

not simply about the bottom line. The U.S. should also be concerned about maintaining and enhancing the high mark set by American workers. While expanded trade is important to this country and the world, it will only be beneficial to a broad range of people in our Nation and abroad if it is carefully shaped to include basic standards and adequately protect the rights of workers and the environment. This agreement does not meet that test.

DR-CAFTA would also allow foreign investors to challenge our laws and regulations before international tribunals, bypassing domestic courts, if they believe U.S. laws on labor, environmental protections, and public health and safety reduce the value of their investments. The U.S. has already spent millions defending our laws from NAFTA, which includes a similar provision. Foreign companies have sued the U.S. over California's ban of MTBE, a California law regulating harmful gold mining practices, and the Agriculture Department's decision to close the border to Canadian beef due to concerns about mad cow disease.

DR-CAFTA also creates a challenge to the safety of the American food supply because it is silent on the issue of imported goods meeting the rigorous food safety and sanitary rules of the United States Department of Agriculture. This agreement takes a step backward in our efforts to provide the American consumer with the safest food possible.

Finally, the agreement includes a provision precluding generic pharmaceutical products from obtaining regulatory marketing approval for a 5–8 year period if approval has been granted for a brand name drug in that market. Especially since low-cost generics are already available in the DR-CAFTA countries, this provision will only serve to make drugs unavailable and unaffordable for most Central Americans, who are suffering in great numbers from HIV/AIDS and untreated diabetes, among other maladies. While market access for U.S. goods is important, we shouldn't be in the business of potentially undermining a country's ability to provide prescription drugs to its citizens.

As part of a long-term strategy to strengthen the American economy, I have supported a number of agreements to expand access to foreign markets for exports from our nation's farmers and businesses. But DR-CAFTA is one I cannot support.

I don't want this country to miss out on economic opportunities, but the problems with this agreement are real, and I don't believe this agreement will create the opportunities its proponents have touted. In the end, our progress together has to be about raising, and not lowering wages, reducing and not adding to the world's poverty, making more "haves" and fewer "have-nots."

I do believe in actively shaping globalization, not passively closing our doors. Although I cannot support DR-CAFTA today, I remain committed to this activist course and hope the Administration will present us with an agreement that deserves our support.

IN MEMORY OF BURL JACK AKINS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Burl Jack Akins for his lifelong contributions to his community, family, and country. Mr. Akins passed away at his home in Mesa, Arkansas with his wife Gail, by his side.

Born in rural Crawford County, Arkansas to Gene and Bonnie Akins, he was the youngest of three children. In 1947, Mr. Akins joined the United States Air Force and served as an aircraft mechanic for B52's and F111's until 1959. It is worth noting that he was intent on serving his country, so much so, that at the ripe, young age of 16, he lied about his age so he could be admitted into the armed services.

Mr. Akins continued as a civilian employee working for LTV Steel and General Dynamics until medically retired in 1971. He and his first wife Barbara, who preceded him in death after 45 years of marriage, had 7 children, 20 grandchildren and 17 great-grand children.

It was my honor to know Burl Jack Akins. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, whose contributions made richer the fabric of our American culture, be inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their fellow man.

UPON RETIREMENT OF JEWELL DEESE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to thank Jewell Deese for her outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 28 years.

Throughout the years, Jewell has made significant contributions to the financial management of U.S. House of Representatives' accounts and the processing and oversight of the staff payroll. She began her career with the House on July 5, 1977 and has served this great institution in financial, benefits, and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. She has held the positions of General Clerk in the Office of Finance, processing the daily receipts for the House Restaurant system, and has held various positions in the Office of Personnel and Benefits. She will retire from her current position of Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 26 years as an Office of Human Resources Payroll Counselor she has provided financial and payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that all House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. Her payroll and financial acumen have enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to staff payroll issues. She has also provided many years of benefits and payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I would like to extend my congratulations to Jewell Deese for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Jewell and her husband Gregory many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF AIRMEN JOHN LAYLAGIAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Janelle and Leon Laylagian of Hopkinton, New Hampshire, on the birth of their son. Airmen John Laylagian was born on June 4, 2005 at 5:58 p.m., weighing 6 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Airmen has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing. I appreciate the friendship I share with both Mr. and Mrs. Laylagian.

HONORING SEVERAL SCHOOLS IN TENNESSEE'S 7TH DISTRICT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring several schools in Tennessee's 7th Congressional District that have been ranked among the best in the Nation.

Both Brentwood High School and Franklin High School were found to be exemplary by Newsweek magazine.

Brentwood High School, home of the Bruins, lives up to its mission statement of "Excellence through teaching and learning."

Few communities are fortunate enough to have one school noted for distinction, but we have been blessed with two.

Franklin High School, home of the Rebels, was also credited by Newsweek for providing a quality education and giving our kids a great start.

Mr. Speaker, these schools deserve our congratulations for their commitment to our community, and for planting the seeds of knowledge that will help make these students lifelong learners.

All of us should offer our thanks to Principal Kevin Keidel of Brentwood High School and Principal Willie Dickerson of Franklin High School for their hard work and dedication.

SEEKING TRANSPARENCY AT THE UNITED NATIONS' WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, the United States has been a party to "The Convention Concerning Protection of the World Cultural and

Natural Heritage" (World Heritage Convention) for over thirty years. This convention, administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), currently protects 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S. Moreover, the "Tentative List" of U.S. World Heritage Sites (www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage) presently contains 70 properties including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In order for a site to be nominated as a potential World Heritage Site, it must first be on a nation's "Tentative List."

