heart, as the communities of Alamosa, Colorado and Adams State College have lost a tremendous human being. Ladislav Colin ''Pops'' Bauer is nothing short of a legend in Alamosa, particularly to the Adams State College cross-country team, where he served as a source of employment and motivation to numerous student athletes.

''Pops,'' as the students affectionately knew him, was the owner of the legendary Campus Café. This small restaurant served as a way for Colin to provide jobs to the school's student athletes, enabling them to earn a little extra money between classes and practice. It was here that Colin displayed incredible heart, and he was the type of guy that just kept on giving. When one of the Adams State runners could not find a sponsor to send him to the Olympic trials, it was Colin and the Campus Café who stepped forward with the money. This is just one example of the kindness and dedication that Colin displayed toward the Adams State Cross Country team.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of such a kind and caring individual. However, I am inspired to know that men like Ladislav Colin ''Pops'' Bauer were able to have an impact on America's youth. It is Colin's heart, modesty, and loyalty to the students of Adams State that garnered him respect, and it is for those very qualities that he has earned my respect here today.

ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HOUSE AND SENATE MATTERS ASSURING CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, while may seem reasonable to establish a Joint Committee on the Continuity of Congress, I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention my concerns relative to certain proposals regarding continuity of government, which would fundamentally alter the structure of our government in a way detrimental to republican liberty.

In particular, I hope this Committee does not endorse the proposal contained in ''Preserving our Institutions, The Continuity of Government Commission'' which recommends that state governors appoint new representatives. Appointing representatives flies in the face of the Founders' intention that the House of Representatives be the part of the federal government most directly accountable to the people. Even with the direct election of Senators, the fact that members of the House are elected every two years while Senators run for statewide office every six years, means members of the House of Representatives are still more accountable to the people than any other part of the federal government.

Therefore, any action that abridges the people's constitutional authority to elect members of the House of Representatives abridges the people's ability to control their government. Supporters of this plan claim that the appointment power will be necessary in the event of an emergency and that the appointed representatives will only be temporary. However, Mr. Speaker, the laws passed by these ''temporary'' representatives will be permanent.

I would remind my colleagues that this country has faced the possibility of threats to the continuity of this body several times throughout our history, yet no one suggested removing the people's right vote for members of Congress. For example, the British in the War of 1812 attacked the city of Washington, yet nobody suggested the states could not address the lack of a quorum in the House of Representatives though elections. During the Civil War, the neighboring state of Virginia, where today many Capitol Hill staffers and members reside, was actively involved in hostilities against the United States Government, yet Abraham Lincoln never suggested that non-elected persons serve in the House. Forty-two years ago, Americans wrestled with a hostile superpower that had placed nuclear weapons just 90 miles off the Florida coast, yet no one suggested we consider taking away the people's right to elect their representatives in order to ensure ''continuity of government!''

I have no doubt that the people of the states are quite competent to hold elections in a timely fashion. After all, isn't it in each state's interest to ensure it has adequate elected representation in Washington as soon as possible? Mr. Speaker, there are those who say that the power of appointment is necessary in order to preserve checks and balances and thus prevent an abuse of executive power. Of course, I agree that it is very important to carefully guard our constitutional liberties in times of crisis, and that an over-centralization of power in the Executive Branch is one of the most serious dangers to that liberty. However, I would ask my colleagues who is more likely to guard the people's liberties, representatives chosen by, and accountable to, the people, or representatives hand-picked by the executive of their state?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to question the rush under which this bill is being brought to the floor. Until this morning, most members had no idea this bill would be considered today! The rules committee began its mark-up of the bill at 9:15 last night and by 9:31 the report was filed and the bill placed on the House Calendar. Then, after Congress had finished legislative business for the day and with only a handful of members on the floor, unanimous consent was obtained to consider this bill today.

It is always disturbing when bills dealing with important subjects are rushed through the House before members have adequate time to consider all the implications of the measure. I hope this does not set a precedent for shutting members of Congress out of the debate on this important issue.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, while there is no harm in considering ideas for continuity of Congress, I hope my colleagues will reject any proposal that takes away the people's right to elect their representatives in this chamber.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 13

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago, on June 6, 1978, California voters made history when they passed Proposition 13.

