

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WEAVER—
HOLLYWOOD ACTOR AND AVID
ENVIRONMENTALIST

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Dennis Weaver, who have recently suffered the tragic loss of a great man. Mr. Weaver passed away on Friday, February 26th at his home in Ridgeway, Colorado.

Mr. Weaver was perhaps most famous for his role as Chester Good on "Gunsmoke" and for the T.V. series "McCloud," though he appeared in many T.V. movies, films, and even released his own country music album. As a fan of Western classics, I was continually impressed by Mr. Weaver's talent on screen and his ability to bring laughter and happiness to millions of Americans.

The passing of Mr. Weaver strikes a more personal chord because he was such an involved member of the Colorado community. In addition to his work as an actor, Mr. Weaver was also a dedicated activist for many environmental and humanitarian causes. He assisted in founding Love is Feeding Everyone, a program which currently helps to feed 150,000 hungry people a week in Los Angeles County. He has been honored by Haven Hills, a shelter for battered women, and the Pacific Lodge Boys' Home. In addition, he was on the Advisory Board of the "Center for Environmental Solutions," and even resided in his own environmentally friendly solar-powered house that he and his wife built in my Congressional District.

Though I only had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Weaver once, I was struck by his sincerity and his dedication. His talent as an actor is to be admired and his role in the community has been invaluable. He will be greatly missed, not only by his close friends and family, but also by the millions of lives he touched through his work onscreen and his role in the community.

HONORING CSEA ON ITS 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the California State Employees Association on the 75th anniversary of the organization's founding.

CSEA currently represents over 140,000 California state employees and retirees. Members include a wide variety of hardworking state employees, from front line service providers to university professors. California residents depend on CSEA members for a wide variety of state services, members ensure everything from a safe drinking water supply to the speedy processing of our tax returns. Without their hard work the business of the state would not get done.

It is a testament to the organization's importance and leadership that it continues to thrive

75 years after its formation. Since its inception, CSEA has been instrumental in making certain state workers have the protections and benefits they deserve. CSEA helped create the first retirement system for state workers, advocated for a mandated forty hour work-week and helped obtain voter approval of the Merit System for state service, all of which has contributed to a well qualified and motivated state workforce.

CSEA has also contributed to the health care of public sector employees. Since 1938, they have provided state workers with medical insurance, as the state did not provide such benefits until 1962. Today, CSEA serves its members by offering California state employees access to affordable homeowner's, life and dental insurance.

As an organization, CSEA has also played a pivotal role in ensuring state and university employees are entitled to collective bargaining. CSEA successfully lobbied for passage of the Dills Act and the Berman Act in the 1970s, both of which extended collective bargaining rights to public employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate CSEA President J.J. Jelincic, as well as the association's thousands of members on CSEA's 75th anniversary. I ask all my colleagues to join me and honor CSEA, as well as the fine work that California state employees do everyday

TRIBUTE TO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF FORTUNA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the city of Fortuna in Humboldt County, California.

Originally named Slide, later Springville, Fortuna, was incorporated on February 20, 1906. Meaning "good fortune," it is an appropriate name for this unique and vibrant community situated on the banks of the beautiful Eel River in the heart of the Eel River Valley.

After its incorporation the town became well established with a city council, a night watchman and a fire and water committee. The Eel River Valley Lumber Company and the Humboldt Milling Company were two of Fortuna's largest employers and in 1909 the prominent Rohner family donated land for the first city park. Fortuna became a regular railroad stop between Eureka and San Francisco in 1914. The railroad provided an important link to the rest of the world and allowed travelers easy access to this verdant region.

Fortuna was known for its agricultural excellence and fish from the Eel River, but timber was the proud and primary industry of the area. Logging and lumber mills provided many jobs and the area became more populated as the town became more prosperous. People moved to Fortuna with the prospect of good jobs and a pleasant town in which to raise their families.

Fortuna remains a family community with a rich cultural heritage, excellent schools and beautiful parks. The citizens are proud of their town and volunteer to enrich Fortuna's daily

life. Known as the "Friendly City," Fortuna is host to a wealth of events, including the annual Fortuna Rodeo, Auto Expo, Paddle to the Headwaters, a vibrant farmer's market and Daffodil Festival.

Fortuna contributes to the economic vitality of the region and is an important partner in Humboldt County. As Fortuna continues to grow and flourish it will certainly enjoy another one hundred years of prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the city of Fortuna on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON BIODESEL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER DALLAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Denton Biodiesel Industries of Greater Dallas and its achievement of being awarded the 2005 Project of the Year by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program. The award acknowledges outstanding landfill gas recovery projects that make energy out of this otherwise harmful air pollutant.

