

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly missed the vote on rollcall No. 162: On passage of H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 125, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 987. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 126: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1217. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 127: On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1284. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO STUDENT ATHLETES

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some great achievements by student athletes in my district.

This past weekend Jamesville-DeWitt boys' varsity basketball team, which is my hometown, defeated Peekskill 77-75 in Overtime to win the Class A Boys' High School basketball championship.

The 25th congressional district winning ways continue at the New York Public schools championship with Bishop Kearney boys' varsity basketball team defeating Seton Catholic 65-48 to bring home the Class B Boy's High School basketball championship.

And the women of the 25th district got into the act when Newark girls varsity basketball team defeated Albertus Magnus 75-68 to take the Girls' Class A basketball championship.

Coach McKenney at Jamesville-Dewitt, Coach Boon at Bishop Kerney, Coach Kirnie at Newark and all of the student athletes are to be congratulated on these great achievements. I wish them all the best of luck as they move on to the New York State Federation Championships this weekend in Glens Falls.

Last, but certainly not least, I am proud to say that the Syracuse Orange men's basketball team won both of their NCAA tournament games this past weekend and have advanced to the sweet 16 this weekend. To coach Boenheim, and all of the players, I can't tell you how many people come up to me in halls of Congress to talk about how great you are. I will be cheering for you as you compete for a berth in the Final Four.

All of the student athletes that compete bring my district and the whole United States great pride and I applaud you on your efforts. Keep up the good work, and Go Orange!

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK RAFFLO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues today the recent passing of Frank Rafflo of Leesburg, Virginia. He died on March 15, 2009, at the age of 89.

A long-time resident of Leesburg, Frank was a giant in his community who made public service a priority. He was a member of the town council for several years, as well as serving as mayor for two years. During his tenure as mayor, Frank oversaw the effort to build an airport in Leesburg. He was also a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including a year as chairman in 1985.

Frank served his community in unelected positions as well. He was one of the charter members of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club in 1957. The club holds the annual Kiwanis Halloween Parade that local children look forward to year after year. With his wife Frances, Frank championed parks and outdoor spaces in Loudoun County. They were influential in the creation of the W&OD Trail in Leesburg, and a park along the trail was subsequently dedicated for them. In more recent years, Frank wrote a column in the local paper, the Leesburg Today.

The town of Leesburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia will greatly miss the service of their friend, Frank Rafflo. His legacy will not soon be forgotten.

I would like to share an in memoriam of Frank Rafflo that ran in the Leesburg Today on March 18, 2009:

[From the Leesburg Today, Mar. 18, 2009]

FRANK RAFFLO: IN MEMORIAM, 1919-2009

(By Margaret Morton)

Small in physical stature, but towering in intelligence, integrity and love of community, Frank Rafflo, who died Sunday at age 89, was one of the pantheon of legendary Loudoun leaders during the second half of the 20th century.

All this week, tributes poured in for a man whose breadth of interests was phenomenal. A generous dispenser of advice for others making their way in the world, Rafflo retained all his long life a curiosity into what made people and institutions tick.

Blessed with a sharp brain, with a penetrating eye for fiscal detail and a consuming interest in all that went on around him, Rafflo lived an extraordinary life in which he had a number of careers-businessman, journalist and columnist, author, radio commentator and local elected government representative.

In his later years, Rafflo's column, Just Being Frank, in Leesburg Today, in which he dispensed his particular brand of down-home wisdom, had a loyal following. Readers were drawn to his often whimsical but always knowledgeable observations on a variety of subjects, ranging from the quirks of human beings, government malfeasance, the price of coffee, hemlines going up or down, how to find good tomatoes or a good shovel, whether a sale price was a true sale or not, and so on. In addition, Rafflo wrote a number of books detailing Leesburg's and Loudoun's history, among the best known being Within The Iron Gate.

Serving on both the Leesburg Town Council and the Board of Supervisors, Rafflo's love

of both was remarkable. Director of the Loudoun Office of Transportation Services Terrie Laycock, who started work with county government in 1977 as an aide to board members, worked closely with Rafflo, who served on the county board from 1972 to 1986, including as chairman in 1985. "You never questioned that his motives were anything other than for the good of Loudoun County: No politics, no personal advancement, it was always from his perspective for what he felt was best for the county," she said.

He was a dedicated Democrat and an equally dedicated Kiwanian, a charter member of the Leesburg Kiwanis Club, and founder of the Kiwanis Halloween Parade in Leesburg.