Millions of Californians can still remember the condition of our state in 1978, and the irresponsible government actions that moved people to create a new and better way. Skyrocketing property taxes literally drove people from their homes, and a similar fate would surely have been visited on thousands more. Many complained, but few in Sacramento heeded their plight, and this sparked the citizen movement that swept our state and demonstrated the best traditions of direct democracy.

The landslide vote that approved the initiative validated what Howard Jarvis himself said at the time: Californians from all regions of the state believed the time had come for serious reform, and they could simply wait no longer.

Proposition 13 was a voter-approved proposal that cut California's property taxes by 30 percent and then limited future increases. Other opponents of high taxes used Proposition 13 as a model that led many additional states to institute similar reforms. Almost all of these reforms are still in effect today.

The passage of Proposition 13 has resulted in a reduction in property taxes of approximately 57 percent in California. It has been an indispensable element in the way that our state moved forward to outperform the rest of the country in personal income growth, employment growth, and appreciation of real property values.

As we again face tough financial decisions and rising tax burdens, I am encouraged when I recall 1978, a time when Californians seized control of their own fate and reformed a runaway tax system. I hope Californians and all Americans will remember on this day that we can control our government and our own destinies.

HONORING BILL HARDING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress to recognize a man who has served as a chief and mentor for many of Colorado's brave young firefighters. Bill Harding of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, will be leaving the Glenwood Springs Fire Department soon to pursue his career as the Fire Marshal for the Basalt and Rural Fire Department.

In his 19 years of service in Glenwood Springs, Bill has been instrumental in stopping fires such as Storm King, and Coal Seam Fire. His knowledge, hard work and expertise have allowed him to occupy a variety of positions, such as battalion chief, training captain, EMT, and fire inspector.

However, if you ask his co-workers, it is not Bill's knowledge that makes him a great firefighter. What makes him stand out is his ability

to teach others. Bill has been instrumental in the training and development of firefighters all over Colorado. He was never too busy to help a firefighter who wanted to learn and his passion and determination brought out the best in everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Chief Bill Harding. Bill's diligence, hard work, and positive attitude have helped develop a group of well-trained, hard-working individuals who protect our cities, homes, and families. Thank you, Bill, for your years of outstanding service.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TRIP REPORT ON VISIT TO IRAQ

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently shared with our colleagues observations following my recent two-day trip to southern Iraq. I was there Sunday, May 25, and Monday, May 26. I also spent a day, Tuesday, May 27, in Kuwait, where I met with Kuwaiti government officials, members of the U.S. military, State Department officials and staff from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Today I want to share with our colleagues a number of recommendations concerning the reconstruction of Iraq.

Recommendations: these recommendations are based on my observations and conversations with the people I met during the course of my visit. Some were discussed in greater detail in the observations section of my trip report.

Security: security is priority one. While the coalition forces have made great strides in trying to improve security in recent weeks, there is still a long way to go. Security is the linchpin to winning the peace in Iraq. That means security for coalition forces. Security for the NGOs. Security for the contractors. And security for the Iraqi people so they can go about their life. The gun turn-back program recently announced by Ambassador Bremer is a positive step but many are concerned that people may turn in only one gun and keep two. In addition to concerns about personal safety, looting remains a problem. I was told that looters continue to target electrical substations in southern Iraq, stealing the copper wire to sell on the black market. These substations provide much of the power for Baghdad. Coalition forces should provide security until it can be provided by the Iraqis.

Justice System: re-establishing a fair and just judicial system in a timely fashion is critical. Figuring out what to do with locals who break the law, such as looters, but are not a threat to U.S. security must be addressed as soon as possible. The laws need to be clear and must be enforced.

'Play to Win': ''Play to Win,'' the final report of the bipartisan Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, should be used as the blueprint for rebuilding Iraq.

The report, released in January, was produced jointly by the Association of the United States Army and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Its 17 recommendations provide an excellent model to follow. The commission is made up of 27 distinguished individuals with extensive experience in government, the military, non-governmental organizations and international aid groups. It met throughout 2002 to ''consider recommendations that surfaced over two years of research, expert working groups, and vetting with current policymakers and practitioners.'' The report can be found on the Internet at *http://www.pcrproject.org*

Commission Visits: a select group of the Commission on Post Conflict Reconstruction should travel to Iraq.

