

was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Through it all, Chris kept his head high, often cheering up those of us trying to lift his spirits. He passed away last weekend surrounded by the friends and family who so loved him.

Mr. Speaker, my heart aches for Chris and his family. I hope that his mother, Betty Jo, is comforted by knowing that Chris enriched my life and the lives of others he touched. We shall never forget him or the long legacy he has left.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLAND'S
MAY 3RD CONSTITUTION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the anniversary of Poland's May 3, 1791 Constitution.

This document signified the spiritual and moral renovation of the Polish nation after a period of stagnation caused by foreign influences under the Saxon kings. It has become a proud and integral part of the civic and patriotic activities in many cities in our great country, in Poland, and throughout the world.

To the Poles and their descendants, May 3rd is a national holiday for it bestows upon the Pole a priceless heritage of humanitarianism, tolerance and a democratic precept conceived at a time when most of Europe lived under the existence of unconditional power and tyranny exemplified by Prussia and Russia.

Poland's parliamentary system actually began at the turn of the 15th Century, but a series of defensive wars, internal stresses, outside influences, widespread permissiveness and excessive concern for the rights of dissent brought Poland to the brink of disaster and anarchy in the 18th Century. Urgently needed reforms became imperative.

The May 3rd, 1791 Constitution was the first liberal constitution in Europe and the second in the world, after the Constitution of the United States.

Following the American pattern, it established three independent branches of government—executive, legislative and judiciary. Throughout the constitution runs philosophy of humanitarianism and tolerance including: perfect and entire liberty to all people; rule by majority; secret ballot at all elections; and religious freedom and liberty.

But, most importantly, the constitution abolished the one-vote veto powers of individuals who would undermine proposals, for their own dubious reasons.

The constitution curtailed the executive power of the King and State council. It forbid them to contract public debts, to declare war, to conclude definitely any treaty, or any diplomatic act. It only allowed the Executive branch to carry on negotiations with foreign courts, always with reference to the Diet (Parliament).

In terms of democratic precepts, the May 3rd Constitution is a landmark event in the history of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Polish constitution was deemed too dangerous by the tyranny of absolutism still rampant in Europe. Thus Russia, Prussia and Austria decided to wipe out "the Polish cancer

of freedom" from the face of the earth. In 1795 partitioned Poland ceased to exist as a state. For 123 years of foreign occupation (1792–1918) and again from 1939 to 1989, the Third of May Constitution kept the Polish spirit alive as a symbol of freedom, generated healthy pride among people of Polish ancestry everywhere, and inspired them to fight to regain their lost independence.

Our very own country owes part of its being to the inspiration the 3rd of May Constitution provided.

The principles and values set in ink were the very same that brought to our shores Polish freedom fighters Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko. For their dedication to the American cause, these sons of liberty are honored to this very day in both Poland and the United States, proof of the mutual loyalty to the philosophy and beliefs instilled in each country's Constitution.

It is for this reason that I remind my esteemed colleagues and constituents of the importance of Poland's Constitution of May 3, 1791, and congratulate all the Polish Americans in my district on this honorable day.

INTRODUCING THE GAS PRICE
SPIKE ACT OF 2005

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as the summer peak driving period begins and as gas prices remain high, I am introducing legislation today to reduce the price of gasoline. The bill, The Gas Price Spike Act of 2005, is co-sponsored by 33 Members of Congress.

The bill will address the spike in price of gasoline by placing a windfall profits tax on oil companies; giving tax credits for the purchase of ultra efficient vehicles; and provide federal grants to reduced mass transit fares.

Consumers are being gouged at the gas pump. And, the only thing rising faster than the price of gasoline right now is the skyrocketing profits of the oil companies.

Washington can no longer ignore this issue. High gas prices are eating away at consumer's disposable income and could lead to a further economic downturn.

The bill will: Institute a windfall profit tax on gasoline and diesel. Such a tax is to be imposed on all industry profits that are above a reasonable profit level. This proposal would not increase the cost of gasoline because this proposal does not tax the price of gasoline. It only taxes excessive profits of refineries and distributors. Any attempt to increase prices to recover the lost revenue in taxes is simply taxed at 100% making the price increase worthless.

Transfer the revenue from the windfall profits tax to Americans who would buy ultra efficient cars, made in America, with a tax credit. These will be made directly available to the purchaser of a car that traveled over 65 miles on a single gallon of gas. Today average cars get less than 30 miles per gallon.

Establishes a broad based, far reaching program to promote mass rail transit inter- intra-city. The bill makes funding available to regional transit authorities to offset significantly reduced mass transit fares during times of gas price spikes.

The co-sponsors are Reps. SERRANO (D-NY), ABERCROMBIE (D-HI), DEFAZIO (D-OR), FRANK (D-MA), McDERMOTT (D-WA), SOLIS (D-CA), FILNER (D-CA), CARSON (D-IN), GRIJALVA (D-AZ), LANTOS (D-CA), LEE (D-CA), MCGOVERN (D-MA), MCKINNEY (D-GA), WOOLSEY (D-CA), OWENS (D-NY), STRICKLAND (D-OH), CONYERS (D-MI), DAVIS (D-IL), SANDERS (I-VT), FARR (D-CA), HINCHEY (D-NY), EVANS (D-IL), NADLER (D-NY), KANJORSKI (D-PA), SHERMAN (D-CA), LEWIS (D-GA), GUTIERREZ (D-IL), VISLOSKY (D-IN), KILDEE (D-MI), SLAUGHTER (D-NY), KAPTUR (D-OH), OLVER (D-MA), STUPAK (D-MI).

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP KANSAS CITY
KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DEBATE TEAM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues outstanding news that, for the second straight year, the Kansas City Kansas Community College [KCKCC] debate team, coached by Darren Elliott, has swept both community college national championships.

Even more impressive, the 2005 KCKCC team won with an almost entirely new team—just two sophomore returnees from last year's 2004 national championship team.

The KCKCC team completed its sweep by winning both the team and Lincoln-Douglas debates at the Phi Rho Pi national championships in Philadelphia after winning the CDEA [Cross-Examination Debate Association] Community College National Debate Championship title at San Francisco State University in late March. KCKCC dominated the Phi Rho Pi championships by putting both teams in the finals of the Policy Two-Person Debate and since both finalists were from the same team, sophomores John Bretthauer of Tonganoxie and Peter Lawson of Leavenworth shared first place honors with freshmen Clay Crockett of Emporia and Garrett Tuck of Overland Park. In addition, the KCKCC duo of Blue Valley freshmen Laura Koslowsky and Ashley-Michelle Papon took second.

Lawson then went on to become the first debater ever to repeat as National Policy Lincoln-Douglas One-Person Debate champion by finishing undefeated throughout the tournament. KCKCC entered 4 persons in the event with all 4 making it to the elimination rounds, with Tuck and Koslowsky closing out the finals with Crockett finishing third. In winning the CEDA title, Tuck, Bretthauer and Crockett were named to the All-American first team and Lawson to the second team. They were joined on the national championship team by Kyle Bragdon, Papon and Koslowsky. At an open meet that debated the topic, "How the U.S. should reduce fossil fuel consumption," KCKCC won the title by defeating 4-year teams from West Virginia, Vanderbilt, San Francisco State, Towson, Eastern New Mexico, Vermont, Rochester, Cal-State Chico, and Georgia State.

With all 5 freshmen returning next year, I look forward to the KCKCC debate team winning 3 in a row! The team was honored at a