

I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting for this important legislation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARLA BANDY, DAHLSTROM MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Carla Bandy, Dahlstrom Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Carla Bandy considers herself lucky to have given teaching another chance—initially quitting after 2 years because she felt she wasn't cut out for the job. Carla now understands that she made the right choice, and currently teaches Art at Dahlstrom Middle School.

In class, Carla stresses friendship; she respects her students and earns their respect in return. She believes that once she can achieve the trust of her students, the "real learning" begins.

Carla does her best to reach students of all abilities, skills, and interests. She keeps all students equally engaged—from the timid and unsure to the extremely talented. She researches the psychology behind different types of learning in an effort to customize her teaching techniques for each individual student.

I am honored to recognize Carla Bandy, Dahlstrom Middle School Teacher of the Year. Her dedication and hard work reward her students everyday.

ON RECEIVING THE NORTHEAST OHIO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Michael Foley, the executive director of the Cleveland's Tenants Organization (CTO), for his activism and dedication on behalf of Northeast Ohio's families who pay rent for their housing. Mr. Foley has proudly served the Cleveland community and has focused on meeting the housing needs and protecting the housing rights of Cleveland area tenants.

Mr. Foley has dedicated his entire professional career to fighting for social justice on behalf of Cleveland's residents. Mike received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from the University of Dayton and his law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He has served as a community organizer for the St. Clair-Superior Coalition and was a Field Representative for the City of Cleveland Community Relations Board. From 1990 to 1996, Mike was the court administrator and personal bailiff for Judge William H. Corrigan at Cleveland Municipal Housing Court. In 1996 and 1997 he was an instructor with the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Housing Law Clinic. In 1997 he began working with the

CTO—Cleveland's premiere organization focusing on the rights of tenants—as the Director of the Rental Information Center. He became the assistant director of CTO in 1998 and in late 1999 Mr. Foley became CTO's Executive Director.

Mr. Foley has worked collaboratively with me since I began serving in the US. House of Representatives. He was a guiding force and active participant in my Homelessness Summit, an advisory group with more than 200 Cleveland area activists working to end homelessness and advise me on legislative proposals. When out-of-state landlords bought one of the largest 55-and-over communities in Ohio's 10th Congressional District and immediately increased seniors' rent by as much as 25 percent, Mr. Foley worked with me, and the seniors, to organize one of the largest tenant organizations in the State. He went on to work with the seniors to organize the largest rent strike in Ohio's history. Mr. Foley has also facilitated the passage of a local landlord tenant act and extended the services his agency provides to include an eviction diversion program and a lead testing program.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Michael Foley. His long-time advocacy on behalf of rent-payers in the Cleveland area exemplify the Lifetime Commitment to Social Justice Award that he received from the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless at the NEOCH Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on May 13. Because of the dedication and focus of Michael Foley, the lives of thousands of people have been lifted.

PHONE CALLS FOR THE TROOPS!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, we are all committed to ensuring that our troops have the support they need to succeed in their mission and maintain high morale.

As part of this effort, we have taken important steps to ensure that the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan can make free phone calls home to their loved ones. Last year, we passed a Defense Authorization bill that provided a \$40 per month calling program to these soldiers. And our military hospitals have created adhoc programs, largely based on privately donated calling cards, to ensure that hospitalized troops can call home as well.

In order to strengthen and expand these efforts, I have introduced the bipartisan "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act (H.R. 2366). This legislation would extend the calling program until the end of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. My bill would also extend the program to future contingency operations to ensure that our troops do not have to wait for the legislative process to catch up with their phone call needs. Finally, the "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act would extend the monthly calling card program to the wounded to ensure that the Federal government will provide the phone benefit if private donations are insufficient.

I invite you join me in fighting to maintain the morale of our troops, support our military families and give our soldiers the benefits that

they have earned through their sacrifice and courage. Please join me in co-sponsoring the "Troops Phone Home Free Extension" Act!

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY PHILLIPS IMPACT CENTER SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Nancy Phillips, Impact Center School Teacher of the Year.

