

most faithful and dedicated church leaders as he retires from the ministry. Rev. Dr. James O. "J.O." Rich is a stalwart in upstate South Carolina where he has been the long-serving pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church and is the co-owner of Rich-Colonial Funeral Home.

J.O. was born in Sumter, SC, where he attended Lincoln High School and went on to earn a bachelor's in divinity from Morris College. His dedication to the ministry led him to earn a master's in divinity from the International Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, GA. He completed further study at the Lutheran Southern Seminary, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Morris College in 1975.

Dr. Rich truly committed himself to the teachings of the church and sought leadership positions to help share his faith with a wider audience. He served as president of Baptist education bodies on the State and national levels including the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Progressive National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Within in his own church, Dr. Rich helped expand the educational outreach opportunities. He oversaw the construction of St. Paul Baptist Church's Educational Center as a testament to the church's investment in spiritual and human growth. The center cost \$600,000 to build in 1977, but stands today as a central part of the community and the church's outreach ministries.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rich has been a lecturer and author as well. He has spoken on college and university campuses in South Carolina and across the Nation. He also served as the compilation editor of Foundations of Worship, a developmental meditation for families. Other publications by Dr. Rich include, Help, a study guide for Baptists, BTU Report, and articles in the Quiet Hour, the Worker, and In-Teen magazines.

His work and dedication are not just isolated to the church. Dr. Rich believes strongly in giving back to the community. He did so by serving as president of the Anderson Branch of the NAACP for more than 20 years. He chaired the City of Anderson Community Development Corporation, and is a member of the Alston Wilkes Society, Inc., the South Carolina Christian Action Council, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Governor Dick Riley recognized Dr. Rich's dedication and honored him with South Carolina's highest honor, the Palmetto Award. Governor Riley also appointed Dr. Rich to serve as the Third Congressional District's representative to the State Council on Maternal, Infant and Child Health. It was a position for which Governor Carroll Campbell re-appointed him.

In 1986, while serving as president of the Baptist E&M Convention of South Carolina, the Ford Foundation awarded the organization a \$180,000 grant to fight teenage pregnancy.

Housing issues are also very important to Dr. Rich. He served as the chairman of the Baptist Service Inc., the housing arm of the Baptist E&M Convention. And while serving as the moderator of the Rocky River Baptist Association, Dr. Rich initiated the building of the Rocky River Residential Care Home, a 60-unit complex for the elderly and handicapped in Anderson.

As a result of all his outstanding community service and dedication to the ministry, his

alma mater, Morris College, named one of its men's dormitories in his honor. He has also been the recipient of the Mamie L. Duckett Founder's Day Award given by Benedict College, the Jefferson Award conferred by WYFF-TV, the Howard McClain Christian Action Award issued by the Christian Action Council, and the Pastor of the Year Award granted by the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

His leadership of St. Paul Baptist Church has been an inspiration, and his accomplishments there are too numerous to mention. Yet throughout his service, his loving wife, Arabella, their children Stanley and Stephanie, and now their daughter-in-law Phyllis and grandson Stanford, have been fully supportive of his efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Rev. Dr. J.O. Rich for his tremendous service to his faith and his community. He is a living testament to the Bible's admonition "to whom much is given, much is required." Dr. Rich has been given extraordinary talents, and he has used them to honor his faith and his fellow man. I applaud the example he has set for others to follow, and wish him a wonderful retirement and Godspeed.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A SUNSET FOR THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002 (PUBLIC LAW 107-243)

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish a sunset for the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq (P.L. 107-243). There are several active pieces of legislation that would rescind the authorization to use force against Iraq, but the approach of this legislation is quite different. This legislation would sunset the original authorization 6 months after it is enacted, which would give Congress plenty of time to consider anew the authority for Iraq.

The rationale for this sunset is that according to the 2002 authorization for Iraq, the President was authorized to use military force against Iraq to achieve the following two specific objectives only: "(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and (2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

It should be obvious to both supporters and critics of our military action in Iraq that our military has achieved both legal objectives. Our military quickly removed the regime of Saddam Hussein, against whom the United Nations resolutions were targeted. And a government has been elected in post-Saddam Iraq that has met with U.S. approval, fulfilling the first objective of the authorization.

With both objectives of the original authorization completely satisfied, Congress has a constitutional obligation to revisit this issue and provide needed oversight and policy guidance. We ignore this obligation at risk to the United States and, very importantly, to our soldiers in harm's way in Iraq.

Unlike other proposals, this bill does not criticize the President's handling of the war. It does not cut off funds for the troops. Nor does this bill set a timetable for our withdrawal. I strongly believe that this legislation will enjoy broad support among both those in favor of our action in Iraq and those who favor ending the war, and I am encouraged by the bipartisan support I have received when seeking original cosponsors. Congress is obligated to consider anew the authority for Iraq sooner rather than later and I hope more of my colleagues will join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Army Air Corps' legendary Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, the surviving Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious recognition that Federal lawmakers can bestow. Tuskegee Airmen, from Colorado, that received the Congressional Gold Medal include: James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters.