The panel's co-chairmen, Dr. John Hamre, former deputy secretary of defense, and Gen. Gordon Sullivan, former chief of staff of the U.S. Army, should appoint a select number of commissioners to travel to Iraq to assess how the reconstruction efforts are going. Their assessment, a second opinion, if you will, would be impartial and could prove to be invaluable. They should travel in a small group with a military escort to ensure their safety.

Congressional Oversight: small groups of members of Congress should make the trip to Iraq. They should go without publicity to ensure their safety and the safety of those who would be providing protection. Their visit to learn more about what is happening in the country and what it is going to take to rebuild the country would be helpful in their oversight responsibility in Congress. The chairmen and ranking Members—or their designees—of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, Appropriations committees and International Relations/Foreign Relations committees should consider going.

In addition to meeting with military commanders, the members should meet with Ambassador Bremer and other officials in the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), USAID officials, representatives from the NGO community and other international organizations, and Iraqi citizens.

Partnering with Iraqi People: every effort must be made to involve the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country, from governance to security to repairing the country's infrastructure. The Iraqi people must be an equal partner in the process.

''Play to Win'' is instructive on this point: ''. . . every effort must be taken to build (or rebuild) indigenous capacity and governance structures as soon as possible. Leadership roles in the reconstruction effort must be given to host country nationals at the earliest possible stage of the process. Even if capacity is limited, host country representatives should chair or co-chair pledging conferences, priority-setting meetings, joint assessment of needs, and all other relevant processes.''

American companies awarded contracts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure should hire locals whenever possible. There are many skilled and educated people in Iraq and they should be tapped to help rebuild their country.

Reconstruction Support: the sooner the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, now called the Coalition Provisional Authority, is completely operational the better. Every effort should be made to ensure that Ambassador Bremer and his staff have the necessary tools and resources to successfully complete the job.

Provincial Officers: the military's Civil Affairs detachments in Iraq have worked diligently to help restore order and are making more and more progress every day. Consideration should be given to providing the officer in charge of each of the 18 provinces in Iraq with access to a ready cash account—perhaps up to $500,000—so they can more quickly hire translators, laborers and other locals to assist in their efforts in putting together a government without having to get every expenditure signed off by headquarters or Washington.

The money also could be used to purchase goods and services in-country, such as generators, pumps or even a trash truck, on a more timely basis rather than waiting for it to be brought in by coalition forces.

Government on any level needs money to operate. Clearly, this money must be accounted for, but it would greatly assist in the efforts to rebuild the country.

Civilian Expertise: consideration also should be given to helping augment the work of the Civil Affairs detachments by bringing in U.S. civilians with expertise in local government, such as county administrators and city managers, as well as experts in agriculture and public works. In each of the 18 provinces, the head of each military Civil Affairs detachment acts like a governor. They need experts—much like a cabinet—at their disposal who can advise them on issues like banking, education, public works and health care.

For example, the National Association of County Administrators could assist in rotating in civilian administrators to work with the military and local Iraqis in setting up and running local governments. There could be one for each of the 18 provinces. Some of the leading agriculture companies in the country could lend their expertise on irrigation and production. The head of the public works department in any large county or city in the country would bring an inordinate amount of experience to the table. There also is a great deal of expertise in the Federal Government which can be tapped. Again, these individuals would work hand-in-hand with the military and the locals.

Post-Combat Skills: the U.S. military has to begin thinking about training more of its soldiers for a postcombat environment to help fill any void until the necessary Civil Affairs and Military Police units can be put in place. I realize this is asking our war fighters to take on a new mission, but in this new world environment, I believe this skill is necessary.

Communications Systems: communications and communication systems remain a problem for both the military and the aid organizations working in Iraq. I was told that not all of the Civil Affairs detachments are readily able to communicate with each other or with the Humanitarian Assistance Center in Kuwait, which is coordinating all the civil affairs and humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Contacting U.S. officials in Baghdad also is problematic. I was told part of the problem is that most Civil Affairs detachments are made up of reserve units which do not always have compatible communications equipment. This needs to be addressed. It is imperative that all 18 provinces be linked with each other and headquarters. Congress should provide DOD with the necessary funding to ensure that these detachments have radios, computers and other communications equipment that are interoperable.

Aid organizations also are encountering problems communicating with their staff in southern Iraq because telephone and other