Growing up in Leesburg, Rafflo attended Leesburg High School where he always was at, or near, the top of his class. That keen intellect led to his being accepted into the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, from which he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa student.

As a businessman, Rafflo and his wife, Frances, operated a women's dress shop on South King Street, a characteristic partnership in all his endeavors that that lasted until Rafflo's death. Loudoun Museum Executive Director Karen Quanbeck remembered her days on The Fashion Board at Loudoun County High School.

Rafflo created the group, comprised of junior and senior girls who would model fashions from his store at charity fashion shows, typically on weekends, Quanbeck recalled. "It takes a lot to get teenage girls out of bed at 6 a.m. on weekends, and make it fun." She recalled Rafflo as "very jolly and very supportive of the girls on the board. He was always interested in us and what we were going to do with our lives."

A strong believer that local government was the most effective form of public service to be found, Rafflo served two terms on the Leesburg Town Council from 1949-1951 and 1953-1955, as well as serving as mayor from 1961-1963.

Whether or not people agreed with him, "they always knew where he stood," his son Alan said this week, recalling the tales of many battles that came home with his father during his years of public service.

Rafflo enjoyed a long working partnership with the late B. Powell Harrison, who, while never an elected official, shared many similar ideas about the future of Leesburg and the county. Harrison's widow, Agnes Harrison, recalled the long partnership between the two men, who worked together on many projects to better both the town and the county. Their offices were next door to each other, and, both being notable talkers, "they would meet on the street on the corner and discuss many, many things," she said. "If everyone who lived in Leesburg were as public minded as Frank Rafflo it would be an even better place than it is," she said.

Alan Rafflo similarly recalled his father talking to everybody he met on the street in his retirement. When once he asked him whom he was waving to, his father replied, "Oh, I wave to everybody."

Both Agnes Harrison and longtime friend Mac Brownell recalled the courage shown by both Rafflos in the face of family tragedy, having lost two of their children in car accidents. "They suffered serious sadness and disappointment, but they kept going. They were a brave couple," Harrison said.

"I always had great respect for Frank. I saw a side of him that so touching, that people didn't often see, particularly the way he spoke about children. He had a very tender heart," Brownell said.

Laycock also spoke of Rafflo's interest in those who were less fortunate, whether from a financial standpoint, or if they had physical or mental disabilities. "He was always

looking out for those who often don't have opportunity." Raflo felt that whenever possible patient should be brought out of mental institutions, "deinstitutionalizing" them and returning them to their communities. "He felt strongly that if people could stay near their families or where they'd grown up, they would have a better quality of life," Laycock recalled.

Among the many awards and honors Raflo received in his lifetime was one he received in 2003 and treasured highly—the highest award granted by the Kiwanis Club. Neatly suited during his government days, Raflo would always wear his Kiwanis button on his lapel.

The lifelong public service of Frank and Frances Raflo also was recognized by the Town of Leesburg in the naming of the park along Harrison Street at the W&OD Trail in their honor.

Former Farmwell Middle School principal Rocky Fera called him "Mr. Kiwanian." Fera accompanied Raflo on a 1992 Kiwanis trip to Lithuania, from whence Raflo's family originated.

Describing Raflo as "a bit of gadfly, with his fingers in everything and as smart as can be," Fera joined the Kiwanis in the 1970s and got to know Raflo well.

When Lithuania broke away from the Soviet Union, "Frank pitched to the club: 'We need to take the notion of service clubs to this new nation.'" Fera's responsibility on the trip was to "take care of Frank, keep him out of trouble, and not let him go off on some tangent."

It was a great trip, Fera said, saying he thought of Raflo as a father figure. "He was just a fine man. I looked up to him."

Raflo's love of his hometown was deep. A scrappy fighter, he was "such a fierce defender of Leesburg on all levels, pulling no punches to make sure the town's position got protected," Loudoun attorney Liz Whitling recalled.

Leesburg Realtor Tom Jewell, owner of Carter Braxton Real Estate Company and a longtime admirer, said Raflo "brought Leesburg out of the Dark Ages" and was the most important county leader during the second half of the last century. "He always had his facts together. He never went into a meeting unprepared."

One of Raflo's signal victories was construction of Leesburg Airport at Godfrey Field. As mayor, Raflo presided over the controversial effort to build the airport, in partnership with council members George Hammerly and Stanley Caulkins. Although the faction supporting the airport was defeated by future Mayor Kenny Rollins and his supporters in May 1963, the airport did get built—just.