The first African-American airmen unit in the U.S. military trained in Tuskegee, Alabama. A total of 450 Tuskegee Airmen served overseas on various missions. During WWII, the Airmen flew missions over North Africa, Italy and Sicily. Collectively, they flew more than 15,000 combat sorties, shot down 111 German planes, and disabled 150 German planes on the ground. Thirty-three Airmen were shot down and held as POWs, and 66 of the Airmen were killed.

The Tuskegee Airmen got their start in 1941 after the NAACP filed a lawsuit. President Franklin Roosevelt started the Army Air Corps training program as the first African-American training program. The Airmen were segregated from other units and endured blatant racism and discrimination while helping win World War II and change our Nation for the better. Their achievements helped contribute to the eventual integration of African-Americans into the military and also helped lead the way for further desegregation throughout the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James E. Harrison, James H. Harvey III, Samuel C. Hunter Jr., Franklin J. Macon, John W. Mosley, Fitzroy "Buck" Newsum, Marion R. Rodgers, David A. Smith and William A. Walters for their patriotism and service to the United States of America. Their triumph over racism and discrimination, along with their outstanding service, is inspirational, and they are a source of pride for America and for all of Colorado. I wish them continued health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN
HEROES IN THE ARMED FORCES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on May 28, 2007, millions of Americans across the country recognized the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting to protect the citizens and freedom of our great Nation.

In recognition of Memorial Day, LT. Zach Alessi-Friedlander gave an address at a Memorial Day Ceremony at Hillside Cemetery in Wilton, Connecticut. I submit the text of LT. Alessi-Friedlander's remarks to be entered into the RECORD.

We come together on this solemn occasion to commemorate the sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of those Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen who have lost their lives while serving our great Nation.

When the leaders of the Wilton Memorial Day parade committee—especially Mr. Toothaker and Mr. Brautigam as well as Mr. Dartley of the VFW—invited me to speak at this ceremony, I embraced the opportunity because it would give me a forum through which to speak with you all about service—a truly timeless value that is integral to the vibrancy of our society. My purpose here today is to provide a Soldiers'-eye-view on the value of service—drawn not only from my own experiences but from those of the extraordinary Soldiers with whom I have had the great privilege of serving alongside.

Nine years ago, I was 17 years old and a week from my high school graduation. To me, the world seemed pregnant with opportunity and possibility. Over much of these last nine years, my personal journey has been largely defined by abstract intellectual pursuits—college, internships, and even a semester of graduate school. But in early 2004, I felt a growing sense of discomfort. So much was unfolding outside the classrooms and libraries in which I spent so much of my time. I was almost 23 and I felt the need to be a part of something that was larger and more important than me. I then made the decision to pursue a commission in the Army. At the time, in response to the queries of friends and family, I could only describe my motivations in an abstract sense. But over the last two and half years, the reasons for my decision to serve have been made clearer through the crucible of experience.

After attending Basic Training and Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned as a Field Artillery lieutenant. Sixty-five years ago, on the conventional battlefields of World War II, I would have been responsible for planning and coordinating the artillery, mortars, aerial firepower, and naval gunfire needed to support my troop commander's scheme of maneuver. However, the battlefields of Iraq are—at this stage of the war—decidedly different from their World War II counterparts. Conventional schemes of maneuver have been replaced with the unconventional strategies and tactics needed to manage an elusive and adaptive enemy within an asymmetric and three-dimensional battlefield. Coalition Forces are grappling with a multi-faceted insurgency—divided along different ethno-sectarian and ideological lines. The fight for key terrain and the push to force the enemy to formally surrender have been replaced with the fight for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi local nationals—the people upon whom the burden of a free and secure Iraq will ultimately rest.

What I'm talking about is our effort to diversify the scope of the "fight" in order to create a foundation upon which the Iraqi people can rebuild a society less vulnerable to virulent strands of militant Islam and sectarian antipathy. More specifically, we now complement our combat operations with four additional lines of operation: training Iraqi Security Forces; promoting local governance; restoring essential services; and developing the economy. This is a long, tough, unpredictable process that is at times frustrating and at other times exhilarating. Over the last nine months, my troop has been able to develop our sector through a strategy that depends fundamentally upon earning the genuine trust of the local nationals living within our sector. Many of you, I am sure, have heard about many of these new emphases—especially after the recent appointment of General David Petraeus as the new theater commander in Iraq. However, experiencing it on the ground is a truly perspective-altering experience. My unit's progress—especially over the past 5 months—has been startling. In this period, we have poured several million dollars worth of projects into the small villages dotting our sector—providing services like trash collection and replacing dilapidated infrastructure such as a drinking-water tower and power-line transformers. But our most successful-civil military initiatives have been those which have integrated our Soldiers, members of either the Iraqi Army or Iraqi National Police, and the local nationals into combined community projects. Examples of such initiatives include: two medical-assistance visits during which our medics and doctors were able to provide medicine, care, diagnoses, and treatment advice to almost 400 local nationals; as well as something called a "VET CAP" during which an Army veterinarian was able to treat and de-worm 150 sheep and 20 cows.

