

and in this way "E pluribus pluribus" is also true. From many came more.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, our flag is a symbol of our nation. It is a symbol but certainly not the sum. America means so much more to us than symbol devoid of substance. It means those rights, inalienable and indivisible, which are life, liberty and property. Property not just as an object of ownership but as an idea. Private property is indeed the bedrock of all privacy. And private enjoyment of property is not simply exemplified by the right to hold, but to use and dispose of as the owner sees fit. This is at the very essence of property, and it is in fact the meaning of the pursuit of happiness.

And those stars and stripes represent an idea about how it is that we should hope to actually realize the protection of all these rights that we as Americans hold so dear. Namely, we the people vest in those very states that formed this union, the power to legislate for the benefit of the residents thereof.

This is the idea of federalism and of local self-government. This idea is sacrosanct because it is the necessary precursor to all of those things which we hold dear, most specifically those rights I have enunciated above. Our nation is based on federalism, and state governments, indeed the nation is created by the states which originally ratified our constitution.

Now confusion has come upon us. We are far removed from the days of the constitution's ratification and hence it seems we have lost that institutional memory that points to the eternal truths that document affirms.

Today there are calls to pass federal laws and even constitutional amendments which would take from the states their powers and grant them to the federal government. Some of these are even done in the name of protecting the nation, its symbol, or our liberties. How very sad that must make the founding fathers looking down on our institutions. Those founders held that this centralization of power was and ought always remain the very definition of "unAmerican" and they understood that any short term victory an action of such concentration might bring would be paid for with the ultimate sacrifice of our very liberties.

To do what is right we must understand and honor the symbol and the sum of our nation. We must contemplate the flag and the constitution, both of which point us to the key basis of liberty that can be found only in local self-government. Our flag and our constitution both honor and symbolize federalism and when we undermine federalism we dishonor our flag, our constitution and our heritage.

The men who founded our nation risked the ultimate price for freedom. They pledged "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" to the founding of a republic based on local self-government. We should honor them, our republic and its most direct symbol, our U.S. flag by taking a stand against any rule, law or constitutional amendment which would expand the role of our federal government.

MR. DICK DIXON OF SALIDA, COLORADO, HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF SO MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor and recognize Mr. Dick Dixon of Salida, Colorado. Mr. Dixon has touched many lives as a teacher of Western History and Journalism at Salida High School, and I would like to recognize his hard work, dedication, and achievements.

Mr. Dixon is a man of great experience who has received state and national awards, dined with the Governor, and taken the Tenderfoot Times student newspaper of Salida High School to greatness. After his arrival, the student newspaper began winning numerous awards and became one of the most recognized high school newspapers in Colorado.

Mr. Dixon guided the newspaper team to three national Gold Crown awards, a Peacemaker honor and a rank as one of the top high school newspapers in the nation. Dixon also helped his students win many Colorado High School Press Association sweepstakes awards which gave them the opportunity to have lunch at the Governor's Mansion. Though students changed each year, Dixon remained consistent in his drive and dedication, and continued to inspire greatness in his staff. His strength and presence at Salida High School will truly be missed.

Mr. Dixon not only taught, but for 12 years he also worked for the Pueblo Chieftain as the Salida correspondent. His lessons came to life as students heard his words of wisdom on covering the news, and then were able to read his bylines and see his photographs in the Chieftain. Mr. Dixon led by example and his work and lessons will continue to inspire.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Dick Dixon for touching the lives of

many and for inspiring the youth of Salida. Individuals such as Mr. Dixon who dedicate so much time and energy into shaping the minds of students and ensuring a bright future for all are to be appreciated. I would like to congratulate Mr. Dixon on a job well done and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING THE SONORA WOOL AND MOHAIR SHOW

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 1999*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the 62nd Annual Sonora Wool and Mohair Show and the 39th Annual National 4-H Wool Judging Contest. Both of these events are scheduled for June 15-17. The Sonora 4-H program serves as a model for the youngsters of rural America. Year after year the program has distinguished itself with entries from the nation's top youth. It is my honor to report this event today and I wish continued success to this outstanding organization.

The Sonora Wool and Mohair Show has been the foremost event of its type for more than half a century. The popularity of the youth's wool judging contest began when the program was added to the event in 1947. It remains popular with young people today. It is annually attended by many successful youth teams. The show is sponsored by the Sonora Lions Club and Sonora Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Sonora Wool and Mohair Company and the Texas Agriculture Extension Service.

A variety of activities fill the three-day event. These include an All-Texas Show for 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters, an open show for all U.S. producers and the National 4-H Wool Judging Contest.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues from all areas of the United States join me in recognizing the Sonora 4-H program. Programs such as these give our young people many great skills. Wool judging requires hours of study and evaluation, equipping students with great research skills. More importantly, the competition gives participants a sense of accomplishment through a job well done. For the next few days all eyes will focus on Sonora.