CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 8th, citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley gathered at a busy intersection to show their support for our American troops and for President Bush. Over a period of several hours, hundreds of people of all ages participated. Carrying signs and waving flags, they elicited a steady chorus of honking and cheering from passing motorists.

Barbara Barrick, Elizabeth Makous, Stacy and Brad Meyer, Denise Grimes and Betty Lanning planned this wonderful display of patriotism with assistance from the Santa Clarita Congress of Republicans, the Republican Women Federated, the Young Republicans and the Lincoln Club.

Judy Belty, a young soldier’s mother, was so touched by the demonstration that she wrote the following letter to the editor of our local paper, The Signal. I share it with my colleagues in hopes they will find it as inspiring as I did.

EDITOR: AS I was driving home today I saw about 100 people dressed in red, white and blue, waving flags, holding up signs and cheering in support of our present and past troops. Most of the cars passed by honking their horns in support of the waving display. I wanted to stop right there, get out of my car and hug the first person I ran into. I wanted to say “thank you” for being a voice for my boy.

I am the mom of an Army 22nd Airborne medic soldier and my heart has been heavy with the rhetoric that has been voiced in the name of “peace.” I think I can safely say that none of us wants war, not even President Bush. But it is no secret that our country’s freedom has always had a cost.

Since 9-11, I have been asked often if I think we should go to war. I think most expect me to say no, because I am a soldier’s mom. Well, as a mom, I don’t want my son or any other young person to have to experience what may be ahead. As an American, I want to be a political voice in the fight to practice my Christian faith, to display my country’s flag, to make choices for my life that are usually politically incorrect, and to write newsletters. I want to be able to ride up an elevator and believe I am safe, to board a plane and reach my destination. Most importantly, I want this freedom for our children.

I drove by the supporting display about three times, and each time I was stirred with emotion. I wished my son could see the support for what he is doing. When I hear others speak against the war, I wonder if they really remember the human lives stationed all over the world for them?

The military is not paradise. It’s not all fun and games. My son has been to the Middle East and will probably be returning again within a few months. I have so much compassion in my heart for the moms of sons who were in combat, for the spouses of soldiers, and the children.

Do I want war? No, but I want peace and freedom. Do I want my son to go to war? Of course not, but I am extremely proud of him and his fellow comrades for valuing my life over their own.

So to those of you that stood out there, thank you. Thank you for helping people remember that regardless of whether you agree with war, there are real men and women, our troops, in need of our love, our support, our words of encouragement. Thank you and please, God in heaven, bless America.

HONORING PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

HON. ROBERT A. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a great American, Phyllis Schlafly. Mrs. Schlafly was named one of the 100 most important women of the 20th century by the Ladies’ Home Journal, and has been a national leader of the conservative movement since the publication of her bestselling 1964 book, A Choice Not An Echo.

Mrs. Schlafly has been a leader of the pro-family movement since 1972, when she started her national volunteer organization now called Eagle Forum. In a ten-year battle, she led the pro-family movement to victory over the principal legislative goal of the radical feminists, called the Equal Rights Amendment. An accomplished and successful radical feminist movement, she appears in debate on college campuses more frequently than any other conservative.

Mrs. Schlafly’s monthly newsletter called The Phyllis Schlafly Report is now in its 36th year. Her syndicated column appears in 100 newspapers, her radio talk show is heard daily on 460 stations, and her radio talk show on education called “Phyllis Schlafly Live” is heard weekly on 45 stations. Both can be heard on the internet.

In addition, she is the author or editor of 21 books on subjects as varied as family (The Power of the Positive Woman) and feminism (Feminist Fantasies), nuclear strategy (Strike From Space and Kissinger on the Couch), education (Child Abuse in the Classroom), and child care (Who Will Rock the Cradle?). Her recent book, Turbo Reader, is a system to enable every parent to teach his child to read.

Mrs. Schlafly is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington University, received her J.D. from Washington University Law School, and received her Master’s in Political Science from Harvard University. She is a lawyer who served on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution appointed by President Reagan, has testified before more than 50 Congressional and State Legislative committees on constitutional, national defense, and family issues.

The mother of six children and an Illinois Mother of the Year, Mrs. Schlafly is America’s best-known advocate of the dignity and honor that we as a society owe to the role of fulltime homemakers.

Phyllis Schlafly was honored in 2002 by Focus on the Family as the Mother of the Profamily Movement, and in 2003 she was the honoree at dinners hosted by the Council for National Policy and the Conservative Political Action Committee. She has since 1972 traveled at least annually to Alabama to debate and speak eloquently on issues that affect the family.

The Alabama Policy Institute, Christian Coalition of Alabama, and the Southeast Law Institute have joined the Eagle Forum of Alabama to honor Mrs. Schlafly and express their admiration, appreciation, and affirmation of her exceptional service to our country. As President Ronald Reagan said: “Our nation needs the kind of volunteer service you and Eagle Forum have demonstrated...” And as American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene said in a statement this year about Mrs. Schlafly: “If there are giants among us, you are certainly one. The movement of which we are all part would never have achieved the successes it has without you...you had the courage to be ‘conservative before it was cool’...the fact that so many young people are attracted to our banner today is a tribute to your work.”

I stand with these groups and individuals to honor Phyllis Schlafly for her service to our country and culture, and her commitment to conservative family values.