

world, but one that we would have to fight for.

Like the American patriots driven to revolution by heavy-handed British intervention, Texas declared its independence after many years of living peacefully as part of the Mexican federal republic because Mexico became dominated by military dictatorships.

The seeds of Texas independence were sown in 1824, when a military dictatorship abolished the Mexican constitution.

In the words of the Texas declaration of independence, the Texas people's government have been forcibly changed without their consent from a restricted federative republic composed of sovereign states to a consolidated central military despotism.

The Texas Declaration of Independence also based the justification for revolution on the grounds that the government of Mexico had ceased to protect the lives and liberty and property of the people.

The military dictatorships that had unfortunately captured the Mexican government also did not provide for trial by jury, freedom of religion or public education.

Failure to provide these essential services violates the sacred contract between government and the people.

It is important to remember that the struggle for Texas independence was a political struggle, not an ethnic conflict. In fact, many Texas Hispanics consider themselves Tejanos and not Mexicanos.

Tejanos lived in Texas long before Mexico existed and they moved there for the same reasons Anglos later moved there, freedom to run their own affairs and a wild but productive landscape.

So we are inspired by so many Tejanos that joined the fight for independence when the Mexican government became an exploitive military regime, including Captain Juan Sequin, Lorenzo de Zavala, a future republic of Texas vice president.

When Texans and Tejanos protested the undemocratic changes to Mexico's government, they were thrown in jail and the Mexican Army marched to war on Texas to enforce the decrees of the military dictatorship at the point of a bayonet.

While future President Sam Houston and other delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, Santa Anna's army was besieging the Texans and Tejanos at the Alamo in San Antonio.

The Alamo fell on the morning of March 6, 1836 when Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennesseean congressman David Crockett and approximately 200 other Texan and Tejano defenders were killed in action a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. On March 27, this same Army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad.

Fortunately, Texans and Tejanos achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836 when ap-

proximately 900 Texans and Tejanos of the Texas Army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in the surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Texas Independence Day is important to all Americans because it is the event that show the brotherhood of freedom can be stronger than the brotherhood of ethnicity or nationality, as Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad and the Alamo and along the banks of the San Jacinto River and the government of the republic of Texas.

People sometimes wonder what makes Texas and Texans so different and I believe part of that answer is the passion for freedom that gave us the first Texas Independence Day is still alive today. Something about being raised in Texas or even living there for an extended period of time makes Texans less willing to put up with the infringement on our rights, more willing to fight for them. I believe part of that passion comes from knowing Texas history.

Today we give thanks to the many Texans of all backgrounds that sacrificed for the Texas freedom we enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 12 years ago I came to this house in January 1993 and during that year this Congress debated whether or not to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement. The promises made during NAFTA in 1993 from its supporters were it would create jobs in the U.S., it would raise living standards in Mexico by raising wages, it would encourage and enable Mexicans to buy more American products. It would increase our balance of trade with Canada and Mexico, positively. Those were the promises made by NAFTA.

We have heard those same promises when we passed the PNTR with China. We have heard those same promises on trade agreement after trade agreement. But look what has happened to our trade deficit in that period. Starting in 1992, the year I first ran for Congress our trade deficit was \$38 billion. You can see it passes \$100 billion in the early 1990s. Almost \$200 billion in the mid 1990s. President Bush took office. Goes up to 400 billion, 450 billion, 500 billion. This year our trade deficit was \$617 billion. That means that we are buying \$617 billion more in products

than we are selling. So, what is the President's response? The President's response is the Central American Free Trade Agreement. More of the same, followed he hopes by something called free trade area of the Americas. CAFTA and FTAA will double the population of NAFTA, Mexico, the U.S. and Canada and quadruple the number of low income workers.

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They say that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting a different result. We are hearing the same promises about CAFTA, that it will raise living standards and raise wages in Central America, that it will create jobs in the United States, that we will export more and more to Central America, that it will reduce our trade deficit. It is the same old song.

It was the same song for NAFTA. It is the same song for NAFTA's dysfunctional cousin CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement. This President is going to come to Congress and again ask us to pass another free trade agreement that hemorrhages American jobs that costs us, especially manufacturing jobs.

My State under President Bush has lost hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs; this country has lost around 2 million manufacturing jobs in the 4 years that George Bush has been President; yet he continues to do the same thing, tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our country, trade agreements that hemorrhage jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, just look at the facts. Look at what has happened with our trade deficit. Again, it was \$38 billion the year I ran for Congress in 1992. Today it is almost 20 times higher, \$617 billion trade deficit. We had a trade surplus with Mexico in 1992. Today we have a \$40 billion trade deficit with Mexico.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the President looks at these numbers and he says, let us do more of the same. Clearly our trade policy is not working. Clearly the President is taking the country in the wrong direction on trade. Every trade agreement this Congress has passed from President Bush has been signed by the President and then passed without Congress by about 60 days.

President Bush signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement on May 28. He has yet to try to push it through Congress because he knows the American people oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and he knows the United States Congress opposes this Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Fully 90 percent of Democrats in the House of Representatives plan to vote against CAFTA because Democrats understand, and I hope enough of my Republican colleagues come along, understand that the Central American Free Trade Agreement is bad for our community. It is bad for our families. It is bad for our workers. It simply does not