

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

even their homes—while they wait for their government to act.

I support responsible proposals to reform the disability appeals processing system. I have urged congressional appropriators to provide appropriate funding to help the Social Security Administration reduce the appeals backlog and reduce the wait for disabled Americans.

Disabled Americans have a huge stake in the fight to strengthen Social Security's solvency. Plans to privatize Social Security put the income security of American workers at risk—especially workers whose careers are cut short by a disabling illness or injury.

With more than 230,000 Ohioans currently receiving Social Security disability benefits, there is too much at stake to play games with Social Security's future.

It's appropriate for us to gather to celebrate the ADA—an important first step. Working together, we can fix these and other roadblocks for the millions of Americans who live full lives every day with disabilities.

RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE  
22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT  
OUT

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stupak/Brady resolution. Our resolution will commemorate the 22nd annual National Night Out event which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch.

I would like to thank my friend Congressman BRADY for cosponsoring this legislation with me once again this year. This bipartisan resolution has been supported by dozen of House Members for several years running and I am pleased we have another opportunity to highlight this important event again this year.

National Night Out, a nationwide grassroots crime prevention event, will take place on Tuesday, August 2. The event brings together involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, and civic groups throughout the U.S. to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

This has been a key part of America's community crime prevention success over the past two decades.

Community crime prevention is one of the most proven and effective ways to help law enforcement officials win the battle against crime. Whether it is stopping illegal drug sales, making schools safer, locating missing children, or remaining vigilant against terrorism, local law enforcement officials depend on the support of community networks to succeed.

The active involvement of citizens and the presence of local law enforcement in communities is a winning combination that makes and keeps neighborhoods safe.

Our resolution expresses Congress' support for community crime prevention and asks that the President focus Federal attention on the issue.

With this in mind, we hope that you will show your support for the community crime prevention efforts of citizens and police in your district and across the nation. Vote for the Stupak/Brady National Night Out Resolution.

COMMENDING PROGRESS IN  
LEBANON

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for her visit to Lebanon last week, which recently held elections for a new Parliament. During her brief stay, Secretary Rice asserted the necessity for the uninhibited growth of democracy in that region and demanded the complete removal of foreign occupiers.

Lebanon carries in its history a long tradition of foreign occupation. After plunging into civil war in 1975, Syrian troops forcefully occupied Lebanon. Throughout subsequent decades, the Syrian military unjustly held Beirut, with their tenure characterized by violent bombings and raids on the Lebanese people. The United States has long opposed this occupation of Lebanon, and Congress has continually insisted on their removal.

Syrian and Iranian sponsorship of terrorist ally Hezbollah threatens the emerging Lebanese democracy. I praise the heroic Lebanese citizens on their insistence for the Syrian exodus in early 2005, despite the Hezbollah security threats. I also laud them on their fair elections for their first National Assembly after the termination of the Syrian presence. Accordingly, this provides an opportune time for self-determination and democratic changes in the region.

It is imperative that the U.S. continues to support Lebanon's desire for full security control and territorial autonomy so this budding democracy can materialize. Yet as Lebanon gains control over their country, they should simultaneously avoid isolating themselves from their neighbors. Israel and Lebanon share a number of parallel interests and could markedly benefit from stronger relations with the other. Syria has strangled trade with Lebanon since their withdrawal; additionally, trade between all three nations has essentially come to a standstill recently. There should be a push for increased commercial exchanges between Israel and Lebanon, especially with the United States through the Qualifying Industrial Zone. I recommend that as Lebanon stabilizes and secures itself as a viable democracy, we consider their addition to the QIZ, which would encourage the Middle East peace process via economic integration.

Assuring that emerging democracies in the Middle East are safe and stable should be a top priority of the U.S. With respect to Iraq, much work still remains. This administration, through Operation Iraqi Freedom, has presented a poorly executed plan to instill democracy in Iraq. I believe that what America, Iraq, and the Middle East at large need is a plan for success. My amendment to the State Department Authorization Act called for a plan for a success in Iraq, this accepted bipartisan amendment calls on the President to present a strategy indicating how we would provide for a stable Iraqi government and strong Iraqi police force, hence allowing for a lessened US presence there. This could be done by mobilizing an international effort through increased presence of NATO forces in Iraq. NATO participation in Iraq would open up the doors for other non-NATO countries to share the burden

of the war. Furthermore, we should also better train the Iraqi military police, hence providing real security to the communities of Iraq.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR  
EDWARD BROWN, JR.

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 29, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Major Edward Brown, Jr., who has distinguished himself with extraordinarily meritorious service during his 30-year career in the United States Army, leading up to a commendable tenure at Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. A long-standing track record of superior and dedicated leadership proves that Sergeant Major Brown is the kind of leader that other soldiers try to emulate and that the Army recognizes as the exemplary soldier.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Brown has been an exceptional, active, and inspiring leader. His positions of leadership include those of squad leader, platoon sergeant, battalion motor sergeant and maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, multiple tours as company sergeant, and most recently Sergeant Major at Letterkenny Army Depot.

In the past 10 years Sergeant Brown has served in extraordinary places, such as Germany, Bosnia, Ft. Campbell, Ft. Huachuca, and Letterkenny, and has made significant contributions to each. In each location he held positions of leadership, with a responsibility for the welfare of soldiers, units, installations, and civilian members of the defense workforce.

Notable in Sergeant Major Brown's career is his tour of duty at Letterkenny Army Depot. He served 4 years there, and personally made tremendous and direct contributions and changes to the Depot. When Sergeant Major Brown arrived on July 1, 2001, the Depot was in a state of decline and malaise due to the fact that it had already undergone three rounds of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process. Sergeant Major Brown was instrumental in the mission of turning the depot around, bringing renewed vigor and a sense of purpose into the workplace.

Sergeant Major Brown began his tenure at Letterkenny at a most inauspicious time, just prior to the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. He immediately increased the Force Protection posture required by the attacks on the United States. Because of the open terrain and layout that characterize the Depot, the task of securing the mission and personnel at Letterkenny was made even more difficult. However, Sergeant Major Brown worked tirelessly with the organic guard assets of the Depot and with newly assigned troops from the National Guard and Reserve to ensure that Letterkenny remained secure until all immediate danger had passed.

Sergeant Major Brown, working as part of the Command Team, inspired and moved the workforce forward through post-modernization and beautification programs, LEAN implementation, and proactive leadership. As a result of his guidance, Letterkenny improved so much that the Depot has been selected to grow in the next BRAC round, an accomplishment that may be traced directly to his personal efforts.