

Mr. Speaker, we would be remiss if we did not take this time to honor his service, remember his sacrifice, and mourn his passing.

TRIBUTE TO CINCO DE MAYO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mexican patriots who gave their lives to fight valiantly and successfully against an overwhelming French Army on May 5, 1862.

This is the week of Cinco de Mayo, a time to celebrate the courage and bravery of Mexican Americans and of all those who have fought for the freedoms of self-governance.

By celebrating Cinco de Mayo we honor the history of democracy in North America and remind ourselves that though our nation is made up of many diverse people and cultures, we all share a commitment to democratic freedom.

Last year this House passed Concurrent Resolution 44, a bill that recognizes the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

Today, along with the other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I have called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to take up this resolution and pass it.

Many celebrate this day with festivals, singing, and dancing. But this day is more than a party. It is a celebration of cultural pride and the respect for the rights of all people. And the Senate should celebrate this day by passing H. Con. Res. 44.

HONORING SMURFIT-STONE'S
SAFETY RECORD OF ONE MIL-
LION WORK HOURS WITH NO IN-
JURIES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill for achieving the admirable safety record of one million work hours without a recordable injury of any kind.

The Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill is an economically vital contributor to both the city of Brewton, and the state of Alabama. They are also the largest producer of containerboard products in North America with 18 mills. The mill has been in operation since 1957, and employs 583 people.

Smurfit Stone is the industry's leading integrated manufacturer of paper-based packaging products. However, it is only when a manufacturer provides a safe work environment for its employees that the company becomes the corporate neighbor that we all admire and respect. This is only the fourth time this milestone has been reached by paper mills in North America.

It is my sincere hope that the Smurfit-Stone Containerboard Mill will continue to set highly commendable examples for others in their industry, and I rise today to congratulate the employees and managers for the contributions

they have made toward the betterment of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALTIMORE BASILICA

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of America's first cathedral, the historic and beautiful Baltimore Basilica. Officially known as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this magnificent cathedral, built from 1806 to 1821, stands as a symbol of the beginning of the Catholic Church in America, and the religious freedoms embodied in our Constitution.

For over a century until the Revolutionary War, Catholics in America were a devoted but persecuted minority. After the Constitution was adopted, the Catholic Church embarked on the construction of a cathedral to celebrate their faith and their new-found right to worship freely.

Under the guidance of the future first archbishop of America, John Carroll, a hill above the Baltimore Inner Harbor was selected in 1806 as the site for the cathedral. After hearing about the proposed church, Benjamin Harry Latrobe volunteered his services as chief architect. Latrobe, the architect of the United States Capitol, is considered the father of American architecture and is responsible for what is now considered one of the world's most impressive buildings of the 19th century.

In addition to its structural magnificence, the cathedral has fulfilled its place as one of the most historically significant churches in the world. Two-thirds of all American Catholic dioceses can claim their roots at the Baltimore Basilica, and three Plenary Councils guiding the Catholic Church's role in the expanding United States were held within its walls. The Basilica continued to embrace progressive ideals throughout the years by, for example, including the first order of African-American nuns in its convent.

As we do today, the Baltimore Basilica has been honored on many occasions for its greatness. In 1937, Pope Pius XI raised the cathedral to the rank of a Minor Basilica. In 1972 it was declared a National Landmark and then in 1993 a National Shrine. The Basilica has also been greatly honored by the visits of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1995 and Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, for the past two centuries, the Baltimore Basilica has stood as a beacon of hope and religious freedom. An architectural masterpiece built by two great visionaries, the Basilica continues to be "a shining citadel" of faith and hope for Maryland and the United States.

HONORING CHERYL NIX, SOUTH BEND SCHOOL CORPORATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Cheryl Nix who was recently honored as the South Bend School Corporation's Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl is a math teacher at LaSalle Intermediate Academy in South Bend, Indiana and has been a teacher in South Bend for 29 years. She began her teaching career in 1976 at Monroe Primary School in South Bend teaching deaf and hearing-impaired children. She has been married 26 years and, in addition to teaching her students, she also has a full-time teaching job as a mother of two children.

