

popular will is suppressed than in those where it is allowed to find full expression.

The Ukrainian election set for December 26 is one of the seminal events of this new century. As members of the American people's House, we are obligated to express our support for the aspirations of Ukrainians.

REFLECTION OF EIGHT YEARS
SERVICE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, after serving in the People's House for the past eight years, and having the honor of being the voice of Southeast Texas in Congress, I now finally have time to reflect on the accomplishments I've been able to achieve. These are goals that came both from my personal service, and from the work I've been able to do to make the communities within Texas's 9th Congressional District a better place to live.

None of the things I have done would have been accomplished without a true team effort. The local communities, through their leaders, were able to build a communications network that allowed my work here to reflect the needs and interests of the people within the 9th Congressional District. It's been an honor to do that and we did so successfully.

Some of those successes include my work on transportation issues. As southeast Texas's only Member of the House Transportation Committee, I'm especially proud of being able to help bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the region to create jobs and improve the area infrastructure. This includes the work I did to prevent coastal erosion, where I was able to help initiate studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine what's causing erosion along upper Texas coast, and how we can slow or stop the loss of protected wetlands, and the potential adverse impact on sports and commercial fishing activities, which impacts the livelihood of many southeast Texans.

We were also able to do a great deal of work to improve highways, airports and airways, waterways, and railways, all of which are important and have provided a better quality of life and economic development opportunities for my constituents. The salt water barrier on the Neches River, which allows for the deepening and widening of Sabine Neches Ship Channel, will further strengthen our waterways while also protecting the Big Thicket National Forest. These activities will also further improve and strengthen the area's petrochemical industry, an important part of both the southeast Texas and national economies, and an industry that provides thousands of good, solid jobs for hard-working Texas families.

I am also proud of my work on the House Science Committee, and to serve as the ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. My primary work was to promote development of space, and I also introduced the Space Exploration Act in the beginning of my third term. The goals of this initiative were picked up by the President and set before this Nation as a national initiative, which gives me great deal of pride. NASA

needs a larger, important vision to work on, and my proposals always had this concern in mind. We need to continue seeing a growth in civilian space exploration and research. Such activity has the exciting potential of increasing our advances in medicine, technology, education, and the overall positive growth of our great nation. We must always emphasize research and development of science and mathematics, and I can think of no better way to achieve this than through our future in space.

Child safety legislation has also been a top priority from my first days in Congress. My biggest success was the creation of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, which I founded following the tragic death of a young girl, Laura Kate Smither, in the Friendswood part of the 9th Congressional District. We passed legislation that created the Cybercrime Center, passed many bills like the Amber Alert program, and introduced the Bring Our Children Home Act in the 106th and 107th Congresses, and this year that bill received a hearing by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee. I'm very proud of our efforts to reach out to countries around the world for children of parents of dual nationalities. I wrote and delivered a resolution regarding the development of a best practices guide on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which was a further step in encouraging compliance with international treaties and allies. One of the most important accomplishments of the Caucus is raising awareness with law enforcement and communities nationwide on the issues of child safety and Internet safety. I hope to see this good work continue in future Congresses, as the bipartisan cooperation and spirit with the Caucus always led me to believe that Members of both parties can find common ground on many problems facing our country. With last year's creation of the Senate caucus on child safety, I know this issue will continue to receive that important attention even after my last day here.

I also want to thank my hard-working staff both in Texas and Washington, who fought hard and effectively served the people of southeast Texas. These talented and diligent individuals supported me on every level, and made it possible for me to have one of the most effective constituent services operations of any Member's office. My staff assisted numerous constituents with getting issues resolved with Social Security and disability, Veterans Affairs benefits, and immigration cases. It truly is wonderful to support retired Americans, new Americans, and Americans who have proudly served in the armed forces to protect our freedoms. I am so proud of all that my staff has done for the people of southeast Texas, and know that they will all go on to wonderful and bright professional futures.

I also want to thank my family for their support and, of course and most importantly, their willingness to let me take the time to fight for our communities. I appreciate their love and support of my efforts so much, for without them none of what I did in Congress would have been possible. We come from a family of teachers, with my wife teaching special education at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont. Both my daughters are trained teachers as well; Hillary, who's currently not teaching because of her family and children, and Stephanie who's a 6th grade math teacher also in

Beaumont. Our family understands what education means to all of us and our opportunities, and as a family we have made a commitment to help other families have easier access to educational opportunities.

In closing, let me say that this is not an ending to my public service. I've spent the last 34 years of my life doing things to make my communities better—my goal now is to help all citizens of our country, particularly those who I represent in southeast Texas, to focus on issues that impact us daily, and to see what all of us can do to make our communities better places to live. So as I say my final words on the House floor, let me echo the words of one of our country's greatest leaders, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who said, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and . . . those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Thank you, and God bless.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
CALVIN DOOLEY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage and respect to my retiring colleague Congressman CAL DOOLEY of California. So much can be said of CAL, but he is a true leader in the Democratic Party.

It was CAL who was at the forefront of the New Democratic Movement in our country. He saw the opportunity to say that the issues of business and the values of the Democratic Party are not in direct conflict. While he may not be the household name of a Bill Clinton—it is the ideas and organization of CAL DOOLEY that helped this country create a President Bill Clinton, a new 21st Century Economy and usher in a return of a Democratic Party disciplined to bring about economic benefits and quality for life changes for people while recognizing that Government is not always the solution.

He was a true pioneer in creating the New Democrats in Congress and making them the powerhouse they are today—a respected organization of people who think outside of the box for real solutions to real problems to help real Americans. CAL was a leader in making our party more globally focused, encouraging free trade and recognizing the benefits to all parties of open economic borders. Whereas isolationism was in the past the default policy of Democrats, he worked to pry us onto a new path—a path of economic globalism. The result—the USA is an even stronger economic powerhouse than in the past.

While the people of his district have been recognizing him and thanking him for his leadership on their issues for 7 straight terms now we in Washington are now realizing our loss to this Chamber and to the thinking of our Party. We thank you and we appreciate you and less, we are still listening to you.