

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
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**Speech to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)**

**on the Establishment of the  
Terry Barnich Award  
Sunday, February 5, 2012**

Chairman David Armstrong, Chairman Kevin Gunn, Chairman Collette Honorable, Dr. Phil O'Connor, Professor Karen Aguilar, and friends and colleagues of Terry Barnich.....

Thank you for inviting me to be here today to speak on behalf of the Department of State. I am profoundly touched to know that NARUC continues to honor the enormous sacrifice made by Terry Barnich, his family, and friends for the U.S. Mission in Iraq. Terry Barnich was no ordinary man, nor ordinary public servant. As Deputy Director of the Iraq Transition Assistance Office, Terry exemplified the best of the U.S. civilian reconstruction effort in Iraq, bringing to the service of the Iraqi people skills honed in his decades as President of New Paradigm Resources Group, Illinois State Commerce Commissioner, Chief Counsel to the Governor, attorney, and author.

My State Department colleagues loved Terry Barnich, remember him well, and even today, speak with grief of losing him. Terry died on May 25, 2009 with colleagues Dr. Majed Hussein and Navy Commander Duane Wolfe, in an attack en route from a critical wastewater construction project in Al-Anbar, Iraq.

Colleagues note that Terry was disarmingly intellectual, well-read, and always ready for a memorable exchange of ideas. Terry was a superbly gifted communicator, who made people at every level of society, from government ministers down to the cleaning staff, feel valued and important. Friends remark that while Terry was passionate about politics - he was never divisive. He willingly gave up his business and thriving career in Chicago to help rebuild a nation half a world away.

That said, Terry did not take himself too seriously. He had a taste for life – both literally and figuratively, and loved to share fellowship over a good wine. As testament to this, Terry's colleagues at the Embassy lovingly memorialized him with a "Terry Barnich Wine Tasting" ceremony where many memories and smiles were shared. Terry's facebook page likewise was flooded with memorial statements showing how much he was loved and how sorely he would be missed.

Terry's colleagues also spoke about the enormous loss to the reconstruction effort in Iraq when he died. Terry had become one of the closest advisors to then-Minister of Electricity Dr. Karim Wahid, working to provide reliable electricity to the Iraqi people in order to improve one of the vital infrastructure problems facing the Iraqi people. All levels of the U.S. Mission sought Terry's professional counsel, and his work was critical to numerous reconstruction projects.

Even today, Terry's life and work continue to benefit Iraq and the Iraqis for whom he cared so much. The day Terry died, he inspected progress at an exceptionally challenging construction project that would eventually become the Fallujah Wastewater plant. This project, at the heart of Al Anbar province, was one of the most difficult locations in Iraq for US officials to work.

Prior to the plant's operations, sewer waste in Fallujah, a city of more than 200,000, was dumped directly into the Euphrates River. The plant now serves 40,000 residents of Fallujah. Thanks to the collaboration Terry started, the Government of Iraq continues to invest in the final completion of the plant and associated city infrastructure, which will eventually serve 100,000 Iraqi citizens, to immeasurably improve health conditions for future generations.

Terry also worked hand in hand for more than two years with the Iraqi Minister of Electricity to secure reliable power for Iraq's citizens. He played a crucial role in brokering an enormous GE turbine project, the largest electricity project ever attempted by the US government in Iraq. This project will provide Iraqis with the largest surge of electricity production in the nation's history. Enabling students to study at night, helping women to safely walk along lit streets and allowing hospitals to operate into the night, we find the lasting legacy of Terry's work in Iraq.

Terry also understood that his work had reverberations beyond basic services, that it spoke to the very heart of the social contract between a legitimate government and the governed. In an editorial he authored in the Chicago Sun-Times, Terry noted that before 2003, "the Iraqis had known government only as a private tool to reward friends and punish enemies." He challenged those who argued that the Iraqis were not ready for democracy, stating, "To those back home who say that the Iraqi experience has made the Iraqis unready or incapable for democracy, I say come work with me. I deal with Iraqis who daily brave physical hardship, violence and threats of violence to make their contribution in building a government that deserves the consent of the governed."

Finally, I want to assure Terry's family, friends, and colleagues at NARUC that we in the State Department are continuing the work that Terry began. While press headlines have been filled with news in recent months of our military's departure from Iraq, the strengthening of the civilian-led partnership with Iraq that Terry helped build, continues. The U.S. Mission in Iraq, my staff, and those in agencies across the USG work every day in collaboration with Iraqis, fostering dozens of projects in the areas of essential service delivery championed by Terry.

More broadly, the legacy of civilian expeditionary diplomats like Terry has profoundly changed the way we implement our foreign policy in conflict zones around the world, as the State Department has come to rely heavily on the cadre of civilian experts and professionals, like Terry, who are willing to take on the toughest challenges overseas to implement our nation's foreign policy goals.

Thank you for inviting me to speak today. Thank you for joining me to honor the sacrifice of Terry Barnich. Terry's legacy of goodwill, sacrifice and dedication will always stand as an inspiration to me and my Foreign Service colleagues. And congratulations to NARUC on the awarding the first Terry Barnich Award for outstanding service, courage and vision in promoting international regulatory policy and implementation.