

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