

drilling and more radioactive-waste-producing nuclear power.

By contrast, only a small percentage of the tax breaks would go to energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives that could actually save consumers money and reduce our dependence on dirty energy sources.

By refusing to commit to improving and investing in sustainable fuel technology, we are putting our technology and manufacturing industries at a competitive disadvantage at a time when the rest of the planet is searching for alternatives to fossil fuels.

American consumers are being squeezed at the pump while the big oil companies are reaping record profits and the Republican Leadership is passing an energy bill that will further raise gas prices.

How in good faith can we go back to our constituents with a national energy policy that does not address the future, does not address short term fixes or long term solutions?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation so we can develop a comprehensive energy policy that looks to the future and doesn't rely on repackaged out-dated technologies from the past.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act that the House passed yesterday includes a commitment by Congress to make a significant investment for research and development into renewable and alternative sources of energy. As demand for clean and reliable energy increases, it is imperative that America's young people be introduced and educated in conservation and alternative energy. To decrease foreign dependence, we must increase our knowledge and ability to foster our own forms of energy. With that in mind, it is with great pleasure that I inform this body of some recent educational achievements in alternative energy sources.

The Dell-Winston Solar Challenge is an educational competition among high school teams from across our Nation using solar powered cars. The competition began ten years ago at the Winston School in Dallas, Texas, to promote science and engineering to high school students. This unique competition has grown significantly since its inception. Technology and Learning magazine has named this Solar Race Challenge as one of the 10 Most Innovative Projects in Education.

In an effort to produce a competitive solar-powered vehicle, teams spent up to eighteen months designing and building the sun-fueled racers. The nine teams crossed the finish line at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, after an eight-day race that began in Round Rock, Texas. The 1600-mile competition concluded this year as the winning team set a new race record with a top speed of 57 miles per hour. I am immensely proud that the winner of this race is located in my district, from the city of Houston, Mississippi.

This race team from a town with about 4,000 people consistently dominates the com-

petition from much larger cities and schools. This remarkable team from the Houston Vocational Center is under the guidance of adviser and race coach Keith Reese. The team includes: captain Katie Weaver and members Tyler Davis, Austin Jordan, Stefanie Barkley, Brister Bishop, Matt Jernigan, David Peel, Leign Anna Springer, Mason Faulkner, Quinton Grice, Callie Weaver, Katie Weaver, Jesse Lal, Roderick Wiley, and Andrea Westmoreland. I am proud of each one these individuals. Their hard work and dedication is evident in the finished product.

The winning tradition of this team includes more than the aforementioned teachers and students. This project has grown into a community event. Support from the City of Houston is as consistent as the team's success. It is evident that these constituents have recognized the positive impact projects like these provide.

Year after year dedicated students and teachers build and race these advanced solar powered machines. This year marks the fifth consecutive time the Houston Race Team has won the coveted title. To quote Bubba Weir, the Executive Director of The Mississippi Alternative Energy Enterprise, "The Program integrates classroom principles in a real-life situation that fosters learning and encourages the students to work to the best of their ability."

This team brings much more than a trophy back to Mississippi; they bring a renewed emphasis and excitement to the fields of science and energy research. As the number of students studying math and science decreases nationwide, programs such as these pay dividends in increased interest in these fields. Dr. Lehman Marks, the founder and director of the Dell-Winston Race described it as "A Challenge that helps teach high school students the 21st century skills they need to be successful in the future, whether it's to become the scientists and engineers of tomorrow or wherever their paths may lead."

I am encouraged when I see future leaders taking the initiative to compete and excel in this demanding contest. Programs like this demonstrate the importance of implementing new education techniques. Projects outside the classroom environment generate learning that enhances knowledge students receive from traditional instruction. The challenges in the fields of math and science are changing, and I am proud that Mississippi's educators are training students to meet these challenges head on.

The success of the Houston solar race team has spread statewide, and many other Mississippi schools are beginning to experiment in alternative energy education programs. It is good to see young Mississippians leading the way through these innovative projects. Congratulations to the Houston Solar Race Team for an extraordinary performance and a job well done. The city of Houston, Chickasaw County, the entire State of Mississippi, and the United States of America are very proud of you.

THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL 2005 MATH, ENGINEERING, AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT COMPETITION

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the winners of the national 2005 Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Competition held in Anaheim, California.

Johnnie Gasper, Rosie Mankel, Esther Blue, and Darryl Davis-Rosas, from Tucson, Arizona's Pueblo High Magnet School took first place at the national competition.

The Math, Engineering, Science Achievement Competition, otherwise known as MESA, is a college preparation program founded in 1970 and launched in Arizona in 1983. Students from middle and high schools throughout southern Arizona participate in hands-on activities related to math, engineering, and science and college preparation workshops.

Over 60 schools in Arizona participate in MESA. A total of eight States competed in the competition—California, Colorado, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

These Pueblo High students were challenged to build a vehicle out of a mousetrap that could drive 10 meters, up a 30 degree incline, and stop accurately after traveling another five meters. The students had trouble with the original vehicle design, which tested their commitment and determination. Johnnie, Rosie, Esther and Darryl redesigned and built a new vehicle that led them to success. The competition also required them to write a 15-page essay and complete an academic presentation on their work. The students received high marks on all parts of the competition.

I would like to commend these young men and women for their incredible accomplishments in math and science; and to recognize the faculty of Pueblo High School for their guidance of these fine students. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that this House approved the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement last evening. As I listened to my colleagues who voted for this bill, I could not help but wonder if we were voting on the same piece of legislation.

Contrary to what many of my colleagues have said, the CAFTA will not help American workers and will not save American jobs. Also, our exports to DR-CAFTA countries are already at full capacity for what those countries can consume. Therefore, talk of spurring U.S. exports to the region is empty rhetoric designed to deceive the uninformed person. Instead, DR-CAFTA will increase off-shore production and services and will continue to

cause a decline in the standard of living among the American working class.

Under this Agreement, our Central American neighbors will have restricted access to generic pharmaceuticals. This will increase drug prices, including lifesaving HIV/AIDS drugs and medicines putting their health and lives at risk. Surely, Mr. Speaker, you have heard the anguish of Americans who cannot afford basic prescription drugs in this prosperous land of ours. Can you imagine what it will be like for our neighbors who subsist on wages of less than \$2 per day to pay for higher drug prices? Where is the humanity in this?

Our Central American neighbors are poor—forty percent of them earn less than \$2 per day. The vast majority of them are forced to work under harsh labor conditions. Many women suffer from sexual harassment and discrimination at the work place. Employment places lack basic hygienic facilities, especially for women. In fact, it is fair to say that the Agreement lacks meaningful incentives for employers to uphold, enforce or comply even with current labor standards.

Let us not fool ourselves—this Agreement will not lift our neighbors out of poverty, will not improve their working conditions, and will not help the ordinary worker, whether in Central America or here at home. Instead, this Agreement will displace family farmers, harm small business and force these workers into lower paying jobs.

I wish I could have voted for the DR-CAFTA because I believe trade is a way to lift people out of poverty. But it must be fair trade that also respects labor standards, the environment and allows human dignity. Fair trade must be fair for both America's families and families of other countries with fair living wages while protecting the environment.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that this was not and balanced trade agreement. I hope that Americans will take a good look at where our country is headed. I feel for my countrymen and I feel for the people of the DR-CAFTA region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS STEINER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of Thomas Steiner, a five year veteran of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). On April 21, 2004, he was the victim of a senseless hate crime committed in front of the Los Angeles County Municipal Court in the city of Pomona. As he was walking to his car following traffic court testimony, a 16-year-old "wannabe" gang member pulled his car in front of Mr. Steiner, stepped out and opened fire, killing the officer. The California State Senate will soon consider a bill that would rename the interchange of State Highways 60 and 71—Thomas's favorite region to patrol—in his honor.

