

and the 910th is the second flying wing that has had the opportunity to have him as their commanding officer. As our wing commander at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, General Gjede's personal involvement, his encouragement, and intuitiveness have produced an overwhelming response, as recognized in the achievements of the wing's members.

The 910th's functional areas performed flawlessly, despite a stressful and turbulent atmosphere caused by the events of September 11, 2001. His superior leadership was the driving force that kept all personnel properly focused, allowing them to consistently meet and exceed requirements. Despite the challenges of the most aggressive reserve operations tempo in history, the 910th immediately responded to the homeland defense initiatives in support of Operation Noble Eagle and the worldwide requirements for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

General Gjede's continual involvement in base renovation and new construction projects, operation and maintenance facilities, and quality of life projects will produce benefits far into the future. The accomplishments of General Gjede culminate a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

On a personal note, one of the unique experiences I have had with General Gjede was an opportunity to participate in the Youngstown Air Reserve parachute program. It is not really a program. It is a simulation of parachuting. General Gjede gave me an opportunity to put on the suit, strap myself in, and look down and do the virtual reality and try to land on a carrier. Well, needless to say, I had my suit pants on, so General Gjede got to see me with suit pants, a tie, and the equipment necessary for parachuting dangling from the ceiling at the air base and missing the boat completely and going directly into the water. I do not even believe I got the parachute out in time. So General Gjede has seen his Congressman in some very compromising positions. Luckily, there was no one in there with a camera to take any pictures.

So that was a good experience I have had, among many, with General Gjede; and he is going to be sorely missed.

But I would also like to say that behind every great man is a great woman. He has a phenomenal wife, Jerylynn, who we have had the opportunity, my wife Julie and I have had the opportunity to get to know. She is a tremendous, tremendous woman. She is a great First Lady for the 910th. She has an enormous amount of class and composure and brought a lot of elegance to the air base, and we will sorely miss her as well.

So on behalf of the people of the 17th Congressional District, I want to thank you, General Gjede and your wife, and wish you and your family the best.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed our time together, our dinners together, and hope that in the future there will be many, many, many more. We are definitely wishing and hoping that you will stick around in our community after your retirement, because our community certainly is a better place and a stronger place with you and Jerylynn in it, and we will not just miss the General and his wife but we will miss our friends.

So I wish you the best of luck and hope that we get to see you in our community and look forward to many, many, many further experiences together on behalf of the air base.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE CHALABI DEBACLE

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I stand here today beside this picture. On the right is President George W. Bush and on the left of the picture is a man by the name of Chalabi, Mr. Chalabi. We have heard a lot about Chalabi in recent days. The President, apparently, indicated recently that he did not know him well, that he may have met him at a rope line. But the fact is that Mr. Chalabi was in this Chamber as the honored guest of the President of the United States, seated right up there near the President's wife, Laura Bush. He was applauded by those gathered in this Chamber.

We now know that Mr. Chalabi, who we have reason to believe was paid some \$40 million by this government, until just recently, those payments were finally, belatedly, cut off, but Mr. Chalabi was supposed to be providing intelligence to this administration. He is especially, apparently, close to Vice President CHENEY and to others within this administration.

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Based in part on intelligence data that came from Mr. Chalabi, this administration made a decision to go to war. Think about that. What have we learned in recent days about Mr. Chalabi. Well, according to news reports, not only was the information that he gave us distorted, false, and in some cases apparently made up; but we now have news reports, credible news reports that Mr. Chalabi was cooperating with one of the axis of evil nations, that nation being Iran.

According to news reports, this government had broken the code that en-

abled us to intercept communications from the nation of Iran and that Mr. Chalabi told Iran that our government had in fact broken their code. News reports say that Mr. Chalabi further informed the Iranian Government that he received that information from someone within the United States Government who was drunk at the time.

If these reports are accurate, it means that our troops and our national security have been placed at greater risk because this administration put its confidence in this man. Not only did we give him our national resources in terms of about \$40 million, not only was he invited to the State of the Union, allowed to sit near the First Lady and receive the adulation of this body, not only was he given these millions of dollars in this recognition, but we depended upon the information coming from this man; and now it appears that our national security may have been compromised.

Mr. Speaker, there needs to be a thorough investigation of what has happened here. We need to find out if our young men and women have been put in harm's way because of the actions of this man; and the President needs to explain to us why he now indicates he knows little about Mr. Chalabi, when he is here in this picture, he was invited to this Chamber for the State of the Union address, and this government invested more than \$40 million into this man.

This is something that cries out for explanation and investigation, and it is my hope that the President will accept the responsibility of making sure that the news reports of the last few hours are thoroughly investigated, that all those responsible for the possible leaks regarding national security issues are identified and are thoroughly, utterly, totally discredited.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared a war on poverty. Yet today, 40 years later, millions of Americans continue to face poverty and hunger. It's unconscionable that in the 21st century, in the richest and most prosperous country in the world, nearly 35 million Americans—13 million of them children—go hungry every day.

Today is National Hunger Awareness Day. This initiative, sponsored by America's Second Harvest, is designed to help raise public

awareness about hunger and the problems faced by millions of people who are having trouble feeding themselves and their families. Today, thousands of hunger relief advocates and volunteers will work with food banks, food-rescue organizations and agencies to help raise awareness about hunger in their communities.

