

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the untimely passing last evening of Stephen Gauvain, a constituent of mine who, for the past 14 years, has kept Houstonians informed of important events in our local community and around the globe.

Steve, a journalist with KTRK-TV in Houston, was killed in a tragic traffic accident just minutes after giving a live television report from Huntsville, where he was covering a high-profile murder case.

Steve's passing is, of course, a tremendous loss for his family—his wife, Jan, and his three sons: Stephen, Jr.; Taggart; and Dustin. To them, to Steve's extended family, and to his coworkers at KTRK-TV, Houston's ABC affiliate, I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathy.

Steve's untimely death was a loss for everyone in the Houston metropolitan area who had come to depend on his journalistic skill and his dedication to getting the story. Since 1984, Steve had served as KTRK-TV's space reporter. It was a high compliment to Steve that he was selected to cover space for the No. 1 television station in Houston—home of the Johnson Space Center and a city known widely as Space City.

As channel 13's space reporter, Steve covered more than 60 space shuttle missions, including the last, ill-fated flight of the Challenger. Following that disaster, Steve also kept Houstonians informed of the investigation into the cause of the accident, and he prepared an extraordinary series of reports on NASA's slow and painful program to recover from the Challenger disaster.

In 1988, Steve won the Aviation/Space Writers Association's award for the best locally produced television series for his reports on NASA's road to recovery. That same series also won Steve a second-place award for investigative reporting from the Houston Press Club.

Steve's interest in aviation and space exploration was well known. Throughout his distinguished career, Steve covered numerous aviation stories and flew with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds last year. In addition, Steve was a quarter-finalist in NASA's "Journalist in Space" program.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join with me in extending our deep sympathy to Jan Gauvain and her three sons, to Steve's extended family, to Steve's coworkers at KTRK-TV, and to Steve's journalistic colleagues in Houston. His passing is a loss to all of us who knew him, who worked with him, and who appreciated his dedication and professionalism. We will miss him.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very much pleased to

join the gentleman from Texas to honor Steve Gauvain and to acknowledge as well my great respect for his journalistic ability, but also his commitment to the Houston community. We recognize that when Steve Gauvain did a story, it was out of Compassion, knowledge, a sense of respect for the individuals that he queried, and, of course, a love for our community.

It is with great sadness that I join my colleague from Texas, and applaud him for coming to the floor, and to add my sympathies to Stephen's wife and children and, of course, his Channel 13 family. I hope that all of us will give to them our prayers and remember him for his service to our community.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentlewoman would agree with me because she has been interviewed many times by Stephen, how professional he was, how well prepared. The gentlewoman mentioned the word "compassion." Certainly that fit him perfectly. I thought he was one of the finest reporters whom I ever had the pleasure to work with.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield further, I certainly agree. I thank the gentleman. Let me also say he had a love for NASA and the Johnson Space Center, and I appreciate all of his leadership on that issue. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the floor.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MANZULLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SPECIAL INTERESTS, NOT PUBLIC INTERESTS, DRIVE THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, when I came to the Congress 3 years ago, I brought a list of priorities: Balancing the budget, cleaning up the environment, and promoting economic development and small business opportunities. But after working on Capitol Hill for just a few months, I learned that more often than not, special interests, not public interests, drive the legislative agenda in Washington. That is why so much of the changes voters de-

manded, like cutting Government waste and curbing rising health care costs are so difficult to achieve.

Under our grossly deficient campaign finance system, well-heeled lobbyists and PACs have greater influence over Washington's business than the folks back home. A perfect example is the 2-year debate about how to balance the budget. Congress could have passed a credible plan to balance the budget last year in the absence of special interests. Year after year, programs that have long outlived their usefulness are preserved in the budget. Everything from tax loopholes for energy and marketing subsidies are taboo when it comes to cutting Government spending, while education, employment and training programs for the working poor are on the chopping block.

Even if we do get a balanced budget this year, Mr. Speaker, odds are that that balanced budget will contain costly tax breaks that benefit special interests and disproportionate cuts to the lower and middle class. Congress comes up against the special interest money barrier every time we try to take on the tobacco industry as well. Public decisions and public policies are often abstract, but this one could not be clearer.

Every day 3,000 young people are enticed into forming a deadly habit before they are old enough to truly make impartial decisions about their health. Yet even when the issue is clear-cut, Congress has been unable to pass legislation or even try to eliminate or regulate teenagers' access to tobacco products.

Last year, Common Cause released a report that illustrated the enormous amount of money the tobacco industry pours into political campaigns to stop antitobacco legislation from passing. According to the report, tobacco giants like Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, U.S. Tobacco and the Tobacco Institute have donated millions of dollars to Members of Congress over the past 10 years. Without question, this report documents the way money in the form of campaign contributions influence decisions that are made in Washington.

During the last Congress, I joined with a group of like-minded freshman Democrats to pass campaign finance and lobby reform legislation. It is no secret now that our efforts failed largely due to the efforts of special interests. Both bills failed to pass, and many of my dedicated freshman colleagues lost in their bids for reelection as a result. I learned then that passing real congressional reform means forging new alliances across party and ideological lines to fight the embraced establishment and the entrenched establishment in Washington. That is how we passed lobby reform and the gift ban legislation last year, and that is the only way Congress can reform its corrupting campaign finance system.

This week the Senate will start debating the first bipartisan bicameral