Nancy's interest in teaching stemmed from her "lifelong love affair" with the language arts. Following a Bachelor's degree, a teaching certificate in English and two subsequent Master's degrees, she dove into a teaching career that has continued for the past 25 years.

Nancy Phillips teaches English at an alternative school, where students are sent because of past drug use or violent histories. She teaches grades six to twelve, and is challenged to stretch her creative capabilities and management skills every time she walks into the classroom.

Nancy does her best to lead her students gently towards the good things they can find in books, describing herself as a "combination tight rope walker and ring master." She is humble, and acknowledges that when she stays late at work or comes in during the weekend, she is not alone.

I am honored to recognize Nancy Phillips, Impact Center School Teacher of the year. Through her drive and consistent hard work, she is able to set her students on track for whatever challenges the future may bring.

DEMOCRACY AND DR-CAFTA

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance that the Dominican Republic—Central America Free Trade Agreement will have on stabilizing the democracies of the participating nations. While we have witnessed firsthand the benefits than free trade has on emerging democracies, no one is in a better position to describe the benefits than President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua. His country continues to face serious challenges to democratic reform, yet he is unwavering in his commitment to DR-CAFTA because he knows it will lead to further democratic progress.

Last week, President Bolanos gave an address at the Nicaraguan Embassy here in the United States where he presented Senator RICHARD LUGAR and Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick with the Order of Ruben Dario, the highest honor of Nicaragua. I am including his remarks in the RECORD to reiterate to my colleagues that this trade agreement is about far more than trade.

SPEECH BY H.E. PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLANOS
EMBASSY OF NICARAGUA—MAY 13, 2005

Distinguished Guests and Dear Friends: I am in the United States this week with my

fellow Central American Presidents. Together, we are here as the singular voice of Central America bringing a crucial message to the United States Congress. That message is as simple as it is important: pass the Central American—Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement and pass it as quickly as possible.

There is a common misunderstanding about DR-CAFTA in the United States. The misunderstanding is that DR-CAFTA is primarily about trade. Yes, it is true that DR-CAFTA will bring very important trade and economic benefits to both the United States and to the nations of Central America and the Caribbean. This is an undeniable fact. But to truly understand DR-CAFTA, you have to get underneath the surface and see what DR-CAFTA is really about. In its central core, DR-CAFTA is really about "democracy." It is about rewarding a region who has fought so hard to build their democratic institutions and increase the security of the region.

Democracy has made very important gains in Central America in the last 15 years. But many of those gains are not irreversible. As we have seen recently in some of the countries of South America, some people are beginning to question whether democracy and free markets can solve their country's problems. But they are wrong. This well-negotiated free trade agreement will consolidate the democratic gains and ensure that the region does not back slide into the insecurity and violence of previous decades. DR-CAFTA binds the United States and Central America not only economically, but more importantly, democratically. DR-CAFTA should be seen for what it really is: a chance to lock in the democratic future for Central America with all economic and security benefits that implies for the United States. I want all Americans, particularly members of Congress, to understand that CAFTA is a democracy issue more than a trade issue.

Today, Nicaragua's democracy faces a new set of threats. Yesterday's enemies of democracy used pure military force. Today's enemies of democracy have evolved and refined their techniques. Today's enemies of democracy leave the outside facade of democratic institutions intact, while at the same time they hollow out these institutions from the inside, leaving nothing but the hollow shell.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what the enemies of democracy are attempting to do in Nicaragua. As many of you who are following events in Nicaragua know, democracy is under a direct threat. The assault is being led by what the Economist magazine called an "unholy alliance" of the extreme left, led by Daniel Ortega, and of the extreme right led by ex-President Arnoldo Aleman who is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence. Together these two party bosses, or caudillos, as we say in Spanish, are attempting to dismantle some of democracy's most sacred principles—principles such as checks and balances and the independence of the judiciary—principles without which no democracy can be called a democracy.

When the military dictatorship was ended and freedom was restored to our country in 1991, many believed that progress towards building fully functioning democratic institutions would be linear, that is to say forever upward on a steady course. This has not been the case, however. And once again those who value democracy and believe in democracy for Nicaragua are being called to the ramparts to defend it.