Her 29 years of dedication and excellence in one of our Nation's most important professions deserves our honor and our respect. We don't spend enough time highlighting the great things that are happening every day in our schools.

It has been said many times, and will always be true, that our children are our future. Their education is the key to making sure that they have the proper tools to succeed when it is their turn to steer the ship of this Nation. As long as teachers such as Cheryl Nix are entrusted with that responsibility, I have confidence that our future as a Nation will be bright.

PATARA: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 1800 YEARS AND 7000 MILES AWAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the city of Patara in Turkey sports a fantastic beach that sprawls for more than 11 miles. It recently rated number one, on the London Sunday Times' list of the world's best beaches. But Patara is worth our attention for more than sand and surf. An archeological team led by Akdeniz University Professors Fahri Isik and Havva Iskan Isik recently unearthed an ancient parliament building in Patara—the meeting place of the first federal republic in recorded human history. The building, called the Bouletarion, housed at least twenty-three city-states of the Lycian League, which existed along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey from about 167 BC until 400 AD.

The Lycian League's republican governing system, utilizing proportional representation, was unparalleled in the ancient world, and fascinated the pioneering intellectuals of the Enlightenment, particularly Montesquieu. Depending on the size of the member cities, each elected one, two or three representatives to the Lycian parliament. When cities were too small, two or three banded together to share one representative vote. The six largest cities in the League had the right to three votes. The parliament elected a president, called the "Lycearch," which at various times served as

the League's religious, military, and political leader. Although it is contested, there is evidence to suggest that women could be and in fact were Lycearch.

In Book IX of Montesquieu's *Spirit of the Law*, after charting the highs and lows of the earliest republics, he stresses the utility of a confederacy. He cites the Lycian League as an example: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Montesquieu's interest in the Lycian way of government would prove central to our founding. Thanks to his writings, in the debates about our own Constitution, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

As well, in literal linkage, the semi-circular configuration of seats in this House of Representatives is exactly the same seating arrangement as in the Bouletarion in Patara. The Bouletarion's throne-like perch, where the elected Lycearch sat, is much the same as the seat of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On June 30, 1787, at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, James Madison appealed to the delegates' understanding of the Lycian League. The Convention had just rejected the "New Jersey Plan", which called for a rather modest revision of our nation's first constitutional framework, the failed Articles of Confederation. The delegates resolved to come up with a new constitution, but had few notions in common of how it should proceed.

A delegate from Connecticut, Oliver Ellsworth, had just finished arguing for the Articles of Confederation's principle that every state should be equal in the national arena. He specifically asked, "Where is or was a confederation ever formed, where equality of voices was not a fundamental principle?"

James Madison replied that the Lycian League was different, according representation in reflection of actual size. His Virginia plan provided for a bicameral legislature, with both houses' representation based on states' population. He eventually had to accept a compromise, with a people's house of proportional representation, our House of Representatives, in tandem with a Senate of equal state representation.

Hamilton and Madison also cited the Lycian League in defense of representative democracy. While direct rule usually resulted in either tyranny or anarchy, the two founders felt that delegation of authority to elected representatives would allow the government to function properly.

In addition, the Lycian League was used in defense of individual rights and a strong national government, two notions the original Articles of Confederation conspicuously avoided. In Federalist number 15, Hamilton called the Articles' avoidance of individual rights in favor of state rights the "radical vice" of our nation's first governing system.

The ideas and debates of our founding fathers may seem archaic to our modern times, but we face questions of federalism every day in this Congress. A federalist system of government divides power between a central authority (the federal government) and constituent political units (the states and local-

ities). The delineation of that power comes into question particularly often on the Energy & Commerce Committee, of which I am a Subcommittee Chairman, whether we are debating the proper authority over electricity transmission across state lines, the regulation of hazardous waste, or the transmission of information through our telecommunications infrastructure.

Meanwhile, whether we are helping Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries develop representative democratic systems, or providing advice to the burgeoning democracies of post-Soviet Eastern Europe, we effectively reenact the Constitutional Convention's debates about the Lycian League and the nature of democracy around the world. We are doing what we can to help spread freedom and democracy, in our own image. Unfortunately, while it is relatively easy to conceive of the best model of government—as our founding fathers did, and Montesquieu did before them—the diversity of the real world, in geography, ethnicity, religion, and history, makes applying that best model quite difficult in practice.