Biodiesel fuels are primarily composed of renewable and recycled vegetable oils. This project serves as an innovator since it is the nation's first public-private partnership of its kind for biodiesel production. This relatively new Biodiesel Industry has the largest network of company-owned and operated biodiesel production facilities in the world.

I am proud to represent a company that is so strongly committed to quality products and a positive work environment. I congratulate Denton Biodiesel Industries and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY: RESIGN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR COUNTRY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD an opinion piece by Bob Herbert in the February 16, 2006 edition of The New York Times entitled "Mr. Vice President, It's Time to Go."

Anyone who has been a long-time reader of Mr. Herbert's columns in the Times as I have knows Mr. Herbert has deplored the unshared sacrifice of this war, the fact that it is one small percentage of the people of this country who bear the burden of the war. He has been consistent in his criticism of the hubris of this administration and the secrecy surrounding everything it does. This is the most secretive administration in the Nation's history. Mr. CHENEY is if not the designer of this secrecy policy, is certainly the most prominent member of the administration using the policy which he clearly believes allows him to keep secrets not only from the Congress, but also from the President.

Before the hunting incident now before the public's very interested eye, there are many

examples of Mr. CHENEY's policy of not telling anyone anything. Going as far back as Mr. CHENEY's meetings with the Energy mogul's who helped him shape this country's lopsided energy policies in which Exxon Mobile posted the greatest profits ever made in the history of this country last year when energy prices were so high some of America's poor have to depend on the charity of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela to make it through the winter.

Mr. CHENEY is so secretive he implemented and managed a system of CIA prisons and torture cites in Europe called "black sites" which violated not only our laws and treaties but those of the European Union. And practically no one in the Congress of the United States knew anything about these prisons until the Washington Post disclosed their existence.

Mr. I. "Scooter" Libby just disclosed his perjury trial that Mr. CHENEY gave him classified information to give to the press. That was classified information about an undercover secret service agent, Valerie Plame.

Since the Congress and the public know only egregious examples of what exposures by whistles blowers and the press has made in the interest of the public's greater good, we, the American people, know nothing of the Vice President's doings of the last 6 years. That is a scary thought.

This hunting accident, in which Mr. CHENEY defied all White House protocol by not informing the President, the White House Press Office, the Police or Sheriff until at least 24 hours after the shooting, has reinforced the opinion that Mr. CHENEY is out of control. That is, he is above the law, rules and regulations of ordinary mortals. He doesn't even have to do what the President wants him to do. He isn't just above the law; he is the law.

The story had many conflicting versions as they were told by the owner of the ranch, the doctors treating the shooting victim, Scott McClelland and finally, CHENEY himself. This has opened the White House to increasingly hard questions about the inconsistencies in these stories. The White House can't reconcile these differences because, it appears, Mr. CHENEY feels he doesn't have to explain anything to the President or the White House Press Secretary. Mr. CHENEY is an official who works for the people of the United States. But don't try to tell him that. It doesn't fit with his view of himself or the way he carries out his office of Vice President.

Mr. Herbert points out in his op-ed piece: "The shooting and Mr. Cheney's high-handed behavior in its immediate aftermath fit perfectly with the stereotype of him as a powerful but dangerous figure who is viewed by many as a dark force within the administration. He doesn't even give lip service to the idea of transparency in his private or public life . . ."

DICK CHENEY is a constant reminder of those things the White House would like most to forget: the bullying, the intelligence failures, the inability to pacify Iraq (Mr. CHENEY told Tim Russert: "I really do believe, that we will be greeted as liberators," he said) the misuse of classified information and the breathtaking incompetence that spread through the administration.

I agree with Mr. Herbert's conclusion: "Mr. Cheney would do his nation and his president a service by packing his bags and heading back to Wyoming. He's become a joke. But not a funny one."

[From the New York Times, Feb. 16, 2006]

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, IT'S TIME TO GO

(By Bob Herbert)

It's time for Dick Cheney to step down—for the sake of the country and for the sake of the Bush administration.

Mr. Cheney's bumbling conduct at the upscale Armstrong Ranch in South Texas seemed hilarious at first. But when we learned that Harry Whittington had suffered a mild heart attack after being shot by the vice president in a hunting accident, it became clear that a more sober assessment of the fiasco at the ranch and, inevitably, Mr. Cheney's controversial and even bizarre behavior as vice president was in order.

