

TRIBUTE TO THE GOODYEAR
BLIMPS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and its Goodyear blimps, which are celebrating their 80th anniversary as international symbols of American culture and innovation.

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, headquartered in Akron, Ohio for over a century, launched the first Goodyear blimp, the Pilgrim, in 1925. Since then, the company has built more than 300 of these graceful aerial giants, including numerous airships in a partnership endeavor with the U.S. Government to assist in military surveillance activities.

Although Americans are probably most familiar with seeing the Goodyear blimps at sporting events, during World War II, the Goodyear blimps protected American ships and armed forces while escorting convoys and task forces across the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, the Goodyear blimps support national and local charities every year, helping secure millions of dollars in donations. Perhaps even more important, the Goodyear blimps help federal and state emergency service agencies and victims of national disasters.

For all of the above, and in many thanks to a distinguished American manufacturer, I am proud and honored to recognize the extraordinary contributions Goodyear blimps have made to our nation.

AMEND THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 1961

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to limit the provisions of the United States military assistance and the sale, transfer or licensing of United States military equipment or technology to Ethiopia.

The bill requires that before the United States provides military equipment to the regime in Addis Ababa that our President certifies that the Government of Ethiopia is not using our equipment or assistance against pro-democracy advocates or peaceful civilian protesters in Ethiopia. Is that too much to ask?

It is an outrage that in Ethiopia that over 80 opposition leaders and human rights activists and journalists have been recently charged with treason, violent conspiracy and genocide. These prisoners of conscience face brutal captivity and the possibility of death sentences. They include 10 newly elected members of the Parliament and other officials of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party, also known as the CUD.

These brave souls face charges filed against them by a corrupt and repressive government. This same government blatantly stalled the last election, making a sham out of the democratic process. Five of those being charged with criminal behavior work for the

Voice of America. One of those being held is Dr. Berhanu Nega. He is mayor of Ethiopia's largest city and has lived, studied and taught in America. Dr. Nega is an advocate of democracy. He faces the death penalty for his involvement in mass protests over the election fraud that took place in Ethiopia during their last election.

Now, in January, the British Government cut the equivalent of \$88 million in aid in support to Ethiopia. This was due to its concerns about the governance and human rights issues arising from this disputed election. Other international donors have taken similar measures.

My legislation requires certification by the President of the United States that our military equipment provided to Ethiopia is not being used to beat down those who would bring honest and democratic government to that troubled land. In Ethiopia, it is incumbent upon us as Americans to be on the side of those struggling for honest and democratic government, not on the side of their oppressor.

No pragmatic strategy can justify the United States backing a regime that stole the last election and has brutalized their own people and will, at some point, disintegrate from its own corruption and incompetent ways. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and supporting the democratic movement in Ethiopia, just as we did with a similar movement in Ukraine just two short years ago and in other countries throughout the world where the future was in play and human freedom was in the balance.

That is what being an elected representative of the American people is all about, standing for our ideals and our principles. And nowhere could that be made more clear than to stand with the people of Ethiopia, who are struggling to make a democratic government, to form a democratic government, and to have honest government and the recognition and respect for people's rights within their own country.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK CASHDAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Patrick Cashdan, a young resident of the San Fernando Valley that recently became the high school winner of the 2006 USA Today National Sportsmanship Day Essay Contest.

The Sixteenth Annual National Sportsmanship Day was held across the United States and in over 100 countries around the world on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, by the Institute for International Sports. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about issues related to sportsmanship and ethics in athletics and daily life. The essay competition is in its twelfth year and receives thousands of essays from elementary, middle, high school, and college students on the topic of ethics and sportsmanship in sports. Patrick is the 2006 winner in the high school category for his essay on the need to resurrect sportsmanship.

My. Speaker, Patrick is a junior at Chaminade College Preparatory High School in West Hills, California. He is a varsity wrestler and lacrosse player, and understands the

importance of sportsmanship and the difficulties encountered by young athletes who must face peer pressure to excel and win. While most children, of course, want to impress their friends and parents with their athletic abilities, Patrick understands that winning at all cost is not what is important. He believes and competes with the knowledge that one can play their very best while also being committed to being a good sport. Patrick has the strong support of his father, Daniel, and mother, Allisyn, who raised him to play fair—to understand that it is most important to do your best and enjoy yourself. Patrick also has two younger brothers, Christopher and Daniel, and has shared with them the value of good sportsmanship.

Patrick plans to attend college next year and is interested in United States history. He plans to continue playing sports and hopes to spread the value of sportsmanship to his fellow teammates.

My. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Patrick Cashdan as the high school winner of the 2006 USA Today National Sportsmanship Day Essay Contest, and as an inspiration to all sports fans. I ask that his essay on sportsmanship be included in the RECORD.

High school winner: Patrick Cashdan, age 17, junior at Chaminade College Preparatory High School, West Hills, Calif.

Sportsmanship is dead. However, it has died many times in history. For instance, it was buried the moment a Major League Baseball player purposely spiked the other team while stealing a base. In all sports both sides have to shake each other's hand and wish each other good luck, but how sincere are they? True sportsmen show grace and poise throughout their lives as athletes and role models, regardless of the game's outcome. There are many contributors to the death of sportsmanship, including the media, the over inflation of sports stars' egos, and most surprisingly, parents.

Unlike the Medieval Ages where opposing soldiers would greet each other on the battlefield and "embrace them with a soldier's arm" (Henry IV, Shakespeare), today's competitors only care about personal gain and fame. The modern media tries to find out everything about celebrities, including professional athletes, and when an athlete is caught doing something wrong, the attention makes him or her even more famous. This portrayal, even though it's bad, is addictive to a celebrity and only inflates an athlete's ego.

Such attention causes professional athletes to act childishly. Athletes consistently show vulgar and immature displays of unsportsmanlike activity. Fights with fans, alleged illegal drug use, and extra-marital affairs should not be the factors that define a great sportsman. Such athletes care only about money and fame rather than the love of the game. Their examples thus get passed on to the children of today showing that it is ok to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Perhaps the final nail in the casket for the death of sportsmanship starts when we are children. A parent is the first coach of life and young athletes get over-influenced by them. As a varsity wrestler, baseball and lacrosse player, I see first-hand how a parent causes unsportsmanlike conduct. The young athletes would do anything in their power to impress their parents or "make them proud" even if it means cheating or hurting themselves or their opponent. Recently, at a wrestling tournament during the match, a parent was yelling to his son to "club", or illegally hit, his opponent's head. So, the son did what his father told him to do. Believe it or not,