My administration will never cease to fight for the independence of the judiciary, will never cease to fight for the separation of powers, will never cease to fight against corruption by government officials. And my administration will fight on every front: we

will rally Nicaraguan people who crave democracy and functioning democratic institutions; we will fight to enforce the ruling of the Central American Court of Justice which in a historic decision on March 29, 2005 ruled against the attempts of the Nicaraguan National Assembly to strip the Presidency of its powers and declared it a violation of the principle of separation of powers. And we will fight if necessary in the Organization of American States with its wonderful and powerful Democratic Charter. And we will fight with the help of the many friends of Nicaragua that are here tonight who have supported the cause of freedom.

Finally, I would like to point out, only eleven days ago, on May 1st at the May Day ceremonies in Havana, Cuba, Daniel Ortega was hugging the dictator Fidel Castro and calling the United States "an enemy of humanity." This would be a scene intimately familiar to both of our honorees here tonight from their days of defending democracy in the 1980s. All of which proves that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and with the help of all our friends here tonight, together we will meet the new challenges with the same courage and resolution that was brought to the earlier challenges to democracy in Nicaragua in the past.

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE BRET
TAYLOR

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Lance Bret Taylor of Spring Valley, California. On April 6, 2005, Lance was traveling on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it crashed in the desert of Afghanistan, killing all eighteen Americans on board.

With the brave military personnel aboard that aircraft, there were three civilians, all non-combatants. Working for Halliburton subsidiary KBR, Lance was responsible for providing U.S. and coalition forces operating in Afghanistan with vital logistics and life support services.

A specialist in vector control who was returning to the U.S. base in Bagram from a mission, Lance was, like many Americans, proudly serving his country in other ways besides wearing a uniform. While Lance recognized the dangers inherent to working in a war zone, he was driven by a desire to help improve the lives of others.

Lance leaves behind his loving mother Lori, brother Kevin, his beautiful wife Deborah, a ten-year-old daughter, four stepchildren, and a baby granddaughter. He will continue to be remembered and loved by all those who knew him—not just today, but for as long as the U.S. defends the ideas of democracy and liberty throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the members of Lance's bereaved family and loved ones. Lance's dedication and service represents the best America has to offer and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

WE ARE ALMOST OUT OF TIME

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to join with my colleagues in the recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The contributions of Asian Pacific Islander Americans throughout the history of the United States are widely known.

One of the contributions that has never been properly acknowledged by the United States and by Congress is the part that was played in World War II by soldiers of the Philippines, a territory of the United States at that time.

They were drafted in World War II by President Roosevelt. They did not say no. They fought bravely and gallantly, in the battles of Bataan and Corrigidor, and the bullets did not distinguish between those who were U.S. citizens at the time and those who were citizens of the Philippines. Death did not make a distinction. The participation of the Filipino soldiers was critical to the successful outcome of the war in the Pacific. We owe them a great deal.

And yet, in 1946, the Congress said thank you, but no thank you. Congress withdrew the benefits that these brave men were promised. Although some positive steps were taken in the six decades since the war, we have not properly redeemed that promise.

Congressman CUNNINGHAM and I have introduced H.R. 302, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, and Senator INOUE has introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 146. These bills will complete the job and restore all the benefits that were rescinded by Congress. The passage of these bills will benefit the Filipino veterans in a substantial way.

But, at a deeper level, these bills are also about restoring dignity and honor to these proud veterans. Sixty years of injustice burn in the hearts of the Filipino World War II Veterans and in the hearts of their sons and daughters. It is time that our nation recognizes their contributions, recognizes the injustice, and acts to correct it. To those who say that we cannot afford to redeem this debt, I answer that we cannot afford not to! The historical record remains blotted until we recognize these veterans.

In passing these bills, we can make good on the promise of America.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JENNIFER WELMA, HAYS
CSID SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Jennifer Welma, Hays CSID Special Education Teacher of the Year.

Growing up, Jennifer always knew that one day she wanted to be a teacher. Yet it was the 1991 State Competition for the Special Olympics in San Marcos which sparked a special passion. She was emotionally touched by