

big political questions that are necessary, by truly getting the economy going again... until all of that happens, then understandably what has been achieved on the ground will be a bit fragile," Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said in an interview.

The statistics tell the story of a nation still a long way from recovery: About 60 percent of Iraqis lack access to clean drinking water, and 4 million don't get enough to eat, according to the United Nations. Electricity is supposed to average 7 hours a day in Baghdad, but many areas still receive only 2 to 3 hours a day. An estimated 151,000 Iraqis have died during the war, as have nearly 4,000 U.S. troops.

And the biggest undertaking of all will be healing the sectarian divide that opened wide and engulfed the country in bloodshed in 2006-07, after the attack on a holy Shiite shrine in Samarra, Petraeus said.

"It did incredible damage to the social structure. I'm talking about the tearing of the fabric of Iraqi society and I think that has probably been the most significant damage that has been sustained," he said. "And that is something that is going to take years."

Whether Iraq has the luxury of years to heal is in question. The extra troops of the "surge" are going home by July, and the U.S. presidential election calls into doubt the future strength of any force that remains.

Meanwhile, the two other factors that contributed to the success of the surge, the Sunni revolt against Al Qaeda in Iraq and the cease-fire declared by the Shiite Mahdi Army militia, cannot be counted on to endure.

Far from ending the civil conflict, the deployment of extra U.S. troops rather served to freeze it.

Neighborhoods have been pacified to a large extent because local feuding factions concluded it was no longer in their interests to continue fighting a beefed-up U.S. force, or in many instances because members of the opposite sect were driven out altogether.

For many, the war's chief legacy has been one of disappointment. "I was expecting to travel the world and now I can't even go to Washash," said Ammar Yahya, 33, referring to a Baghdad neighborhood now controlled by the Mahdi Army.

CONCRETE WALLS

He is a Sunni living in the troubled Dora district, surrounded by the high concrete walls that have helped secure many neighborhoods but which have also left communities isolated. Friends and relatives don't dare visit him, and he is reluctant to leave because most journeys require traveling through Shiite neighborhoods.

"We were so very happy when the Americans came," he said. "Now I wish we had stayed under Saddam's tyranny."

An ABC poll of 2,200 Iraqis conducted for the fifth anniversary showed that 46 percent now expect improvements in the coming year, up from 39 percent last August but still below the 69 percent who were optimistic in November 2005. And 55 percent now say their own lives are going well; that is down from 71 percent in late 2005.

"Give it time," said Said Hakki, a Shiite who returned from exile and now heads the Iraqi Red Crescent Organization. "Security is just beginning to improve. I think the glass is more than half full. We've got cell phones, satellite dishes, and how many new newspapers do we have? Under Saddam, bananas were like a dream.

"Iraq is a war zone. There are many different factions still settling their scores. The Shiites feel the Sunnis were harsh to them

for the past 35 years and they want to get their rights back, but with time and understanding and reconciliation things might change."

But reconciliation is proving elusive. Even the mainstream Sunni National Accord Front, which has seats in Iraq's parliament, refused to attend a "national reconciliation conference" summoned Tuesday by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Many Iraqis question the Shiite-led government's commitment to reconciliation with its former Sunni foes.

"The political leaders have no national vision," said Saad al-Hadithi, a political scientist at Baghdad University. "Their goal is to achieve benefits for their own specific group. This is why they don't want to share power or let anyone else in."

Petraeus points to other recent gains, such as signs of improvement in the economy. "The difference over a year ago is very dramatic, there has been very substantial progress," he said. "It does give a sense of what might be if we can build on it and continue on the trajectory that we've seen now for a good four or five months."

But in terms of repairing the country's torn social fabric, the task has hardly even begun, he said.

"People say, have there been stitches put back in that fabric? I'd say we're just trying to line the fabric up and to just get the situation calm enough so that the seamstress can put a couple of stitches into it," he said.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RON PORTILLO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT Ron Portillo for his leadership and dedication to the Henderson community and for his service with the Nevada Army National Guard.

SGT Ron Portillo joined the United States Marines immediately after high school where he volunteered for an extremely demanding reconnaissance unit. He completed 3 years with the Marines. After a short break from the Marines, Ron joined the United States Army, where he was selected for the Special Forces and served in the Persian Gulf War, working with small teams on high-risk missions.

Following the Gulf War, Ron moved his wife and six children from Fort Bragg, NC to Henderson, NV where he became a successful small business owner. After a few years, his oldest son decided to join the military, and after talking to recruiters, Ron himself decided to re-enlist. Three months later, he was sent to Iraq as an active duty Special Forces soldier. After a month into his deployment, Ron was reassigned to a Special Forces team in Fallujah. In March 2007, Ron suffered serious injuries when his vehicle struck an IED while en route to provide support to Marines that were pinned down in a firefight.