Madam Speaker, the statistics are astounding. Nearly 35 million Americans go hungry each year. 13 million are children. In 2002, over 34 million Americans and 7.2 million American families lived in poverty. The problem of hunger is getting worse, not better. The percentage of households experiencing food insecurity increased from 10.7 percent in 2001 to 11.1 percent in 2002.

Hunger and food insecurity don't fit the old stereotypes of the poor and uneducated. Not only are more working families relying on food banks for help to feed their children, but over 62 percent of recipients of food from food banks have at least a high school diploma. This is intolerable. As a nation, we should not and can not continue to have lower-income families struggle to earn enough money to put food on the table. Poverty and hunger are directly related—if you don't have money, you can't buy food. It's that simple.

This year's theme for Hunger Awareness Day is "One Big Table." Hundreds of events are taking place around the country, and I would like to highlight one taking place in my district.

Today, the Worcester County Food Bank is holding a "Picnic and Food Drive Kick-Off." The Worcester County Food Bank, together with Sovereign Bank, Shaw's Supermarkets, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, WSRS/WTAG Radio and Curry Printing, are kicking-off the 2nd Annual County-wide Grocery Bag Food Drive. Held at the Worcester County Food Bank, the event includes food drive sponsors, partner agencies, volunteers and staff enjoying a picnic lunch prepared by Community Kitchen student chefs. It will feature on-air radio interviews with the sponsors and agencies to raise awareness of the local hunger problem and promote the upcoming food drive.

Madam Speaker, National Hunger Awareness Day is just one day out of the year when individuals, companies, organizations, and faith-based groups can participate, but the reality is that hunger is a political problem. There is no justification for hunger to exist in this country, or around the world, for that matter. We have the food, the money, and the manpower to end hunger in the United States. What we can't seem to find is the political will to do so.

Earlier this year, this body approved bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the child nutrition programs. It's a good bill that, sadly, doesn't go far enough. For example, over 22 million low-income children participate in the free and reduced-price school breakfast and lunch program. However, only 4.7 million children receive these same lunches in the summer—a 78.8 percent drop in participation. And it's not for lack of need. No, Madam Speaker, it's from the lack of commitment by this Congress.

In another example, Madam Speaker, the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act rightly ends the requirement that many families must pay a reduced price for breakfasts and lunches. But instead of ending this required payment now, the House-passed bill phases it out over five years.

Madam Speaker, we must do better. The Education and Workforce Committee crafted a good, bipartisan bill. It's a good start, but it must be improved. The programs to end hunger are in place. They don't need to be recreated; they just need to be fully funded. The American people deserve better, and, on National Hunger Awareness Day, I urge my colleagues in the other body to pass a broader, more inclusive Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

Madam Speaker, let me close by commending America's Second Harvest, the food banks around the country, the corporations, faith-based groups, volunteers and other anti-hunger advocates for their hard work and dedication to end hunger in the U.S. Today is National Hunger Awareness Day. But these individuals and groups work to end hunger every day. Food bank participation continues to rise. The need for anti-hunger programs is clear. I, for one, am grateful for America's Second Harvest's commitment to ending hunger in America. I urge my colleagues to make every day Hunger Awareness Day, to commit themselves to ending hunger in any way they can, and to find the political will to end the scourge of hunger here at home and around the world.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order today.

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

There was no objection.

ADVANCING FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to appear here on the House floor today to join with the majority leader and Members of Congress who will be with me here today to express our strong support for maintaining America's leadership role in the ex-

ploration of outer space, and our leadership role in advancing the frontiers of science, to demonstrate through the examples we will give today and the presentations that we have of the many, many tangible ways in which the mission of NASA, our leadership in the exploration of space, and America's leadership in the advancement of the frontiers of science have touched and changed the lives of Americans individually, and advanced the freedom and prosperity of the Nation and the world as a whole.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support NASA's new vision for our continued exploration of the universe. Forty-three years ago, President John F. Kennedy laid out a vision of space exploration that became a reality 8 years later when Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon. With the Apollo missions, America led the world in space exploration and propelled decades of technological and biological research that continue to benefit us to this day.

Four decades later, President George W. Bush offered the Nation another bold and challenging vision of space exploration that will keep America economically, technologically, and militarily strong. Congress needs to support this mission so we can work with NASA to achieve the goal of returning Americans to the Moon and sending astronauts to Mars and beyond.

NASA's new space exploration vision comes at a time when America faces increased competition from other nations. Aside from Russia, the People's Republic of China now has an ambitious space flight program. China has already launched a spacecraft into low-Earth orbit and is intent on developing a manned aerospace and lunar exploration program.

We need to return the Space Shuttle to flight, complete the International Space Station, and extend our presence across the solar system by developing a new crew exploration vehicle.

Space exploration not only advances the Nation's vision. It provides jobs, growth and opportunity to millions of American workers. Being the leader in space flight also makes America the leader in commercial research and development. The end of the last century witnessed rapid advances in science and technology that could only have been accomplished by astronauts conducting research in space. Microgravity experiments on the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station led to the creation of next-generation silicon computer chips and laser communication. Experiments on the Shuttle in the early 1990s fostered the development of a manufacturing process known as liquid phase centering that is now being used to produce over \$20 billion worth of products in the United States.