

in the Asia-Pacific region. Today, Taiwan's relations with the People's Republic of China have expanded—particularly through direct flights and expanded tourism and investment. Moreover, the Taiwanese economy continues to see steady rises in its Gross Domestic Product, GDP, trade surplus, and foreign reserves that show the benefits of embracing democracy and a market-based economic system.

As we approach Taiwan's National Day, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Taiwan for its friendship and wishing the Taiwanese people continued prosperity and success.

HONORING ALVINA ELIZABETH
SCHWAB PETTIGREW

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take this opportunity to honor the service of Alvina Elizabeth Schwab Pettigrew as a member of the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service, WAVES, during World War II.

Born on a farm in Mina, South Dakota, Pettigrew is a true American hero who greatly contributed in the effort to end the war. In October of 1942, Pettigrew joined more than 600 women from across the United States and enlisted in the WAVES.

The WAVES reported to the Naval Communications Annex in Washington DC at the height of World War II. They were given the top secret operation of cracking the Germans' complex codes that were used to radio instructions from German headquarters to the submarines that were sinking United States ships. This operation was so secretive that the women were warned that they could be shot for treason if they ever revealed their activities. Pettigrew and her fellow WAVES saved the lives of countless sailors by working around the clock to decipher German code until the end of World War II.

To honor the WAVES' service to the United States of America, the Cathedral Heights neighborhood of Washington, DC will include, as part of a public arts project to restore turn-of-the-century "call boxes," Pettigrew's portrait and a description of the WAVES' secret operation that was conducted less than 200 yards away in the Navy Annex. It will be an everlasting tribute to their effort to end the war.

Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of Pettigrew's service and that of all WAVES. I join with all Members of the House of Representatives and South Dakotans in expressing my gratitude for their commitment to serving and protecting our Nation. They will never be forgotten.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ROLL
CALL 814 MEETING TO CONSIDER
FINAL REPORT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, this is being a long and, at times, tedious, but productive process.

When we began last September, I said that I hoped our efforts would be "truly bipartisan, and conducted in as . . . open a manner as possible." The committee's transparency and level of collaboration had to reflect the deep commitment to this institution held by the individual members of this select committee. I believe we have stayed true to that goal, and have demonstrated, throughout the past year, that bipartisanship does exist, and more importantly, can work.

Norm Ornstein—an American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar, and a Roll Call contributing writer—is someone I hold in high regard. In May, he reflected on the rancor and partisanship that had taken hold of the House, and in so doing, referenced our Committee. He wrote:

This week, indeed this whole month, will be a key test in whether the political process in Washington can rise above the dysfunction [and partisanship] that has been the norm . . .

He went on to say,

That dynamic appears to be gelling on another front with the emergence of public hearings on the "stolen vote" from August of last year . . . It appears, though, that instead of a long deliberative process creating a greater understanding of the insensitivities and failings of both the majority and the minority, and a determination on both sides to do better, the result will be another wedge issue driving more distrust and hostility between the parties.

I have long regarded him and his work with tremendous respect, for its insight and accuracy. However, I believe I can say that in this case, he was wrong, and we exceeded expectations. Against the apparent odds, we will be adopting, at the conclusion of this meeting, a single, bipartisan report of which I believe we can all be proud.

I must recognize and commend the Committee members, who are not just my colleagues, but are my friends, and with whom it has truly been an honor to serve. MIKE PENCE, the Ranking Member, has throughout this entire task brought a spirit of comity, collegiality and a genuine love of the institution; STEVE LATOURETTE and KENNY HULSHOF with whom I've worked before and whose integrity and familiarity with the issues before us served the committee well. Of course, my Democratic colleagues: ARTUR DAVIS, who took on the burden of serving as Vice-Chair, and thereby, a lead role in the investigation; and STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, who, as usual, brought adeptness, civility and focus to our work.

I also want to thank a number of other individuals for their critical guidance and assistance. Former House Parliamentarian Charlie Johnson, whose infinite wisdom on these matters provided a foundation for the committee's work, and whose continued consultation on the recommendations allowed us to submit a product that truly serves the institution. In ad-

dition, I want to thank Judy Schneider and Mike Koempel of CRS for their hours of assistance on our interim report, which charted the course of our investigation, and their invaluable support throughout.

In addition, we would not have been able to conduct an appropriately thorough investigation without the assistance and cooperation from the Clerk of the House, Lorraine Miller, and her staff; House Parliamentarian John Sullivan, and his staff; and the various leadership staff. They provided their time and effort without hesitation, and for that, we want to acknowledge and thank them.

The assistance provided by our outside counsel—King and Spalding's Tom Spulak and George Crawford on the Democratic side, and Dickstein Shapiro's Mark Paoletta and Andrew Snowden, was exceptional. Each one of them has a long career of service to this House, and I am thankful that once again, the House received the benefit of their knowledge and dedication.

Lastly, I must praise the diligence and collaboration of the committee's professional staff. They dedicated the time and effort to see this effort through, while still carrying out their existing responsibilities in their primary offices. Mr. DAVIS' legislative counsel, Chanelle Hardy; Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN's Deputy Chief of Staff, Russ Levens; Mr. LATOURETTE's Chief of Staff, Joe Guzzo, and Mr. HULSHOF's Chief of Staff, Eric Rasmussen, and now Aaron Smith. I especially want to thank my legislative counsel, Davida Walsh, and MIKE PENCE's counsel, Josh Pitcock, who assumed the respective roles of Democratic and Republican staff director. I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to the committee's Democratic and Republican General Counsels, Muftiah McCartin and Hugh Halpern—from the House Rules Committee. They have been tireless in every capacity, and their extensive expertise has been invaluable.

Turning to the report, I believe it speaks for itself. What you will see when you read it—and we are suggesting that it be required reading for the entire Membership—JOKING—is that Roll Call 814 arose out of a confluence of factors that I will not repeat now—but that it was a "perfect storm," if you will.

I believe that the core recommendation is the repeal of the new House rule added to clause 2(a) of rule XX at the beginning of the 110th Congress. For those who are unfamiliar, it is a single sentence that reads "a record vote by electronic device shall not be held open for the sole purpose of reversing the outcome of such vote." As I have said before—I thought it sounded good at the time, so I'm saying it again—it is "a rule that was enacted with a noble intent to curb other perceived abuses, but a rule that is, at best, difficult to enforce, and at worst, the catalyst for the raw anger that we observed on August 2nd."

It is unworkable because, in the words of Mr. Johnson, "others can claim to know because they have seen pressure brought to bear externally, but it is the Chair's intent as discerned by the Chair at the moment in time as the vote is being kept open," that is dispositive. Furthermore, it would be "inappropriate to require the Chair to declare a reason for delaying a vote. However, without such a declaration, it would be virtually impossible to find a violation of the rule.

Worse than its impracticality, however, is the corrosive incentive the rule creates for the