

Women's Council of the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. She has also appeared in several editions of the "Distinguished Women's Book of Nevada." In 2002 she received the Women's Role Model Award from the Nevada Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand today to pay tribute to a great legislator and public servant. Ann O'Connell will be missed but not forgotten. I know that her retirement will not be the end of her public service and I thank her for her diligence in serving those around her.

LOSS OF U.S. ARMY CPL ISAAC E. DIAZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 20, 2004*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American patriot, U.S. Army CPL Isaac E. Diaz, of Rio Hondo, Texas, who gave the last full measure of devotion to the country he loved and served when he was killed in Afghanistan on December 1, 2004.

He served with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light) from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He had been driving military vehicles in the Army for several years.

Like so many young people, Corporal Diaz wanted to find a way to go to college, so he joined the military in 1998, after graduating from Rio Hondo High School. Yet, the 26-year-old never enrolled in college. He was killed in Sharona, Afghanistan, when his Humvee rolled over while on routine patrol in the Paktika province.

In a sad—but brave—irony, after Corporal Diaz completed his initial three-year tour of duty at Fort Campbell, KY, he reenlisted for another four years to financially support his wife, Amber, and their infant son, Aaron.

Those that knew him well in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas spoke of his quiet intensity and his hard-working nature. The Rio High School Principal, Juan Montez, remembered Corporal Diaz as a studious teenager, the sort of student educators enjoyed having in class.

He worked hard and didn't complain. He was an excellent soldier. He was serving in the front of this war that is closest to the hiding places of Osama bin Laden and the al Qaida leaders who plotted the attack on this nation on September 11, 2001.

Corporal Diaz's service was honorable, as was his life. We all mourn the loss of this young American, whose life was cut short, leaving a hole in our hearts and forever altering his young family.

I want Corporal Diaz's son, Aaron, who is too young now to understand the depth of his father's sacrifice, to one day appreciate that his father loved this country—and him—enough to go in harm's way to protect our democracy.

I ask my colleagues to remember this great patriot, his sacrifice on behalf of all of us, and the family he leaves behind in South Texas.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 2845, INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Conference Report we have before us today is of great importance to the safety of our Nation and I would like to commend my colleagues involved with the negotiations of this conference report for their diligent and tireless work.

Unfortunately, once again, the amount of time allotted for debate, as well as the amount of time we had to try and determine what actually is in the conference report does not do justice to the important task at hand. We may sound like broken records on this point, but that's simply because the majority continues to undermine the democratic process by putting critically important pieces of legislation on the bullet-train for passage.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about no less than the most dramatic restructuring of our Nation's intelligence community since the creation of the National Security Council and Central Intelligence Agency in 1947. As such, each and every member of this body should have adequate time to sift through this lengthy and important legislation in order to have a full understanding of what exactly we are voting on tonight.

Nevertheless, as best as I have been able to determine from looking through the conference report thus far, it is a great improvement on the politically driven, partisan legislation the House passed in October. The 9/11 Commissioners who made these important recommendations support the conference report, as do families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks. Although I plan to vote in support of this conference report, I will be doing so with great concern over several provisions.

I have concerns that important civil liberty protection provisions have been watered down. I am pleased that there is language in the conference report to establish a Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, but am concerned that it was not given enough independence from the White House. The 9/11 Commission recommended the Board be given subpoena power. This bill gives no such power. I will introduce legislation in the 109th Congress to give the board this subpoena power it deserves to do its job. Also, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the sunset of specific provisions of the PATRIOT Act pertaining to financial institutions has been eliminated.

Despite these concerns, I believe this legislation is too important to the safety of our country and will therefore be voting in support of it. I do hope, however, as I recently stated during debate of a different bill, that the majority will stop bringing legislation and conference reports to the floor in the manner that this was brought before us today. It is a subversion of the democratic process and it must stop.

S. 2845, INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 9, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier, I had an opportunity to praise the work of the 9/11 Family Steering Committee and of the "leaders in Congress that has allowed the Congress to vote on and pass the Conference Report to S. 2845, which is the legislation that will enact the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. While it would be nearly impossible to thank and recognize everyone that played a part in its passing, I would like to recognize the hard work of two 9/11 Pentagon family members, Abraham Scott and Rosemary Dillard.

Over the last several months these two individuals have been a constant presence on the Hill fighting for the implementation of intelligence reform. During this time I have had a chance to get to know these two remarkable individuals and I would like to share with you a little bit about them.

Abraham Scott, lost his wife of 24 years, Janice Marie, who was working in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Everyday that Abe has traveled to the Hill, I have always been touched by the pictures of his family and his wife. He speaks fondly of his children and he speaks lovingly of his wife.

Rosemary Dillard lost her husband, Eddie A. Dillard, who was on flight 77 that struck the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Ms. Dillard, as a retired flight attendant manager for American Airlines also lost a crew of flight attendants that she managed.

I cannot imagine the grief and loss that these two individuals have had to endure, but I am honored to have had the opportunity to know them and work with them in fighting for the passage of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. Both of them know that we still have work to do to ensure that our Nation will be safe from future terrorist attacks and I look forward to the opportunity to working with them again.

HONORING RAYMOND RAWSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 20, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand today to pay tribute to a friend and fellow Nevadan. Mr. Raymond Rawson has served the great State of Nevada in the Nevada State Senate since 1985. I have had the honor to serve with him as he served as the Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader in which he served as a great legislative role model and leader. I know that he will be missed in his retirement.

Mr. Rawson was born in Sandy, Utah, in 1940. He later moved to Nevada to pursue a bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He received his D.D.S. from Loma Linda University Dental School, California, and then returned to Las Vegas to pursue a masters degree at UNLV in physical anthropology.