While recovering at a hospital in Germany, Ron befriended a therapy dog, who visited him daily and assisted him with the healing process. Ron was then transferred to the Brookes Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, and was subsequently released in June 2007. Following his release Ron spent countless hours trying to find ways to partner therapy dogs with wounded warriors. Ron has since dedi-

cated his efforts to developing a Web site dedicated to providing information on service-dog programs for those wounded in combat.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the service and dedication of SGT Ron Portillo for his service in the Armed Forces, and his leadership throughout the Henderson community. He is a remarkable individual, and I applaud his efforts for serving our Nation and fellow comrades throughout the Armed Forces.

THE "TORTURE MEMO" AND THE LAW

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this week the press reported the declassification and public release of a Justice Department memo popularly known as the "torture memo."

It's news that the memo has been made public, but, sadly, what it says comes as no surprise. At least since the summer of 2004, when it was reported in the press, the American people have known that after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington the Bush Justice Department advised other agencies that the President, when acting as commander-in-chief, is not bound to follow duly enacted Federal laws.

After this was revealed, the Bush administration—preparing for the 2004 Presidential election—repudiated the memo. But it had guided the administration for 22 months, and experts have claimed that its startling reading of the law and the constitution led to excesses at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere.

In 2005, Congress responded by enactment of the Detainee Treatment Act, which requires the defense department to follow the interrogation guidelines in the Army Field Manual and which prohibits the "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment of persons under the detention, custody, or control of the United States Government."

I strongly supported those provisions, which are often referred to as the "McCain amendment" in recognition of their Senate author.

But when President Bush signed them into law, he issued a "signing statement" that raises serious questions about whether he intends to follow the law by suggesting that he intended to reserve the right to authorize prohibited interrogation methods in some cases.

Taken together, the memo and the signing statement clearly signal the Bush administration's contempt for the rule of law. As the Rocky Mountain News says in an April 3 editorial, "This was one step on the path to the Bush administration's unfortunate assertion, until the courts knocked it down, that the president had the power to snatch an American citizen on U.S. soil and hold him incarcerated in solitary confinement indefinitely, without charge, trial or counsel."

And the memo and the signing statement also show that the administration refuses to recognize that its contempt for the law will result in placing every American, especially those in uniform around the world, at grave risk.

I think we all should remember that, in the words of the Colorado Springs Gazette, "In

the larger struggle with jihadist terrorism and those tempted to support or harbor them, the perception that the United States has a certain moral authority is invaluable. Moral authority was a key factor in the long, twilight struggle with aggressive communism we call the Cold War. Using torture undermines that moral authority.”

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching the full text of the editorial in the April 3 edition of the Rocky Mountain News.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Apr. 3, 2008]

NOT ABOVE THE LAW, DESPITE THE MEMO

The Justice department has released the full text of the infamous 2003 “torture memo” brushing aside the legal restraints on military interrogators. The memo, which originated in the department’s Office of Legal Counsel, argues that the president’s inherent powers in wartime overrode any federal law or international treaty, raising in the layman’s mind the point, Why bother to have laws and treaties?

Our government is supposed to be one of checks and balances but the Office of Legal Counsel saw no check on the president’s powers. The courts had no jurisdiction on what Americans did overseas and in any case “Congress cannot interfere with the president’s exercise of his authority as commander in chief to control operations during a war.”

This was one step on the path to the Bush administration’s unfortunate assertion, until the courts knocked it down, that the president had the power to snatch an American citizen on U.S. soil and hold him incommunicado in solitary confinement indefinitely, without charge, trial or counsel.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
NATIONAL TRADEMARK EXPO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office’s National Trademark Expo. After a 10-year hiatus, I am excited to join the USPTO in its efforts to recognize the vital role that trademarks play in the global economy.

This 3-day event, beginning on April 10, 2008 will turn the USPTO’s campus into a “Trademark Theme Park,” featuring themed displays, company booths, costumed characters, and much more. During the expo, costumed trademarked characters, including the Pillsbury Doughboy, Sprout, Hershey Kisses, and the Chocolate Bar will parade about the USPTO campus, and large inflatable characters including the “Cat in the Hat,” “Thomas the Train,” the “Jolly Green Giant,” and “Shrek” will decorate the grounds.