The British archeologist George Bean highlighted some of the unique features of the Lycian League—features not dissimilar to our own country's: "Among the various races of Anatolia, the Lycians always held a distinctive place. Locked away in their mountainous country, they had a fierce love of freedom and independence, and resisted strongly all attempts at outside domination; they were the last in Asia Minor to be incorporated as a province into the Roman Empire."

Our experience so far in guiding the nascent democracy in Iraq should certainly illustrate that representative democracy may not be perfectly replicable, at least overnight.

Fifteen years ago, all a visitor to Patara would have noticed were the tops of a few old stones. Today, the excavations at Patara have unearthed the remains of an entire city. The archeological team has rescued numerous buildings and items from the sand and scrub brush, besides the Bouletarion parliament building, including: a large necropolis; a Roman bath; a sizeable semicircular theater; a sprawling main avenue leading to the market square; a Byzantine basilica (one of 22 churches once packed into Patara); one of the world's oldest lighthouses; and a fortified wall.

I would encourage everyone to visit Patara, for its beauty and for its archeological significance. The excavation site is 10–15 minutes from the glorious beach, and will be opened to the public in 2007. While we wait, one of Turkey's largest museums, the Antalya Archaeological Museum, displays many of the finds from Patara and the surrounding area.

We owe a great debt to Turkey's Ministry of Culture and the Akdeniz University in Antalya for their dedication of time and money to bringing the ancient ruins of Patara out of the dust and back into our lives.

In closing, I would like to thank: Dr. Gul Isin, Associated Professor of Archeology at Akdeniz Antalya in Turkey, who has been diligently working with Dr. Fahri Isik and Dr. Havva Iskan Isik to uncover the mysteries of the Patara site; Professor James W. Muller of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, who dissected how the Lycian League impacted the founding fathers; and the American Friends of Turkey, the Friends of Patara, and former Representatives Stephen Solarz and Robert Livingston, who graciously introduced me to

the archeological findings at Patara, and the important work of Professors Isin and Miller.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPRESS CARRIER FAIRNESS ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in late 1996, a rider was included in the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization that erodes the rights of American workers. Without even holding hearings on the matter, a single company was able to insert language in a conference report to make it harder for its workers to exercise their right to organize. Specifically, Federal Express wanted to prevent its truckers in Pennsylvania from organizing.

This goes beyond any special interest giveaway, to a major erosion of collective bargaining rights. Congress passed a specific provision in an airways bill to prevent a specific unit of truckers from organizing. The right to organize, to freely associate, is a fundamental, internationally recognized human right. There is an assault on the working class in this country; one that aims to curtail the right to collectively bargain whenever possible. This rider was one such blow to workers.

Prior to the passage of that amendment, truckers at Federal Express were allowed to organize under the rules of the National Labor Relations Act NLRA, and the airline component of the company was covered by the Railway Labor Act RLA. The main difference between the guidelines under these different laws is that the NLRA allows workers to organize in local bargaining units. The RLA, however, would require that the bargaining unit be nationwide, making it much more difficult for workers to communicate with each other enough to form a union.

The bill I introduce today modifies the "express carrier" language in the RLA so that there is consistency in the industry. Specifically, this bill provides that only the employees of an express carrier involved with the aircraft—the airman, aircraft maintenance technicians and airline dispatchers—would have to comply with the RLA. It would be consistent to allow those workers who are directly involved with the air cargo operation of such a company to be treated like their counterparts in the air carrier business. The remaining and likely larger portion of the workforce in such a company would then fall under the jurisdiction of the NLRA with their peers in the rest of their industry.

We need to have standards that are fair. Some employers are trying to do the right thing for workers. They should still be competitive in the industry. There are many ways employers can tilt the playing field, but in such a competitive marketplace, federal law should not be manipulated to provide special favors for employers seeking to deny workers' rights.

Workers must be able to work together to raise their standards of living. That means the ability to decide for themselves whether or not they want to collectively bargain. It is only fair for us to conclude that people doing similar work should be governed under the same federal laws.