There's a reason Dick Cheney is obsessive about shunning the spotlight. His record is not the kind you want to hold up for intense scrutiny.

More than anyone else, he was fanatical about massaging and distorting the intelligence that plunged us into the flaming quagmire of Iraq. He insisted that Saddam Hussein had chemical and biological weapons and was hot on the trail of nukes. He pounded away at the false suggestion that Iraq was somehow linked to Al Qaeda. And he spread the word that the war he wanted so badly would be a cakewalk.

"I really do believe," he told Tim Russert, "that we will be greeted as liberators."

Well, he got his war. And while the nation's brave young soldiers and marines were bouncing around Iraq in shamefully vulnerable Humvees and other vehicles, dodging bullets, bombs and improvised explosive devices, Mr. Cheney (a gold-medal winner in the acquisition of wartime deferments) felt perfectly comfortable packing his fancy 28-gauge Perazzi shotgun and heading off to Texas with a covey of fat cats to shoot quail.

Matters went haywire, of course, when he shot Mr. Whittington instead.

That was the moment when the legend of the tough, hawkish, take-no-prisoners vice president began morphing into the less-than-heroic image of a reckless, scowling incompetent who mistook his buddy for a bird.

This story is never going away. Harry Whittington is Dick Cheney's Monica. When Mr. Whittington dies (hopefully many years from now, and from natural causes), he will be remembered as the hunting companion who was shot by the vice president of the United States. This tale will stick to Mr. Cheney like Crazy Glue, and that's bad news for the Bush administration.

The shooting and Mr. Cheney's highhanded behavior in its immediate aftermath fit perfectly with the stereotype of him as a powerful but dangerous figure who is viewed by many as a dark force within the administration. He doesn't even give lip service to the idea of transparency in his public or private life. This is the man who fought all the way to the Supreme Court to keep his White House meetings with energy industry honchos as secret as the Manhattan Project. (Along the way he went duck hunting at a private camp in rural Louisiana with Justice Antonin Scalia.)

This is also the man whose closest and most trusted aide, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, has been indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice as a result of the investigation into the outing of a C.I.A. undercover operative, Valerie Wilson.

Mr. Cheney is arrogant, defiant and at times blatantly vulgar. He once told Senator Patrick Leahy to perform a crude act upon himself.

A vice president who insists on writing his own rules, who shudders at the very idea of transparency in government, whose judgment on crucial policy issues has been as wildly off the mark (and infinitely more

tragic) as his actions in Texas over the weekend, and who has now become an object of relentless ridicule, cannot by any reasonable measure be thought of as an asset to the nation or to the president he serves.

The Bush administration would benefit from new thinking and new perspectives on the war in Iraq, the potential threat from Iran, the nation's readiness to cope with another terror attack, the development of a comprehensive energy policy and other important issues.

President Bush's approval ratings have dropped below 40 percent in recent polls. Even Republicans are openly criticizing the administration's conduct of the war, its response to Hurricane Katrina and assorted other failures and debacles.

Dick Cheney is a constant reminder of those things the White House would most like to forget: the bullying, the intelligence failures, the inability to pacify Iraq, the misuse of classified information and the breathtaking incompetence that seems to be spread throughout the administration.

Mr. Cheney would do his nation and his president a service by packing his bags and heading back to Wyoming. He's become a joke. But not a funny one.

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTEN-
NIAL OF THE SAN MATEO SHER-
IFF'S OFFICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department on their Sesquicentennial Anniversary. The Department is the oldest and largest law enforcement agency in San Mateo County, California, located in my Congressional District.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Department history begins with the formation of the County of San Mateo in 1856. Residents of the Peninsula watched as John W. Ackerson was sworn in as the first sheriff of San Mateo County. He had three total staff members, an Undersheriff, bailiff of the Courts and a jailer. There weren't even patrol duties for the office.

Mr. Speaker, today, from those humble beginnings, the San Mateo Sheriff's Office has grown to a force of 450 officers and is responsible for everything from patrolling the county to running the courts and the correctional facilities. They have exemplary task forces, specializing in narcotics, regional terrorist threat assessment and emergency services among others. Today, the Sheriff's Office is still the Chief Law Enforcement Agency of the County of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, since 1993 the Sheriff's Office has been most ably led by Sheriff Don Horsley. In fact, Sheriff Horsley picked out the badge marking the 150th anniversary of the Sheriff's Office. The commemorative badge replicates the Old West style that Sheriff Ackerson would have worn. I dearly appreciate their extraordinary service that they provide to the County and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the San Mateo Sheriff's Office for the honorable duty they have performed for the last 150 years.