But, the civil-military initiatives of which I am most proud are the efforts that have enabled us to promote truly indigenous forms of self-government. In December, when we recognized that local nationals residing in our sector were unwilling to participate in the regional branches of the Iraqi government—called Nahia and Qada councils—we decided to host a series of village-level town-hall meetings. At these meetings, we were able to identify community leaders with the initiative, technical expertise, and will to represent the other members of the villages. These town-hall meetings served as jumping-off points for two major developments. A group of local nationals in our largest village now regularly attend the Nahia council meetings, which allows them to interface with the Iraqi government. But, perhaps more impressively, this same group created a Farmers' Cooperative, whose leaders now represent farmers from throughout our entire area of operations.

But, make no mistake, our unit has been forced to combat an adaptive, innovative, patient, and committed insurgent threat intent on disrupting our efforts through a series of persistent attacks against us and—perhaps more ominously—by casting a specter of fear over the local-national population whom we are attempting to secure and whose trust we are working to earn. Our military has been largely built and trained to fight high-intensity conflicts using technological superiority and mobility to combat nation states. My unit is a cavalry troop composed of field artilleryman, cavalry scouts, and infantrymen—all of whom were initially trained to play specific roles in a conventional fight. But, every day, I am amazed at how our Soldiers have been able to adapt to the changing nature of the fight.

My preceding remarks were an effort to provide the context necessary for you all to

appreciate the service of the Soldiers alongside whom I proudly serve. General Robert E. Lee once described duty—the close cousin of service—as the most sublime word in the English language. I would argue that he was trying to explain that duty and service as concepts are impossible to understand in an abstract intellectual sense; rather, in order to wrap our minds around this simple but crucial civic value, we need to discuss specific examples—and that will be the intent of the balance of my remarks.

The key to the success that my unit has experienced has been the influence of our extraordinary non-commissioned officers. For those of you with prior military experience, you know that at troop or company levels, NCOs have dramatically more time in service—and thus experience—than their commissioned-officer counterparts. Therefore, the key to a successful unit is to develop a synergy between the NCO and Officer Corps. Each officer-NCO pair must understand the role that the other plays in training, planning, and operations and must then work to complement their counterpart in every phase of mission preparation and execution. In my troop, the only Soldiers with previous combat experience are the NCOs. Two in particular come to mind: SFC Richardson and SSG Mont-Eton, the platoon sergeant and senior scout for our 2nd platoon—the element whom I would argue has helped to establish the model by which a counter-insurgency must be fought. Perhaps the most illuminating parts of my deployment have come while riding alongside SSG Monty in his truck. Over the course of any given patrol, he spends time instructing his gunner on how to more effectively scan the key pieces of terrain with his optics; teaching his driver on how to scan the road for the command-wire-IED initiators that are carefully concealed alongside the routes in our sector; and positioning his dismount on where he must stand to establish the most effective security when the platoon gets out of the trucks. But SSG Monty's true gift is his uncanny ability to establish rapport with the local nationals upon whose trust the entire troop depends in order to rebuild the communities and counter the insurgent threats. Smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee constantly, SSG Monty can approach any individual in our sector, and, within a matter of minutes, they are exchanging stories about their children or talking about how to improve water flow in a nearby irrigation canal. Never in my life, not at Columbia nor at Harvard, have I ever encountered an individual with more practical intelligence—with the ability to adapt doctrine or theory to a real-world operating environment, which, in our case, carries life and death significance. As for SFC Richardson, he is simply a force of nature. He is the tactical expert upon whom his platoon leader relies to carefully plan any deliberate operation. Riding in the 4-truck, the platoon's trail vehicle, he has managed the evacuation of all Soldiers injured on patrol with a sense of calm and poise that has allowed the platoon to address potentially catastrophic situations with the speed and efficiency needed to ensure the safety of all involved. The Soldiers in his platoon trust him implicitly and would literally follow him wherever he decided to go. He is the most senior Soldier in the entire troop, with even more years in service than our first sergeant; he has used this seniority to be the forceful and articulate voice on all Soldier issues. When his guys are smoked, he goes to my commander and first sergeant, and tells them the platoon needs a day of refit . . . and they listen. SFC Richardson was the one who insisted upon explaining to the local-national children, who gathered to receive their soccer