearly \$5 million a year, well below the going rate for the medical care in the private sector.

I have urged both the DOD and the VA to build on our success story in El Paso and use this cooperation as a nationwide model. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of H.R. 1911. I yield back the balance of my time.

BOMBING IN RIYADH

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the investigation into the horrible bombing in Riyadh continues, I would commend to my colleagues' attention a column in the Wall Street Journal written by former FBI Director Louis Freeh about the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers complex in Saudi Arabia. It contains valuable lessons that should be applied to the probe of this latest attack. Cooperation between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia will be essential, as will the resolve that we have seen on the part of President Bush to bring terrorists to justice. As the article also demonstrates, the FBI needs our support for its critical mission of investigating and preventing terrorism in the U.S. and around the world.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 20, 2003]

AMERICAN JUSTICE FOR OUR KHOBAR HEROES

(By Louis J. Freeh)

Responding to last week's terrorist attacks in Riyadh, President Bush declared that "the United States will find the killers, and they will learn the meaning of American justice." This is a president who is serious about fighting and winning the war on terrorism. The liberation of Iraq and the continued effort to bring al Qaeda to justice are all the proof anyone should need.

On May 1, our commander in chief stood on the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln—where he rightly should stand—and reiterated the Bush doctrine: "Any person involved in committing or planning terrorist attacks against the American people becomes an enemy of this country, and a target of American justice." As if in response, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the leader of Iran's powerful Guardian Council, had this to say in a sermon the next day: "The Iraqi people have reached the conclusion that they have no option but to launch an uprising and resort to martyrdom operations to expel the United States from Iraq."

Impervious to the new order against terrorism are the terrorists who maintain their regime in Tehran. While the horrific bombing scenes were still smoldering and littered with their victims in Riyadh, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami received a rousing welcome in Beirut, where he vowed to support "resistance" against Israel and called the U.S. occupation of Iraq a "great mistake" and a "dangerous game." Meanwhile, Mr. Khatami's atomic-energy chief denied that Iran had a nuclear weapons program but told the U.N. that his country was not willing to submit to tougher inspections.

Make no mistake, Iran's terrorist leaders are well versed in "martyrdom operations" against Americans. Hezbollah, the exclusive terrorist agent of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has killed more Americans than any other group besides al Qaeda. In 1982, Hezbollah carried out the suicide bombing in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. Marines. In 1985, Hezbollah brutally murdered a young U.S. Navy diver aboard their hijacked TWA Flight 847 in Lebanon and dumped his body on the tarmac. Into the 1990s Hezbollah terrorists kidnapped, tortured and murdered several American military and civilian officers as well as other Westerners.

On June 25, 1996, Iran again attacked America at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, exploding a huge truck bomb that devastated Khobar Towers and murdered 19 U.S. airmen as they rested in their dormitory. These young heroes spent every day risking their lives enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq; that is, protecting Iraqi Shiites from their own murderous tyrant. When I visited this horrific scene soon after the attack, I watched dozens of dedicated FBI agents combed through the wreckage in 120-degree heat, reverently handling the human remains of our brave young men. More than 400 of our Air Force men and women were wounded in this well-planned attack, and I was humbled by their courage and spirit. I later met with the families of our lost Khobar heroes and promised that we would do whatever was necessary to bring these terrorists to American justice. The courage and dignity these wonderful families have consistently exemplified has been one of the most powerful experiences of my 26 years of public service.

The FBI's investigation of the Khobar attack was extraordinarily persistent, indeed relentless. Our fallen heroes and their families deserve nothing less. Working in close cooperation with the White House, State Department, CIA and Department of Defense, I made a series of trips to Saudi Arabia beginning in 1996. FBI agents opened an office in Riyadh and aligned themselves closely with the Mabatheth, the kingdom's antiterrorist police. Over the course of our investigation the evidence became clear that while the attack was staged by Saudi Hezbollah members, the entire operation was planned, funded and coordinated by Iran's security services, the IRGC and MOIS, acting on orders from the highest levels of the regime in Tehran.