Trademarks are valuable symbols of quality in our increasingly competitive global marketplace. On average, people are exposed to 1,500 trademarks each day and more than 30,000 if they make a trip to the grocery store. The exposition will feature celebrity trademarks, which are often subject to counterfeiting, unusual trademarks, the evolution of certain trademarks, the people behind the names of trademarks, and century-old registered trademarks.

Exhibitors will include many of America’s leading corporations, whose exhibits will high-

light some of the benefits of Federal trademark registration. These exhibitors include the American National Red Cross, Burberry, The Travelers Companies, Inc., Starmaker Products, Microsoft Corporation, Owens Corning, Callaway Golf Company, Caterpillar, Inc., CMG Worldwide, NASCAR, YKK Corporation of America, UPS, Bridgestone Firestone, the International Trademark Association, INTA, and the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, IACC.

The expo will emphasize the essential role the USPTO plays in approving Federal trademark registrations. In a time of globalization, counterfeit goods pose an increasing threat to American businesses. Trademarks protect words, names, symbols, sounds, or colors that identify and distinguish the goods of one party from those of others. The USPTO, an award-winning leader in handling electronic filings, will showcase the impact of electronic filing and processing of trademark applications.

I applaud the USPTO for its efforts to educate the public on the role of trademarks during the National Trademark Expo, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the USPTO at a time when trademarks and intellectual property rights play an increasingly important role in our global economy.

GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND
CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MA-
RINE SANCTUARIES BOUNDARY
MODIFICATION AND PROTECTION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1187, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act authored by my friend Representative WOOLSEY.

I am proud to say that I represent the 2nd largest National Marine Sanctuary in the system, which also includes the longest stretch of coastline. I can attest to their value in preservation of some of the most stunning seascapes in the world and in education of the public. The Gulf of the Farallones and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries are adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and they have national and international significance. These sanctuaries exceed the biological productivity of tropical rain forests and support high levels of biological diversity.

The sanctuaries were established “to maintain the natural biological communities in the national marine sanctuaries, and to protect, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes.” They are the “National Parks” of our ocean. As such, they were the first application of ecosystem-based management to our oceans. This type of management is recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which we in Congress created and charged with the study of the state of the oceans and the management of this shared, valuable resource.

The expansion of the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones and the Cordell Bank Na-

tional Marine Sanctuaries will protect a vital part of the California Coast and the upwelling zones, which form the basis of the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean. Expanding these boundaries will also help to preserve these exceptional underwater environments. We are the stewards of our oceans and coasts, and we are failing them. The oceans belong to all the people of the United States, and we must protect them and manage them for everyone’s best interest.

Madam Speaker, with our oceans in crisis, the Sanctuaries are a beacon of hope for future generations. I support H.R. 1187 and urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES YOO

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James Yoo, an incredible man who has worked in my district office as a constituent advocate for nearly 7 years, and who, sadly for me, will soon be leaving.

I want to first let others of my staff describe what James has meant to them and to the constituents of the ninth Congressional District.

Cathy Hurwit, Chief of Staff: When I think of James, I think of someone who has the strongest, most finely-turned moral compass of anyone I know. It is evidenced in terms of his compassion and understanding of the problems facing our constituents—particularly those caught up in a draconian immigration system. In dealing with constituents, he is always calm, professional and dedicated—but in talking about the unfairness of the system and the indignities that so many faced, his moral outrage is evident. His sense of justice led him to law school to learn the skills and get the degree necessary for him to represent them. But it also is evidenced in the way he deals with his colleagues and everyone around him—modest about his own outstanding accomplishments but always willing to praise the efforts of and look out for others.

James is a role model—the standard of what a constituent advocate should be. Fun to be around, collegial and thoughtful.

Leslie Combs, District Director: James is such an integral, essential and special part of our district office, that it truly is hard to imagine the office and team without him. He makes us all laugh daily with his dry sense of humor and his fascination with Malcolm Jamal Warner (Theo on the Cosby Show). He is an extraordinarily generous and compassionate person, both towards his colleagues and the constituents who he has helped. James has helped over 2,600 constituents since he started working for Representative SCHAKOWSKY 7 years ago on July 1, 2001. He has helped reunite families that have been separated due to immigration backlogs. He has helped explain the complicated nuances of the immigration process to hundreds of families and to his fellow constituent advocates. He has made sure that immigration applications are processed quickly and that people get their oath ceremonies and green cards. James is extremely intelligent, thoughtful, and warm, and he will be missed. He is going to be an excellent immigration lawyer.

Taina Rodriguez, Constituent Advocate: James “Malcolm Jamal Warner” Yoo James