

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national media have conspicuously ignored two recent stories about Judge Sotomayor. The Washington Times reported last week that three out of five majority decisions written by Judge Sotomayor and reviewed by the United States Supreme Court have been overturned. That's a 60 percent overturn rate.

In another story, the Washington Times reported on findings of the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary. It revealed that out of 21 judges reviewed, Judge Sotomayor was the only one who received decidedly negative comments about her demeanor on the bench.

Not surprisingly, there's been no mention of the questions raised about the judge's qualifications in any major newspaper or on any network TV news program.

Supreme Court nominees should face scrutiny from the national media if they're doing their job. Americans need the national media to set aside their bias and report the facts about Judge Sotomayor.

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT MADE
PUBLIC

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it was reported today in the New York Times that the Federal Government mistakenly made public a 266-page report marked "highly confidential," and it gives detailed information about hundreds of the Nation's civilian nuclear sites and programs, including maps that show the precise locations of stockpiles of fuel for nuclear weapons.

Can you believe that? A confidential document that is supposed to be kept secret was publicized, and every terrorist in the world now knows exactly where our nuclear supplies are stored and maps showing where, in detail, these nuclear supplies are stored.

Now, hopefully, they're very secure and there's a lot of guards around there to protect us. But I think it's tragic that top secret information, highly classified information, is being made public at a time when we're fighting a war against terrorism.

It makes absolutely no sense. And those who are responsible for making this public should be held accountable.

□ 1645

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOSING SIGHT OF OLD GLORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, in Texas, we actually had a woman ordered to remove her American flag from her work space. Debbie McLucas works at Kindred Hospital in Mansfield, Texas. She comes from a very patriotic family. Her husband and both of her sons served in the United States military. Her daughter is a combat medic and is currently deployed on her second tour of duty in Iraq.

When Debbie arrived at work the Friday before Memorial Day, her American flag was gone from her hospital work space. She had displayed it in honor of Memorial Day and in honor of our troops. Debbie was met by her supervisor and was told that there had been complaints about the American flag. An immigrant coworker had complained that the American flag was offensive, so the flag was taken down by management. Debbie found her flag wrapped around the pole and laying on the floor in the corner of her supervisor's office.

Debbie McLucas said in an interview that one of her colleagues who had migrated to the United States from Africa 14 years ago had complained to the supervisor. Debbie was then told by management that it only took one complaint, and the so-called "offensive" flag had to come down immediately. Debbie told her supervisor that she was offended that somebody removed the flag. She said she could not fathom that anyone in America would find the American flag objectionable.

As soon as this episode hit the news wires, there was outrage from sea to shining sea and rightfully so. After all, Debbie's freedom of speech to display the flag was stolen by the hospital elites because one person whined and griped. Let me tell you about how some Americans appreciate the flag as Debbie McLucas does.

Several years ago during the Vietnam War, a university student in Houston, Texas, had desecrated the American flag. He was charged under Texas law with the felony of flag desecration. That was before the Supreme Court gave peaceniks the right to burn the flag, saying it was free speech. Anyway, two young prosecutors—Vic Pecorino and Andy Horn, a recent returning Vietnam veteran—had to prove to the jury that the flag was, in legal terms, a venerated object, or one that deserves special treatment.

After proving the case, except for this one requirement, the State called Chris Cole, a judge, to prove that the flag had to be treated in a respectful manner. He came in to testify, accompanied by his seeing eye dog. Judge Cole was a marine in World War II. He was involved in the bloody island hopping of the South Pacific. During the flag trial, he was asked by the prosecutors when the last time was he saw the U.S. flag.

He paused, and with a tearful response, he said, The last time I saw the

flag it was raised on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima Island in 1945. You see, several days later, Judge Chris Cole had a Japanese hand grenade explode near him, and he permanently lost the sight in both eyes. He never saw Old Glory again.

In the flag trial, the defendant was convicted by the jury because they thought, as Judge Cole testified, that the flag holds special significance to Americans; but the law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

There are a lot of Americans, especially those who serve in the military, who hold the view that the flag represents everything that is good and right about our Nation and that it is their right to display the flag.

Mr. Speaker, the flag is displayed here on the wall behind me. Each morning, Members of Congress pledge allegiance to the flag as do schoolchildren across the vast plains of America. Obviously, Debbie McLucas is another one of those Americans who respects the values that the flag represents, and she wishes to proudly display it. Debbie McLucas should be praised for exercising her constitutional right of freedom of speech by displaying America's flag.

So, in her honor and to honor her military family, I have requested that an American flag be flown over the United States Capitol on Saturday, June 6, on the 65th anniversary of the D-day landing of Normandy during World War II. The flag will be sent to this American lady in appreciation of her patriotic spirit, of her loyalty to American warriors and to the American flag. May she display it proudly.

And that's just the way it is.

IT IS TIME FOR SMART POWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, everyone here in the House of Representatives knows that I've been a critic of our Nation's long occupation of Iraq. Our strategy there has relied almost exclusively on military power, which is what got us into this quagmire that we still can't escape. Now I fear we're making the very same mistake in Afghanistan and Pakistan because over 90 percent of the supplemental budget for Afghanistan and Pakistan, which the House passed just a few weeks ago and which I opposed, goes strictly toward military purposes, and less than 10 percent goes toward the building of our smart power in that region.

"Smart power" means investing in humanitarian assistance, in economic development, in reconciliation, and in reconstruction. It means helping the Afghan people to improve their transportation, their health care, their education, and their agricultural systems. It means investing in their judiciary and law enforcement systems to expand the rule of law. It means creating