The House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over U.S. participation in the World Heritage Convention. Because of my concern for protecting private property rights and American sovereignty, I monitor the activities of the World Heritage Committee as do some U.S. organizations advocating these same principles.

Sovereignty International, based in Hollow Rock, TN and chaired by Henry Lamb, contacted me earlier this year requesting my assistance in its efforts to video tape the proceeding of World Heritage Committee's meeting held earlier this month in Durban, South Africa. Despite my efforts to advance this very modest proposal, Sovereignty International's request was denied in writing by the Secretary of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee based in Paris, France.

Because I believe strongly that governments and international organizations should make all reasonable efforts to be transparent, I have asked UNESCO for a detailed written explanation of why it denied Sovereignty International's request which is very modest by American standards. I urge my colleagues to read this letter and be forever vigilant in requiring the United Nations and other international organizations to be much more transparent in their daily operations.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2005.

Hon. FRANCESCO BANDARIN,
Secretary, UNESCO World Heritage Committee,
Paris, France.

DEAR DIRECTOR BANDARIN: As you may know, the House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over the United States' participation in the World Heritage Convention. Earlier this year, I was contacted by Mr. Henry Lamb of Sovereignty International requesting the Committee's assistance in his efforts to tape proceedings of the World Heritage Committee's July meeting in Durban, South Africa.

Since Sovereignty International has solid credentials as an NGO and has taped official proceedings of the House Committee on Resources and many federal agencies, I can only consider this modest request as reasonable. As UNESCO frequently advocates increasing its "transparency" and this request is not only consistent with but also furthers transparency, it seems only logical that UNESCO would encourage taping of the proceedings.

Thus, I was surprised to read your June 22, 2005 letter to Mr. Lamb which stated, "the World Heritage Committee is a public meeting, except when otherwise decided by the Committee. The World Heritage Committee has not approved requests to film the proceedings in the past."

To better understand your decision regarding the request to video tape the Durban proceedings, I respectfully request the following:

1. A copy of the World Heritage Committee's official policy on taping that served as

guidance for this decision to deny Mr. Lamb's request.

2. A list of Committee Members (and UNESCO and Centre staff) that addressed Mr. Lamb's request and an explanation of how they interpreted this official policy to reach their decision. Minutes of any relevant meetings would be most helpful.

3. A list of other organizations that have requested to "film the (Committee's) proceedings in the past," copies of any correspondence regarding these requests and an explanation as to how each of these requests were handled.

Finally, I would like to meet with you on this and other matters when you next visit Washington, DC. It would allow us both to better understand each other's concerns.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and a timely reply on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

UPON RETIREMENT OF LINDA DI MAURO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to thank Linda DiMauro for her outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 26 years.

Throughout the years, Linda has made significant contributions inputting financial data for the U.S. House of Representatives and processing and overseeing the staff payroll of the House. She began her career with the House on October 1, 1979 and has served this great institution in accounting and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. She has held the positions of Data Processing Clerk in the Office of Finance, Accounting Department, Payroll Counselor, and currently serves as a Senior Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 26 years, Linda has provided payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that all House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. Her payroll and financial acumen has enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to staff payroll issues. She has also provided many years of payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Linda DiMauro for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Linda, her daughter Denise, and her grandson Dominick, many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN
DASO AND THE GIFTED ARTIST
OF AMERICA CENTER, INC.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the valuable

work of Mr. John Daso, a talented artist who resides in Lexington, South Carolina.

As one of the most beautiful states in the nation, South Carolina's landscape is certainly not easy to accurately illustrate for most artists. However, Mr. Daso's work demonstrates his unique ability to reflect the beauty of our state. I am proud that we have such a remarkable artist living in the Second District of South Carolina.

As the founder of the Gifted Artist of America Center, Inc., Mr. Daso is also generously serving our community. This valuable center helps educate, mentor and inspire young artists who are or were unable to afford a formal education. Specifically, the center offers business development, marketing skills, financial awareness, associative skill training and graphic design. By supporting our youth and encouraging public interest in the Arts, the Gifted Artist of America Center is inspiring individuals to make a difference in their communities by using their artistic skills.

I am grateful for Mr. Daso's artistic talent and leadership in our community.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN- TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose CAFTA, because I believe it is a bad deal for rural and agricultural communities like those in my 18th district of California.

There is no indication that U.S. agriculture will benefit from a poorly negotiated deal that—without adequate safeguards—opens trade with a region that has little capacity to purchase our goods.

This administration's lax enforcement of trade agreements makes CAFTA's prospects even bleaker.

Currently, our agricultural trade deficit with the six countries covered by CAFTA totals 765 million dollars.

If we assume that the projections for CAFTA are as far off the mark as the projected gains turned out to be for NAFTA, this deficit is likely to grow even higher.

By passing this deeply flawed agreement, we would do two things: Reward these Central American countries for their poor records on labor rights—and add to our ballooning agricultural trade deficit with that region.

Like my Democratic colleagues, I believe in fair trade, not flawed trade.

I believe in trade deals that protect American farmers and ranchers and raise living standards in our partner countries. CAFTA fails to meet these basic standards, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.