"Leesburg got within one day of not having an airport," Caulkins recalled with a chuckle. "We signed the contract with Earthwork Construction and the FAA, and the next day we were voted out of office." It was after that ousting, and before the new council took office, that "we decided the town had to have a manager and could not elect a whole new slate at once," Caulkins said. The new structure, in place today, consisted of electing mayors every two years and council members for four, staggered, terms.

Caulkins praised Raflo as being "very, very dedicated, and community spirited," noting he was responsible for getting \$50,000 for the new wing of Loudoun Memorial Hospital, introduced the first two-way radios in Loudoun, and the first ambulance in Loudoun—"a big old Cadillac."

In addition, Raflo was the first town businessman to permit the use of credit cards in his store, Caulkins said, recalling the almost universal derision then greeting the innovation.

After serving on the Leesburg Town Council, Raflo ran for the Board of Supervisors, where he served from 1972 to 1986. He also served on the Virginia Commission for Local Government for many years, having been appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors to that post, where his experience in local government planning and budgets aided other communities around the commonwealth.

Raflo's son recalled his father was a firm believer in "planning for growth," and his earlier work in Leesburg would "culminate in his years serving on the Board of Supervisors in the 1970s and 1980s. He was an early advocate of capital improvements and adequate public facilities planning to service growth, particularly water and sewer, as well as ensuring quality and sufficiency of water.

"He worried about approving houses if the infrastructure were not there," according to his son. Several colleagues agreed, citing his frequent comments on community planning that "you will grow to the capacity of your toilets" and "if you can't flush, you can't build it"—highlighting the essential role in utility service in community development. His interest in being prepared to manage growth responsibly led him to join other county leaders on a trip to England to look at planning progress there in 1972. The trip was organized by Powell Harrison, founder of the Piedmont Environmental Council.

Raflo's interest in tying adequate infrastructure to housing approvals presaged repeated efforts by county boards into the 1990s to seek state enabling legislation to adopt the local growth controls, each meeting without success.

Among the champions of that effort was Supervisor Jim Burton (I-Blue Ridge). "We had many good conversations about it," Burton said. "I had a lot of respect for him."

Burton recalled the deliberations of the Leesburg Restaurant lunch group, of which Raflo was a member, as the town's political, judicial and business leaders met each day at the diner's large table, "solving the problems of the world."

In her years providing assistance to board members, Laycock recalled Raflo's frustration with constant comments by staff members that the board had to have studies and analyses before they could decide on various topics. Raflo's response was to "come into the board meeting, pulling a kid's wagon behind him, with a stack of studies in it. He loved to do theatrics to prove his point."

Jim Brownell, who served on the county board for 30 years called Raflo "such an interesting fellow" and "the hardest working member of the board in my time."

"He was always real good with figures, and very intense with it. He always wanted to be right," Brownell laughed as he recalled Raflo's constant visits to then Director of Finance Kirby M. Bowers for information.

Bowers, who will retire as county administrator April 1, Tuesday recalled Raflo as a tough budget reviewer. "Men I was budget manager he was in my office almost every day."

"Frank would go to see him and find out what was going on, so often, that Kirby finally had to go to [then] County Administrator Phil Bolen and say, 'Mr. Raflo's always here. I can't get my work done!' That led to a resolution that no one supervisor should go to see a department head "about anything," Brownell said.

Former Loudoun Supervisor and, later, State Senator Charles Waddell recalled Raflo used to do the same with Bolen, constantly going to him with "big ideas" on policy change. "Phil's standard reply was, 'Frank, do you have five votes?'" He rarely did, Waddell said.

"He was as honest as the day was long. He had no hidden agendas. He was very hard

working and if anyone was 'government,' he was it," Brownell recalled. "I always thought of him as my best friend," Brownell said, laughing, as he recalled a common description of the two colleagues as "Frank as the bantam rooster and me as the old setting hen."

Hard working as he was, Raflo always had time to help others. Waddell first met Raflo in 1963 several years after coming to live in the county. That year, he became chairman of the Loudoun County Democratic Committee. In 1967, Waddell ran successfully for the Board of Supervisors, joining Brownell as freshmen members. "He was a great help to me in my campaign as Democratic chairman and also as a member of the board."

Raflo's assistance did not stop there, as Waddell recalled he helped him in his initial campaign for the state senate and afterward.

