

he won! He was cited for unsportsmanlike behavior and advanced. His father was very proud. As a witness, it was very upsetting to see such unsportsmanlike conduct being taught by a parent, and ultimately being rewarded.

It is unfortunate that there is not much sportsmanship seen anymore today. How did the idea of winning or losing gracefully leave our society? We need to resurrect it by taking out the media. This would make most of our role models act more maturely and less egotistically, and would make parents stop putting too much pressure on their kids to win at all costs. Sportsmanship needs to be brought back into our lives for all of humanity's sake.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes 19 through 38. Due to an emergency appendectomy I was unable to be present for votes the week of March 6th. I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted on rollcall 19 (H.R. 4054 Designating the Dewey Bartlett Post Office), "aye"; rollcall 20 (S. 2771—Reauthorization of the Patriot Act), "no"; rollcall 21 (Previous Question to H.R. Res 710 Providing for Consideration of the Food Uniformity Bill), "no"; rollcall 22 (Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 2830), "aye"; rollcall 23 (H.R. 4192 designating Hope Arkansas as the President Clinton Birthplace), "yea"; rollcall 24 (H.R. 1053 Extending Normal Trade Relations to the Ukraine), "aye"; rollcall 25 (H. Res. 673 Expressing Support for the People of Belarus to Establish a Full Democracy), "aye"; rollcall 26 (H.R. 3505 to Provide Regulatory Relief for Insured Depository Institutions), "aye"; rollcall 27 (Cardoza Amendment to H.R. 4167—To Amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to Provide for Uniform Food Safety Warnings), "aye"; rollcall 28 (Waxman Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 29 (Capps Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 30 (Wasserman Shultz Amendment to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 31 (Stupak Motion to Recommit to H.R. 4167), "aye"; rollcall 32 (Final Passage of H.R. 4167), "no"; rollcall 33 (Previous Question of H.R. 2829 Reauthorize the National Drug Control Policy Act), "no"; rollcall 34 (Chabot Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 35 (Hooley Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 36 (Paul Amendment to H.R. 2829), "no"; rollcall 37 (Rehberg Amendment to H.R. 2829), "aye"; rollcall 38 (Final Passage of H.R. 2829), "aye".

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it was one year ago today—March 14, 2005—

that the House gave final approval to the formation of the House Democracy Assistance Commission. Today I am pleased to report that the HDAC, which is chaired by Rep. DAVID DREIER and on which I serve as ranking member, is off to an energetic and encouraging start.

My hope in first proposing creation of the Commission in the 108th Congress was to build upon and extend the pioneering work of the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which in the early 1990s extended support to the emerging democratic parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe. Those hopes began to be realized as Speaker HASTERT got behind the idea, the authorizing resolution was refined and passed, and both Speaker Hastert and Leader Pelosi appointed serious, committed Members to carry out the work of the Commission.

During calendar year 2005, the Commission entered into agreements with five parliaments around the world to provide material, technical, and procedural assistance to members of Parliament as they learn how to govern their nations responsibly, effectively, and—in many cases for the first time ever—democratically. The Commission has now, begun its work with these nations: East Timor, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, and Macedonia.

Our relationship with these countries will continue, hopefully over the course of several years. At the same time, the Commission will be undertaking programs with a new round of emerging democratic parliaments in 2006. We hope to continue to support our country's ideals and interests in key nations around the world through our assistance.

While our program is still in its early stages, we have already seen clear evidence of the impact it can have. Last month, the Commission's first delegation of members of Congress traveled to Indonesia and East Timor and began to train members of those nations' parliaments. I want to especially thank the members of this delegation—Rep. Jim KOLBE, Rep. LOIS CAPPs, Rep. ADAM SCHIFF, and Rep. ALLYSON SCHWARTZ—who I understand were greeted with warm welcomes and rapt attention in both countries. While in East Timor, this delegation announced that the House Democracy Assistance Commission would be helping East Timor build a parliamentary library from the ground up, no small accomplishment in a nation with extremely limited resources. Our Commission's work goes far beyond building physical structures, however; we are helping to build the foundations of effective and lasting democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the House Democracy Assistance Commission is an all-too-rare example of sincere bipartisan cooperation, Chairman DREIER, who chairs our commission, has helped us carry out our work with no considerations other than the best interests of the House, the United States, and our partner parliaments. Under his leadership, our Commission's 16 members have been able to demonstrate to our partners our deeply-felt, shared respect for and admiration of American democracy and the esteemed institution of the House of Representatives. We also owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Commission's Staff Director, John Lis, whose energy and vision have helped us launch the Commission in such a promising way.

Every day, members of Congress are called upon to assess and oversee our Nation's policies toward developing democracies around

the world. The House Democracy Assistance Commission offers the House an opportunity to directly contribute to the sustainability and effectiveness of these democracies. We are working to establish democracy not just in name but also in practice, training our partners in the nuts and bolts of democratic government. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no more important work for ensuring our national security and maintaining our role as leader of the free world. I thank you and I thank my colleagues for your support, and I look forward to continuing our work.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ENGINEER'S WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Engineer's Week and the fact that we are recognizing the importance of engineering in our lives. Too often we forget that engineering gives us our Blackberries, computers, cell phones, Ipods, pagers, high definition televisions, remote controls, and many other conveniences of modern living. For example, a Ford Taurus has 120 computer chips in it, giving the Ford Taurus more computing power than the Apollo lunar excursion modules.

I often speak of "good old American know-how", the ingenuity that created innovations which propelled our Nation to the superpower status we enjoy today. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we cannot grow complacent—innovation is slowing down, the innovation landscape is changing, and others are trying to take the gauntlet from us as I stand here now. We will not remain the leader of technological innovation in the world if we do not act. Resting on our laurels is not an option. We have done that long enough.

We must lead the Nation forward into the cultural shift required for our continued technological dominance. Every action that we take in this chamber sends a message to the world. Will we send the message that the United States understands the acceleration of technology through engineering and that these technologies will fundamentally change the structure of society and challenge the vision that we have of the future? Will we embrace the challenges that are before us as the global economy unfolds and we strive to find our role in it?

As we celebrate National Engineer's Week, we recognize the abilities that engineers have to translate scientific knowledge into innovative technologies which fulfill the needs and desires of society. By taking time on the floor of the House of Representatives to give commendation to engineering and National Engineer's Week, we are telling the Nation that engineering IS important to our future. However, celebrating engineering is not enough. We must focus resources and increase funding into research and development. Without a strong foundation in basic research and development, engineering loses the source of knowledge which feeds the engineering innovation pipeline.

Innovation spurs from creative thinking, and engineering benefits from the highly trained