

as a bully. She then earned a national reputation as a serious and credible journalist of the first magnitude.

She grabbed the heart of the Nation with her coverage of President Kennedy's assassination. Her poetic tribute to his life and gentile commentary of his funeral comforted a grieving Nation.

The national spotlight shined on Mary again in 1974 when she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for her coverage of the Watergate scandal. She was most proud that her coverage landed her a spot on President Nixon's notorious "enemies list." That recognition served not as a warning to tame her merciless analysis but as a validation for her relentless work ethic.

When the Washington Star closed its doors in 1981, Mary was devastated. I am convinced, I believe, that she had lost her own true love. Although she would continue to write for the Washington Post, whom she also loved, her first allegiance was to the Star.

My colleague has already talked about the wonderful work that she did with the orphans and the children needing help in this city for more than 5 decades, but I can never forget Mary McGrory the entertainer. I was a proud member of the Lower Macomb Street Choral Society for which we had to audition. Whether one was a diplomat, a media member, or anybody, they had to audition for that group in the comfort of her living room. Her infamous lasagnas fed our stomachs and her favorite Irish songs fed our hearts. It was a coveted invitation to go to McComb Street, and then for the last 10 years, Mary and I have had dinner together here in the Capitol just before the State of the Union address, and the next one for me will be extremely lonely.

I last spoke with her on the day that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) rescued the portrait of Mary Theresa Norton from one of the Capitol closets. She had been the Chair of the Committee on Labor and was responsible for child labor laws and the fair labor standards, and we knew nothing about her. We were happy that day to find an article that Mary had written about Congresswoman Norton where she quoted the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. DINGELL) father as saying that Mary Theresa Norton could do anything that any man could do and do it better and do it faster, and it was a great honor to pay to her.

I would like to end with one of Mary's favorite songs that we sang together with Phil Gailey sometimes at 2 and 3 in the morning, and they sang this at her funeral, and I know the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), who is here in the audience, will know this.

I'll meet you in the morning  
With a how do you do  
And will sit down the river  
And with rapture old acquaintance renew.  
You'll know me in the morning  
By the smile that I wear

When I meet you in the morning  
In the city Four Square.

I will meet you there, Mary.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

#### ABU GHRAIB PRISON

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as an American, I am ashamed and disgusted by the horrendous unspeakable acts at Abu Ghraib prison caught in pictures and displayed around the world. The impact of these images is devastating precisely in the part of the world where we are already struggling to counter the widespread impression that we do not respect the Arab world and Islamic traditions.

There is no excuse for these pictures and the acts shown. There is no excuse for a Secretary of Defense to be out of the loop and then deliver an apology that sounds like a lecture. I have listened repeatedly to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld dismissively brush aside penetrating questions from Members of Congress about both his policies and their execution.

We have seen Rumsfeld and his civilian managers at the Pentagon fail to appreciate and understand concerns from their uniformed command structure. They have dismissed the truth tellers like General Eric Shinseki who gave an honest and accurate assessment of troop requirements. They have removed people within the administration like White House National Economic Council Director Larry Lindsey who was candid about the cost of this war.

At one time I thought Rumsfeld's refusal to put a price on the projected cost on the mission he was leading was because he was trying to hide it.

While it is true there has been no excess of candor from this crew, it is becoming more and more clear that another reason that Rumsfeld and his team have not been forthcoming is that they probably really do not know. They have not a clue and repeatedly do not appear to care that they do not know.

The most recent example from the guy who is always trying to look like he is in charge but not knowing what is going on is the report of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners which has forced the President into a series of embarrassing efforts to apologize. A war that has begun with the exaggerated threats of weapons of mass destruction has morphed into a war that is based upon, well, I frankly do not begin to under-

stand the latest justification. It took reporters like Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker to force other reporters to know what they knew and only when the truth behind the administration's contradictions and misinformation is exposed does the administration acknowledge that there may be a problem. And now months after a report that highlighted these problems, there is a grudging acknowledgment and apparently some steps are being taken to correct it after widespread damage to our credibility, damage to our already low-standing in the Arab world, and giving a green light to people who take our troops and other American citizens hostage as we have lost moral authority to effectively protest abuse of our people.

The administration does not know what is going on and clearly they are unsure about what to do. They are spending huge sums of money on private contractors that is not just eating up far more than it would take to equip U.S. troops properly but blurs lines of responsibility. They do not know whom to hold accountable, and if they did, it is unclear what they can do to these independent contractors other than canceling a contract.

I think it is clear four things need to happen. First, we should open our Iraqi prisons to independent third-party monitoring by the United Nations and International Red Cross. There is a reason why we should honor constitutional protections and commit to international standards of law and prisoner treatment. We should stop delegating to unaccountable private contractors functions that should be under the direct control and supervision of United States military uniformed command. We need to get a new Secretary of Defense, somebody who really is on top of the situation and who does read reports, who is not dismissive of our allies, of Congress, and of his own uniformed command.

Most important, for those of us who are in Congress, we should be finding out ourselves about these issues, not relying on the New Yorker and CNN.

There was a time when congressional panels, oversight committees were exercising oversight. We can grumble about the administration, but failure to do our job is only our fault.

#### PRISONERS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we are all shocked, saddened, and outraged by recent reports of the abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan. The evidence cannot be in dispute. Graphic photos have gone from one end of the earth to the other that show stripped young Iraqi men forced to lie in a naked pile with a male and female soldier standing over them and hamming for the camera. Whether we like it or not, the