Waddell said he recalled to Raflo years later going to the dress shop on King Street for help on speeches or statements, and Raflo would say, "Charlie, come on downstairs to my office," then proceed to translate Waddell's ideas into correct prose on his trusty Underwood typewriter.

"He was a detail man on the budget, which was his specialty. He always said, 'It must be necessities, not niceties,'" Waddell remembered. Describing Raflo as a "brilliant man," who could be a little abrasive and controversial at times, "there was a lot of substance in what he did," Waddell said. A favorite saying of Raflo's was "hold on to your tax bills, they'll never get any smaller."

"He cut out a niche for himself, he made a difference in the last half of the 20th century."

It's not widely known that Raflo was instrumental in the creation of the W&OD Trail and securing parks for Loudoun County, including Algonkian Park.

Purcellville Councilman and longtime member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board of Directors Jim Wiley recalled he and Raflo were the first two appointed members from Loudoun to that board.

"He was the father of regional parks in Loudoun," Wiley said, noting that Raflo and Brownell were responsible in 1972 for NVRPA coming to the county.

Wiley was then chairman of the county's advisory board for parks and recreation. "The supervisors kept promising us \$100,000 per year for parks, but it never came through," Wiley said. Then, the park authority offered to do regional parks for the county. To Wiley's frustration, the supervisors turn down that offer, too.

"So, in a huge fury I publicly resigned," Wiley recalled. The next day, he got a call from Brownell. "I met with him and with Frank. They had decided it was a good idea after all, and we both got appointed to the [NVRPA] board." That was in 1973. Raflo became a "great park advocate," Wiley said, and the governmental spokesman for Loudoun until his resignation in 1986.

Raflo was very much involved with both land purchases—for the W&OD and Algonkian Park.

"We had some great conversations, we rode back and forth together to NVRPA meetings," Wiley said. "He was extremely effective, a great communicator, who got along with everyone, and always meant what he said."

As dear to his heart as parks became, Democratic politics was a true avocation.

Longtime Democratic activist and former member of the Loudoun Electoral Board Til Bennie termed Raflo "a true Democrat, who stuck by his principles, never bent, even when under pressure to do so." She recalled that the Young Turks of the party sometimes would "poo poo his ideas," and showed

irritation with Raflo's tendency to tell stories.

"They'd strum their hands on the table and dismiss him because it was all so whimsical, but he was so often proved true."

Raflo would say that the Democratic Party was sliding down the tube in Virginia, "and it did," Bennie said, recalling that Raflo kept telling the party it would have to do things differently if it were to succeed.

"He was always looking into the future, and had enormous experience. And he was often right."

Raflo was the son of Joseph Raflo and Fannie Bulitsky Raflo. He was predeceased also by his daughter Joe Raflo; son Philip Raflo; and brother Harry Raflo. He is survived by his wife Frances Atwell Raflo; sons Paul Raflo of Stevensville, MD, and Alan Raflo of Blacksburg; grandson John-Paul Raflo; and great-grandchildren Josephine, Luke, and Delaney. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Congregation Sha'are Shalom in Leesburg, followed by interment at Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to be sent to Leesburg Kiwanis, PO Box 445, Leesburg, VA 20178, Attention Bob Wright; Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company, PO Box 70, Leesburg, VA 20178; or Capital Hospice, 209 Gibson St. NW, Suite 202, Leesburg, VA 20176.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
AMERICAN DREAM ACT OF 2009

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to talk about the American Dream Act, a bill that I have introduced today with my long-time partners in this endeavor, Representatives LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. We are joined in our effort by a bipartisan group of dedicated original co-sponsors. I believe that all of us have come to this effort for the same reason—to keep our country from squandering the promise of thousands of young people who have been raised here, worked hard in school, and would like to pursue higher education or serve their country in the military. These students face tremendous obstacles in reaching their potential because, through no fault of their own, they exist in a legal limbo with no way to adjust their immigration status.

In America, we value every young person. We reward hard work and good moral character. We value the drive to continue one's education, and we don't penalize children for the misdeeds of their parents. But current federal law punishes many children for the decision that their parents made to bring them to this country. Now, when these young people finish high school, their choices are few: they can try to find work illegally in order to support themselves or they can hope to somehow continue their education while under a legal cloud. They consider themselves Americans because this country is the only home they've ever really known, but their lives are filled with uncertainty and their future is limited so long as they have no legal status.

