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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4040

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Ahern, Rodne, Green, Serben, Bailey, McCune, Cox, Holmquist, Shabro, Chandler, Curtis, Armstrong, Newhouse, Sump, Kretz, Orcutt, Haler, Clements, Dunn and Condotta

Read first time 01/25/2006.                      Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO DONALD H. RUMSFELD,  
5            SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND TO DR. CONDOLEEZZA RICE, SECRETARY OF STATE,  
6            AND TO THE HONORABLE IBRAHIM AL-JA'FARI, IRAQI PRIME MINISTER:

7            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
8            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
9            represent and petition as follows:

10           WHEREAS, In some of the grandest events in the history of the  
11           world, millions of Iraqis have risked death to participate in voting in  
12           free, democratic elections, both for a national Constitution and for  
13           members of their National Assembly, in spite of ongoing violence and  
14           threats of violence by Islamic terrorists; and

15           WHEREAS, In their first free elections in more than 50 years,  
16           millions of Iraqis have turned out to vote with great enthusiasm and  
17           determination making way for a future of peace and freedom, and each  
18           election has brought unexpected hope and happiness to the streets of  
19           Baghdad and cities and towns throughout the nation of Iraq; and

1       WHEREAS, In large numbers and at great personal risk, the Iraqi  
2 people have demonstrated their commitment to democracy by making these  
3 elections historic accomplishments; and

4       WHEREAS, Numerous coalitions, political parties, individual  
5 political parties, and independent candidates representing a broad  
6 cross-section of Iraq have participated in these amazing elections; and

7       WHEREAS, Iraq's Electoral Commission has prepared and put in place  
8 a framework for each election that has generally met recognized  
9 standards in terms of election law, planning, and preparations, and  
10 which were conducted without systematic flaws and in accordance with  
11 basic international standards; and

12       WHEREAS, Iraqi election organizers and citizens have expressed  
13 delight with their success, celebrating the votes as a victory against  
14 insurgents and a triumph of democracy, and proudly announcing "Freedom  
15 has won" and "We have conquered terrorism"; and

16       WHEREAS, On each election day, Iraqis have appeared convinced that  
17 a new day has arrived with voters dancing, singing, and celebrating,  
18 thrusting into the air their ink-stained fingers, a symbol of their  
19 initiation into democracy, and expressing a jubilant sense of the  
20 undeniable liberation from decades of tyranny; and

21       WHEREAS, Seeing thousands of Iraqis with their stains of honor  
22 brings a sense of awe at the courage and commitment to freedom they  
23 showed; and

24       WHEREAS, Optimism abounds as expectations have been exceeded in the  
25 Iraqi ratification, a permanent Constitution, and election of an  
26 assembly that will be the basis of a fully democratic Iraq; and

27       WHEREAS, One of the most striking trends in the elections were the  
28 numbers of women voters with the female proportion of voters as high as  
29 65 percent in many parts of the country, a remarkable achievement in a  
30 society where traditionally a woman would only vote with her husband's  
31 permission and then according to his instructions; and

32       WHEREAS, A percentage of the seats in the new National Assembly  
33 were reserved for women, giving them a real stake in Iraq's future; and

34       WHEREAS, The United States and the other Coalition Forces have been  
35 there to help the Iraqis provide security, and will continue training  
36 Iraqi security forces, so this rising democracy can eventually take  
37 full responsibility for its own future; and

1           WHEREAS, The Iraqis continue to face many difficult challenges, but  
2 the United States is committed to supporting them in this effort; and  
3           WHEREAS, The numerous statements that have been made by world  
4 leaders supporting the elections and praising the courage of the Iraqi  
5 people are most welcome and helpful; and  
6           WHEREAS, Iraqi leaders have ensured their political process is  
7 inclusive of Iraq's complex mosaic of faiths and peoples, and the  
8 United States wholeheartedly supports this process of inclusiveness;  
9 and  
10          WHEREAS, The cliché that Third World people care more about food  
11 than about freedom has been refuted by the political and spiritual  
12 dignity of the Iraqi people who have proved throughout these elections  
13 that they really do care about the right to speak freely and to vote  
14 secretly, the ordinary and essential elements of democratic  
15 citizenship; and  
16          WHEREAS, The United States is trying to win hearts and minds, while  
17 the terrorists are trying to destroy hearts, minds, and the bodies of  
18 innocent citizens, including men, women, and children; and  
19          WHEREAS, Iraqi leaders have provided great leadership in working  
20 with the United States and the Coalition Forces in acting quickly and  
21 forcefully against the terrorists, and ensuring the success of the  
22 election, promising that they will do all they can to strike against  
23 enemy forces aiming at harming their country, reaffirming their  
24 commitment to establish a democratic government that provides freedom  
25 and equal rights for all its citizens, and their determination to fight  
26 and, if necessary, die for the cause of freedom; and  
27          WHEREAS, The Iraqi people know that President George W. Bush says  
28 what he means and means what he says, and that he will keep America's  
29 commitment to do what it can to promote and protect their liberty,  
30 independence, and security; and  
31          WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has correctly and emphatically  
32 noted that the people of Iraq have spoken to the world and the world is  
33 hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East - "When  
34 victory comes and democracy takes hold in Iraq, it will serve as a  
35 model for freedom in the broader Middle East. History has shown that  
36 free nations are peaceful nations. And by helping Iraqis build a  
37 lasting democracy, we spread the hope of liberty across a troubled

1 region, we will gain new allies in the cause of freedom. By spreading  
2 democracy and freedom, we're laying the foundation of peace for  
3 generations to come";

4 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
5 President and Congress continue to take all measures necessary to  
6 protect the liberty, independence, and security of the Iraqi people and  
7 to promote freedom, democracy, and peace in the Middle East and around  
8 the world; and

9 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
10 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
11 States, Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, Dr. Condoleezza Rice,  
12 Secretary of State, the Honorable Ibrahim al-Ja'fari, Iraqi Prime  
13 Minister, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
14 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
15 Washington.

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