Tom was born February 14, 1969, and spent his childhood in Virginia and Ohio, before his parents settled in Long Beach in 1984. He graduated from Millikan High School in Long Beach and then pursued several dif-

ferent majors at Cal Poly Pomona. When he heard that the CHP was looking for accounting majors, he chose to study accounting. Tom always had been both attentive to details and desirous of being in law enforcement. He was not a perfectionist. He was just particular. Even as a child playing pick-up baseball, he never allowed cheating. He also loved helping people. Tom knew that being a CHP officer was the right career for him.

Tom's passion was fatherhood. He loved his stepson Justin, whom he called J.T., and his son Bryan, with whom he would walk home from preschool every Friday afternoon, holding hands. He converted his garage into a pool hall, with walls adorned with old Sports Illustrated covers, for both boys to enjoy. Also on the garage wall was Tom's collection of shot glasses from the different cities his father, Ron, had visited during his many business trips. It was a reminder that his father had valued his son Tom, and that now Tom valued his sons.

Tom is survived by his wife Heidi who will now raise 5-year-old Bryan and 14-year-old Justin. He is also survived by his parents, Ron and Carol, and his sister Julie.

Our country owes a great debt of gratitude to Tom. He died doing the job he loved, a victim of perhaps the ultimate hate crime: the assassination of a law enforcement officer solely based on the victim's status in the community, the uniform worn and what it represented. I met his father and with fellow CHP officers at the dedication of a memorial worthy of Tom's commitment to the safety of others. Join me in wishing our sincere sympathy to his family. We and the entire law enforcement community, especially the California Highway Patrol, mourn for a lost brother. I ask that all of my colleagues join me to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice.

EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT THAT A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT WAS PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I submitted a statement for the RECORD yesterday, instead of going to the floor, as originally scheduled, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. The Republican Leadership has decided that the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act is less important than leaving a day early for the Congressional August Recess.

I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 216 with my bipartisan colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CHABOT and Mr. NADLER. On Wednesday, I had planned to join my colleagues in debating the resolution on the floor, but at the last moment, the Republican Leadership decided to pull the solution from consideration in order to consider CAFTA. Thursday morning, the resolution was listed for consideration, but by late morning, it was brought to my attention that the Republican Leadership

had decided to reduce debate on this resolution to a mere 5 minutes, down from the customary 40 minutes allotted to consideration of resolutions under suspension of the rules. Furthermore, they planned to package the suspensions together under condensed time and they were also adding to that package an additional controversial suspension bill without allowing any debate. This important resolution was being treated as insignificant. The Minority Leader opposed giving this important resolution such short shrift, and in response, the Republican leadership pulled the legislation from consideration all together.

Today was the last opportunity for us to celebrate this important Act before the anniversary on August 6. This has become an unacceptable pattern for the Republican Leadership. The Republican majority promised after the 1994 elections to manage the House in a way that fostered "deliberative democracy," which they defined as the "full and free airing of conflicting opinions through hearings, debates, and amendments." They also pledged in their Contract with America to "restore accountability to Congress." Instead of sticking to their word, they have broken their promises, and flaunted and abused their power. They have abandoned the principle of procedural fairness or democratic accountability.

There is no reason that we could not debate this resolution this week, particularly when the Republicans will conclude business early in the day today. I am disappointed in my Republican colleagues for again derailing debate, particularly when it comes to issues related to voting and the Voting Rights Act.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is one of the major civil rights victories of the past half-century. The ADA ensures that governments and businesses cannot discriminate against individuals with disabilities in employment.

Passage of the ADA has widened access, deepened involvement, and raised the level of engagement for people with disabilities at every level of society.

This is particularly true in the government, where the voices of disabled Americans are heard and help shape new policies and laws.

We're not there yet—with hard work and diligence, we'll continue to move our country toward being a place where disabled individuals are treated like every other American.

But we're making some progress.

I believe the federal government should take a leadership role in advocating on behalf of disabled Americans. Social Security's disability insurance program is one important aspect of that leadership role.

Here in Ohio and nationwide, Americans seeking Social Security disability benefits wait more than 3 years on average for final decisions on their appeals. In some cases, they are losing their family car, their savings, and