This is a travesty. It means that their communities—the communities that they have grown up in and call home—will never fully reap the benefits of their abilities. We have set up obstacles to their success at every turn,

and our goal here today is to find a way to ensure that we don't waste their potential.

My own interest in this issue was intensified when a family near my district wrote to me asking for help for a young undocumented student. This young woman was brought to the United States by her mother when she was a small child. She attended public schools in California, where she was an honors student in high school, received awards for her outstanding community service, and graduated with a near perfect grade point average. When it came time for her to go to college, she found that she was ineligible not just for federal financial aid, but for in-state tuition as well. But this young woman was one of the rare undocumented students in this country fortunate enough to get help from a private source. She participated in a community mentoring program through which she met a couple who came to consider her a part of their family after working with her for many years. They couldn't bear to see this young woman give up her dreams simply because the federal government wanted to punish her for the decision her mother made to bring her to this country illegally. This young woman, with the help of her community and friends, was able to go to college in California and graduated with honors. She was then admitted to graduate school, but was unable to attend because the program to which she was admitted could not give her the tuition waiver it customarily offers to students of her caliber. This young woman was extraordinarily lucky to get the help she did in paying for her undergraduate education, but in the end, she was in the same place she was before she entered school. She was undocumented and had no reasonable means to adjust her status.

Shortly before I encountered this young woman's family, an outstanding young man in my district was brought to my attention because he wanted very much to get an appointment to one of the military academies and serve his country. He was a successful high school student and would have made an excellent appointment. But shortly into the process, it was determined that though he had lived in the United States for most of his life, he was undocumented and wouldn't have been able to accept the nomination. A few weeks after this occurred, I was at a dinner where I happened to be seated next to the Secretary of the Army. I related the situation to the Secretary over dinner, and we discussed what a waste it was to have to turn away a young man with such promise and dedication. A few days later I got a letter from the Secretary expressing interest in finding a way to let young people like my constituent who feel the call to serve their country, do so.

These are the young people who motivated me to introduce this bill, and there are students like them in nearly every congressional district in the country. Every year I see private bills that Members have introduced for constituents in this same situation because there is no other relief available to them in our broken immigration laws. I could have done the same for my constituents too, but I quickly came to realize that there was a much bigger issue to address. I would ask my colleagues who introduce these private bills to broaden their focus. Instead of seeking to help just one young person, we should fix the underlying problem.

It is almost a mantra in this country. Parents tell their children: work hard, get your edu-

cation, and you will succeed. For undocumented immigrant children, this turns out to be a cruel hoax. These young people are in many ways, first generation Americans. They were raised here by immigrant parents. They don't remember their parents' country of origin or feel any tie to it any more than first-generation American citizens do. When we first introduced this legislation, I frequently received letters from students who told me that they grew up believing they were U.S. citizens. They had no knowledge that they'd been brought here illegally until they applied for federal financial aid for college and they were turned down because their social security number doesn't match their name. Their parents never told them.

We are not the only ones who see the need to act. The plight of these students has been addressed by several state legislatures around the country. More than a dozen states have enacted laws to provide in-state tuition at public colleges and universities for students who have attended high school in their state. In the absence of federal action, they've done what they can to help students in their communities.

We've heard from guidance counselors and teachers who work with undocumented students and they tell us that once these students learn that they are, for all purposes, barred from attending college, their academic performance begins to slip, and their drive to excel devolves into disinterest. This is the time when dropout rates begin to soar, and it is the time that we should step in and ensure that these students reach their potential to become productive citizens of our country.

It makes no sense to me that we maintain a system that brings in thousands of highly-skilled foreign guestworkers each year to fill a gap in our domestic workforce, and at the same time do nothing to provide an opportunity to kids who have grown up here, gone to school here, and want to prepare themselves for these jobs or serve their country in the military. This is the illogical outcome of our current immigration laws that the Dream Act will fix. I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to add that the issues addressed in the American Dream Act are just a fraction of the problems in our immigration system. The Dream Act came about because our immigration laws are, and have been for some time, broken. It is very important that we pass this piece of legislation this year. But it is my fondest hope that we will put together a comprehensive immigration reform package that includes the Dream Act as it was introduced today, and it is my intention to work for and pass that comprehensive immigration reform package this year.

CRIMINAL CODE MODERNIZATION
AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2009

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, the Criminal Code Modernization and Simplification Act revises the criminal code to update, simplify and consolidate many of the criminal provisions in Title 18 of the United States Code. It has been over 50 years since