

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](http://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 requested 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE VOTING  
RIGHTS ACT

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Voting Rights Act was Congress' greatest accomplishment in America's long struggle in the fight against discrimination and oppression.

This, the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, serves to remind us of the need to reauthorize and strengthen many expiring provisions. There are many who say there is no longer a need for the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

It is true that we have made remarkable progress since 1965, including: outlawing segregationist principles such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and the grandfather clause. However, we must not relent. There is still much work to be done.

As we all saw during the 2004 elections, minorities faced the uphill battle of misinformation distributed in black communities over how and when to vote, purging of voter rolls, and election day lines where individuals were waiting eight or more hours to vote.

I am proud to serve alongside Representative Lewis, whose bravery and presence during that historic march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma changed this Nation. In this pivotal moment, Congress and President Johnson could no longer look away from the oppression and segregation America had long ignored.

There are many young people who may not know of, or did not experience this battle towards equality. However, it is imperative we recognize and celebrate our great accomplishments as a Nation. We cannot develop future policies or laws without knowing or applying the lessons we have learned from the past.

As we move forward, it is my hope that our young people will remain diligent; remembering the contributions of those who came before them, and finding new inspiration to fight for change.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SAC-  
RIFICE OF ARMY SGT. MICHAEL  
SCHAFFER OF SPRING HILL,  
FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Army Staff Sergeant Michael Schaffer of Spring Hill, FL. Sgt. Schaffer was killed by enemy fire July 25, 2005 in Oruzgan, Afghanistan. He leaves behind his loving wife Danielle, parents Karen and Dan Barr, brother Tim, and grandparents Ron Forbes and Stand and Loretta Barr. In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sgt. Schaffer was a true American hero.

A volunteer for the Army in 1999, Sgt. Schaffer performed his basic training at Fort

Benning, GA and Airborne training in Fort Bragg, NC. After he completed his training, Sgt. Schaffer served in both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as Kosovo. A proud member of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Sgt. Schaffer was one of the first paratroopers to jump into Kirkuk, Iraq during the March, 2003 invasion. Sgt. Schaffer served 9 months in Iraq before being transferred to Afghanistan, and had expressed interest in going back to Iraq to be where the action was.

In addition to serving honorably in the United States Army, Sgt. Schaffer was a true and dedicated family man. Married to his wife Danielle within a week of shipping out to Kosovo, the couple was in constant contact throughout his tours of duty. At the time of his death, Sgt. Schaffer and his wife were looking to adopt a baby.

As a sign of the love for his family, Sgt. Schaffer wrote a poem to his mother before he left for basic training.

"Mother, There comes a time in every boy's life When he leaves the warmth of the nest. Perhaps to look for all your qualities in his future wife; Or join the working class like the rest. I am standing here before you this very day. To let you know when I leave not to fear, Because I will never be that far away. And you will always be near and dear to my heart, It is where I will keep your love. I know that the bond that we have between us cannot be torn apart, And when I think of you so beautiful like a white dove, I want you to know that as I leave for the Army, If you are feeling scared, do not be afraid to show it. Your love for me won't let any one harm me. I will be back home before you know it."

Mr. Speaker, as a mother and a grandmother, I know the pain that comes when a child leaves home for the first time. What Sgt. Schaffer's family must cope with today, however, is the knowledge that their child will not be returning home. I can offer them this pledge, however: that this Congress will never forget the sacrifice Sgt. Schaffer made serving his country.

ARGUS COURIER'S 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Petaluma Argus Courier, my hometown newspaper, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The first edition of the Petaluma Journal and Sonoma County Advertiser, the forerunner of today's Argus-Courier, was published on August 18, 1855. That's 3 years before the City of Petaluma was incorporated.

It is a compliment to the Argus-Courier and its staff that the newspaper has kept in step with the vast changes that have taken place in Petaluma over this 150-year period. As the 10th oldest newspaper in the State of California and one of Petaluma's oldest business institutions, the Argus Courier is an eyewitness to Petaluma history.

The Argus-Courier has always fulfilled its obligation to its community by providing sound information and vigorous leadership on all

matters affecting its citizens since 1855—from the Civil War to the Iraq wars, from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to Loma Prieta, and from Petaluma's fame as the "egg basket to the world" to its status as telecom valley. The fact that the Argus-Courier has been published continuously for 150 years is evidence of its devotion to the public interest and its contribution to the growth and development of the community it serves.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Petaluma Argus Courier on its sesquicentennial and know that it will continue to inform, entertain, and be a valued messenger of news and information to my constituents and me for many more years to come. And, I know that the Argus-Courier derives much satisfaction from the knowledge that it has had a part in the growth and in the furtherance of the free press that has helped to make this Nation great.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD J.  
HARVISON, NITC, UPON HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not to bury Cliff Harvison, but to praise him.

After a number of decades of working in Washington, DC, and with 40 years dedicated solely to serving the cargo tank truck industry, Cliff is retiring at the end of this year.

Through the establishment of the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and more recently, the Department of Homeland Security; through deregulation of the trucking industry, and carrier consolidation; through the terrorist attacks on our infrastructure and upon our Nation; Cliff Harvison has kept watch at the National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc., the tank truck industry's national trade association.

In addition to working with me—for almost three decades as a Member of Congress who understands the needs and vast potential of our national transportation network to States such as West Virginia—as well as working with a great many other Members of Congress over the last several decades, Cliff has worked also with labor, with Federal agencies, and with his own carriers to improve highway transportation. In so doing, he has played a key role in the development of major legislative and regulatory initiatives aimed at highway safety, hazardous materials uniformity, and transportation security. The Motor Carrier Safety Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act—and its successor, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act—the Safe Food Transportation Act, truck driver hazardous materials endorsements—these are all key pieces of legislation and regulation affecting motor carriers, and bear the stamp of Cliff Harvison's input as an honest, and honorable, broker.

Mr. Speaker, without America's cargo tank truck industry, Americans would not be able to buy gas conveniently at so many corner filling stations across the country. If we couldn't rely on the cargo tank truck industry, our chemical manufacturing sector, which is a very important manufacturing industry in parts of my